

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGION F WATER PLANNING GROUP
10:30 A.M. MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2006
AT HOWARD COLLEGE
1001 BIRDWELL LANE – BIG SPRING, TEXAS**

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. Voting members present were: Len Wilson, Wendell Moody, Will Wilde, Buddy Sipes, Terry Scott, Steve Hofer, Caroline Runge, Stuart Coleman, Stephen Brown, John Grant, Scott Holland, Larry Turnbough, Richard Gist and Tim Warren. Joe David Ross was present as a designated alternate for voting member Kenneth Dierschke. Voting member Lowell Woodward was absent. Non-voting members present were Harvey Everheart, Winton Milliff, Gordon Hooper, Rick Harston, Don Daniel and John Shepard. Other non-voting members and interested parties present were: Kevin Kluge, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB); Jon Albright and Simone Kiel, Freese & Nichols (FNI); Reuben Cantu, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; John Ashworth and James Beach, LBG-Guyton; Dennis Clark, Emerald Underground Water Conservation District; Stuart Purvis, City of Midland; David Sanders, City of Andrews; Allen Lange, Lipan-Kickapoo Water Conservation District; R. Nan Owen, Upton County Water District; Chris Wingert, Michelle Rhodes and Carla Harrold (recorder of the minutes) from Colorado River Municipal Water District.

Call to Order

Chairman John Grant called the meeting to order at 10:34 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 July 31, 2006

Motion was made by Stephen Brown, seconded by Terry Scott that the minutes of the July 31, 2006 Region F WPG meeting be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Ratification of Payments/Financial Report

Mr. Grant presented the list of payments and financial report. Wendell Moody made a motion, seconded by Buddy Sipes, 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. The Chair said the committees should be re-evaluated in light of the different structure for the next round of planning.

Report from TWDB: Announcements and General Update

Kevin Kulge reported that a public hearing on the State Water Plan is scheduled September 12 in the San Angelo Civic Center. The draft report is available online and public comment will be accepted prior to final approval by the TWDB. About 5000 hard copies of the plan will be printed and can be requested from the TWDB. Several regions have already submitted their proposed scope of work projects for the next round of planning and Mr. Kluge related some of the projects that might be of interest to Region F members. The Board voted to allocate 15% of the total funding for administrative expenses and Region F should receive about \$60,500. The Board is working on a defined list of eligible expenditures.

Report on Public Hearing Held August 11, 2006

Mr. Grant reported that several people attended the public hearing, mostly from groundwater districts. Four people spoke and a number of good comments and suggestions have been included in the draft scope of work being considered at this meeting.

Report from Consultants: Discuss and Rank items in Scope of Work

Simone Kiel of FNI presented the draft scope of work. After the 17 original projects were discussed in July, more than 20 voting and non-voting members responded to the FNI request for comments. Ms. Kiel thanked members and said those comments as well as some from speakers at the public hearing were used as the consultants refined the projects to a list of 12 and then asked group members to rank the projects. All were forwarded to members prior to the meeting and are part of the official meeting handouts. Ms. Kiel summarized the list of projects and provided rough cost estimates. After discussion, the group agreed that many available water supplies have been labeled unpotable by arbitrary standards. Such standards declare that water which has been used for generations by people in certain geographic areas of Region F is no longer potable. Remedies to remove tiny amounts of pollutants are inordinately expensive when it is not even established that those pollutants are harmful. The low number of users for these supplies renders the expense even more unreasonable. The economics of rural water distribution mean that many rural residents of Region F now face legal (not actual) water shortages. These considerations are part of the projects ranked #4 and #5 on the handout and the two are separate aspects of one problem. Steve Hofer made a motion, seconded by Stephen Brown, that those two projects be combined into one project with the rural water distribution economics study as phase 1 and the integrated water supply study for the counties as phase 2. The motion passed.

It was the consensus of the group that the data collection project for the North Concho River Basin be changed to remove the word "north" so other areas might also be studied.

Richard Gist made a motion seconded by Stephen Brown to remove the Municipal Water Conservation project. The motion failed. After discussion, Will Wilde made a compromise motion, seconded by Caroline Runge that the project remain on the list at its current position but the scope be limited to the amount of work possible for a maximum funding request of \$25,000. The motion passed.

Report from Consultants: Consider Approval of Scope of Work for Next Round of RWP

Terry Scott made a motion, seconded by Len Wilson that the group accept the scope of work list as modified and instruct consultants to work on its final wording and refinement of cost estimates. After discussion, Mr. Scott and Mr. Wilson agreed to amend the motion to authorize the Executive Committee to work with consultants on the refinements and to approve them in time for submission by the mid-September due date without calling a general meeting of the WPG. The motion passed. It was the consensus of the group that even though environmental considerations are inherently part of every project, consultants were to be sure the wording of the scope of work list includes references to those environmental evaluations. Mr. Grant asked for an indication from the TWDB as to whether there is any flexibility in individual project funding to switch funds between projects that eventually end up less or more expensive than anticipated.

Planning Group Membership for Municipalities, Water Districts and Counties

Mr. Grant reminded the group of the past meeting's discussion of new planning group voting members and the nomination forms that were distributed with the meeting agendas. The nominations were discussed.

Stephen Brown made a motion seconded by Caroline Runge that Dennis Clark of the Emerald Underground Water Conservation District in Crocket County be appointed to the voting position representing groundwater districts. The motion passed.

Scott Holland made a motion seconded by Len Wilson that David Sanders, Director of Utilities for the City of Andrews, be appointed to the voting position representing municipalities with populations under 10,000. The motion passed.

Len Wilson made a motion seconded by Terry Scott that Jared Miller, City Manager of Snyder, be appointed to the voting position representing municipalities with populations of 10,000 to 15,000. The motion passed.

Wendell Moody made a motion seconded by Stuart Coleman that County Judge Jerry Bearden of Mason and Runnels County Commissioner (and former Ballinger Mayor) Robert Moore be appointed to the two open voting positions representing counties. The motion passed.

Lowell Woodward declined reappointment to the WPG. That position has not been officially posted so action on the voting membership to represent agriculture was tabled for a future meeting.

Mr. Grant said notices will be sent to the county governments of every one of the 32 counties that does not have a voting member on the WPG. Those governments will be encouraged to appoint an active non-voting member to attend and contribute to the discussion at meetings to insure local interests are voiced before the group.

TWDB presentation on Groundwater Management Areas

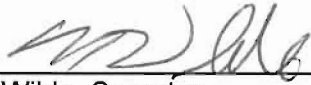
Robert Bradley was originally scheduled to make the presentation but was unable to come to the meeting so the matter was tabled.

Next Meeting Date

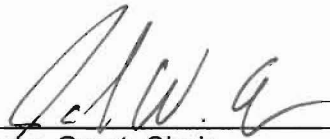
TWDB is scheduled to choose the regional projects and the amounts to be funded under the new planning phase at their November meeting and little can be accomplished until then. It was the consensus of the group not to meet until after the TWDB announcement. Mr. Grant suggested the group might want to appoint committees or work groups to follow each project through the developmental stages. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2007.

Adjourn

There was no further discussion and the meeting adjourned.



Will Wilde, Secretary
Region F Water Planning Group



John Grant, Chair
Region F Water Planning Group