

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
REGION F WATER PLANNING GROUP  
10:30 A.M. MONDAY, JULY 31, 2006  
AT HOWARD COLLEGE  
1001 BIRDWELL LANE – BIG SPRING, TEXAS**

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The Region F Water Planning Group (WPG) met at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 31, 2006 at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, Texas, with a quorum present. Voting members present were: Len Wilson, Wendell Moody, Will Wilde, Kenneth Dierschke, Terry Scott, Steve Hofer, Caroline Runge, Stuart Coleman, Stephen Brown, John Grant and Scott Holland. Voting members absent were Buddy Sipes, Lowell Woodward, Cindy Cawley, Larry Turnbough and Richard Gist. Non-voting members present were Gordon Hooper, Rick Harston, Ken Carver, Don Daniel, Sue Young, Cindy Weatherby and Joe David Ross. Other non-voting members present were: David Meeseey and Kevin Kluge, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB); Jon Albright and Simone Kiel, Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI); James Beach of LBG-Guyton; Dennis Clark, Emerald Underground Water Conservation District; Stefanie Wilkerson from Senator Kel Seliger's office; Tim Warren, TXU Electric; Allen Lange, Lipan-Kickapoo Water Conservation District; Jerry Kirby, Kimble County Groundwater Conservation District; R. Nan Owen, Upton County Water District; and Mike Mecke, Texas Water Resources Institute; and Chris Wingert, Michelle Rhodes and Carla Harrold (recorder of the minutes) all from the Colorado River Municipal Water District.

**Call to Order**

Chairman John Grant called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Introductions and Opening Remarks**

Voting and non-voting members and audience attendees introduced themselves.

**Consider Approval of Minutes for the Region F WPG Meeting May 22, 2006**

Motion was made by Steve Hofer, seconded by Wendell Moody that the minutes of the May 22, 2006 meeting of the Region F WPG be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

**Consider Ratification of Payments/Financial Report**

Mr. Grant gave the financial report. The TWDB budget and supplemental appropriations for the Phase II Regional Planning Fund for Region F was \$1,089,260. As of this date, approximately \$66,000 remained in the account but this amount will be further reduced by additional billings. The fund should end up with approximately the amount designated for an agricultural demand study that was never done and it will be returned to TWDB. Administrative expenses have been an unfunded mandate from the legislature. Local governmental entities in the region provided \$160,000 for the original Administrative Fund established at in 1998. The group originally expected that amount to be spent in the first planning cycle but the region has been able to make the original funds last through both cycles. After investment income on the fund, about \$43,416 remains in the

account. Caroline Runge made a motion, seconded by Kenneth Dierschke, that the group approve the financial report and ratify the payments as noted in the printed report. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Reports from Standing Committees**

There were no committee reports.

### **Report from TWDB: Announcements and General Update**

David Meesey spoke first. Sherry Cordry, former project manager for the Region F plan is no longer with TWDB and Mr. Meesey introduced the new project manager, Kevin Kluge. Mr. Kluge said the final 2006 plans from all the regions are now being combined into one complete state plan. The Board plans to consider the draft plan in August and then conduct public hearings around the state. After the deadline for public comment, TWDB will consider any suggested changes. The final plan will be considered for approval by TWDB at the November meeting and the document will be submitted to the State Legislature January 5, 2007.

### **Report from TWDB: Presentation on Next Round of Regional Water Planning**

Mr. Kluge indicated the criteria will be different for the next round. Instead of merely rehashing the plan, the next cycle of regional water planning will consider changed conditions and implementation of the most important aspects of the regional plans. He said the intent is to allow regions to delve more deeply into areas that need additional study to pursue actual solutions to water shortages revealed in the 2006 Plan. Funding will be allocated in two-year segments, reflecting the funding cycle from the State Legislature. TWDB has \$6.6 million to distribute among all of the regions for the next two years. One change is that TWDB has allocated 15% of that amount to be used for administrative expenses although the exact specifications for qualifying expenses have yet to be determined. The administrative amount to each Region will be determined by a weighted formula that takes into account public notice and legal reporting requirements. He estimated Region F would receive about \$60,500. The remaining 85% of the total funding will be divided among projects submitted by the regions on a competitive basis similar to the method used for supplemental funding in previous rounds of planning. Each region has been instructed to compile a list of projects ranked by importance and then TWDB will use scoring criteria to allocate the funds. The ranking criteria will include cost, benefits, urgency of the need, regional ranking, local participation and other elements to prioritize all of the projects. TWDB stressed that local participation and involvement will be a very significant factor in the project ranking. This information was already communicated to consultants. The consultant report from FNI will include a beginning draft list of these projects for Region F.

### **Report on Public Hearing held June 26, 2006**

Mr. Grant reported the public hearing was held as published on June 26, 2006 and proposed 2006 Region F Plan Amendment Number 1 was explained fully. There was one attendee at the meeting and no comments were submitted at the meeting nor have any been received in writing to date at CRMWD.

### **Report from Consultants: Consider Comments Received on Amendment to RWP**

Mr. Albright reported no comments were submitted to the consulting firm.

### **Report from Consultants: Consider Adoption of Amendment #1 to Region F RWP**

Lynn Wilson made a motion seconded by Stephen Brown that the Region F WPG adopt Amendment Number 1 to the 2006 Region F Water Plan and submit it to TWDB. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Report from Consultants: Discuss Scope of Work Items for Next Round of RWP**

Jon Albright introduced Simone Kiel, a graduate of Rice University who has been with FNI for about the same length of time as Mr. Albright. FNI has proposed that the two will be working together. Mr. Albright would continue to perform the technical aspects and Ms. Kiel would handle the administrative portions of the project. Mr. Albright submitted a list of 17 proposed special projects he developed that the region might want to submit to TWDB for funding in the first two-year segment of the next round of water planning. The list and explanations of each item are included in the meeting handouts and information maintained in conjunction with these minutes. Some of the projects had region-wide applications while others were highly location-specific to address the problems of individual communities. Members suggested additional items including the impact of brush control and water education/conservation programs. They asked that the consultants refocus the item on water supplies for Runnels, Coke, Concho and McCulloch Counties from potential treatments to the impact of unreasonable Federal and state water standards that are rendering existing supplies (which have been consumed for generations) unusable. If the water is not actually unsafe, it should not be excluded by an arbitrary standard that is applied merely because instruments are now sensitive enough to find minute amounts of radio-nuclei. After the presentation and extensive discussion, planning group members suggested that brackish groundwater, desalination and disposal of the waste stream from these types of projects be among the highly recommended projects. Other high priority items were well location studies for Menard and Northern Brown County, evaluation of watershed losses between Ivie Reservoir and Lake Buchanan that should be added to the Colorado Basin Water Availability Model and inter-regional cooperation regarding Colorado Basin subordination agreements. Consultants will refine and prioritize the scope of work list based on comments, email the information to voting and non-voting members as soon as possible and submit the completed draft list at the August WPG meeting. Funding applications are due to TWDB on September 14, 2006.

### **Planning Group Membership**

Mr. Grant reminded the group that TWDB rules require each region to have 11 voting members representing specific groups of water providers, water users, industries, geographic regions and local governments. Region F approved bylaws that provided for up to 21 voting members. The group discussed possible changes to the number and interest group designations but reached a consensus that it is a fair representation of water needs for the region. A minor change was suggested to the agriculture position. The WPG originally designated three voting members to represent agriculture, one farming, one ranching and the third undesignated. Len Wilson made a motion seconded

by Scott Holland that the three agriculture voting member positions be designated so that dryland farming, irrigated farming and ranching interests each have a representative. The motion passed unanimously.

According to the region by-laws when the group accepts resignations, vacant positions do not count toward the number required for a quorum until the group takes nominations and votes to fill the position. The group currently has 16 filled positions so 9 members now represent a quorum. The group previously tabled member replacements to maintain continuity in the final steps of approving the current plan. That will change when the group accepts new members to fill the vacancies. Mr. Grant attempted to contact every current member and learned that eight are willing to continue to serve. Caroline Runge made a motion seconded by Terry Scott that Len Wilson, Wendell Moody, Buddy Sipes, Steve Hofer, Stephen Brown, Scott Holland, John Grant and Richard Gist be reappointed to new terms. The motion passed unanimously.

Andrew Valencia recently resigned and Tim Warren was nominated to take his place representing electric generating utilities. This expertise is needed in the group and numerous utilities and industry officials apparently support Mr. Warren's nomination. Steve Hofer made a motion seconded by Kenneth Dierschke that Tim Warren be elected to voting membership representing electric generating utilities. The motion passed unanimously.

A few nominations have been received for some of the last four vacant voting member positions. It was the consensus that the WPG seek more nominations and evaluate them all to insure compliance with the by-laws regarding fair representation for interest groups, local governments and geographic regions. Action on the open voting positions was tabled.

### **Election of Officers**

Terry Scott made a motion that Region F WPG re-elect the current slate of officers for the next two-years to coincide with the current funding cycle from the TWDB: John Grant, Chairman; Steve Hofer, Vice-Chairman; Will Wilde, Secretary; and Stephen Brown and Richard Gist as at-large members to the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Dierschke and passed unanimously.

### **Consider Consultants for Next Round of RWP**

The group discussed the performance of FNI and LBG-Guyton (sub-contractors for groundwater issues). The group had no objection to the proposal from FNI to divide the responsibility between two of their employees, one for overall administrative management and the other to work on technical and engineering aspects. It was suggested that specific local entities might prefer their own consultants if a local project is approved. TWDB representatives said any project could be sub-contracted if more local participation and control is desired. Stephen Brown made a motion seconded by Scott Holland that the WPG retain FNI as primary consultants and LBG-Guyton for groundwater issues for the next phase of water planning with other sub-contractors to be employed as necessary. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting Date(s)**

A public meeting will be conducted Friday, August 11, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. to accept public comments on the scope of work list for the next round of water planning. Attendance by WPG members is not required. The Group will meet August 28 to finalize the scope of work project list. Written comments are due to the WPG or consultants September 11 and final project applications are due to TWDB on September 14. TWDB plans to consider the projects and allocate funding November 14, 2006.

**Adjourn**

There was no further discussion and the meeting adjourned.

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Will Wilde, Secretary  
Region F Water Planning Group

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John Grant, Chair  
Region F Water Planning Group