

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group was held at 10:00 a.m., December 6, 2017, at the San Jacinto River Authority General and Administration Building, a notice of said meeting was posted as required by law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, David Collinsworth, James Comin, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Art Henson, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Kathy Jones, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, Marvin Marcell, Carl Masterson, Michael Turco, and Pudge Willcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Jun Chang for Jimmie Schindewolf, Alisa Max for John Blount, Tom Michel for Bill Teer, and Mike O'Connell for Bob Hebert.

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Morrison, Ruth Stultz, and Kevin Ward (Bill Holder represented Mr. Ward but not present as alternate).

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Hall and Lann Bookout

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2017 MEETING

Mr. Bartos made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2017, Region H Water Planning Group meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Langford and carried unanimously.

3. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 12

There were no public comments.

4. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE PROPOSED APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF MANVEL TO AMEND THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN (RWP) AND CONSIDER APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE APPLICATION PACKAGE TO TWDB FOR THE DETERMINATION OF MINOR AMENDMENT STATUS.

Mr. Jordan Furnans with LRE Water, LLC, provided information on behalf of City of Manvel, Texas (“the city”). He explained that the city is looking for potential surface water supplies and is requesting to obtain water rights for Mustang Bayou for 5,237 acre-ft/year. Mr. Afinowicz explained that the process for this request is a formality because it is considered a new appropriation or supply. He stated that the first step is to submit the proposed amendment materials to TWDB for determination of minor or major amendment status. Mr. Bookout explained the processes for the determination of a minor or major amendment. Discussion ensued related to environmental impacts, environmental flows, and in general, the process by which the city is requesting this amendment. Mr. Masterson called the question and was seconded. Mr. Lord made a motion to approve the submittal of the application package from the City of Manvel to the TWDB for the determination of minor amendment status. The motion was seconded by Mr. Houston. After further discussion, the motion carried with eighteen ayes, two nays (Mr. Langford and Mr. O’Connell), and two abstentions (Mr. Masterson and Mr. Collinsworth).

5. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H RWP.

Mr. Taucer provided an update regarding the schedule and development of the 2021 Region H RWP. He stated the study is on schedule and on track. In addition, Mr. Taucer stated that the stakeholder coordination continues as it relates to wholesale and major water providers.

6. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE REGARDING A PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING POTENTIALLY FEASIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO APPROVE THE PROCESS FOR USE IN THE 2021 REGION H RWP.

Mr. Taucer stated that pursuant to TAC 357.12(b), the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) is required to document its process for identifying and selecting Water Management Strategies (WMS) for development of the 2021 Regional Water Plan (RWP). He stated that this process shall be presented to the public for comment at a public meeting. Further, he explained the primary goal of the WMS selection methodology is to pair WMS with a need of a particular water user group (WUG). Mr. Taucer explained that potential WMS will be defined based on a determination of needs developed from a comparison of projected demand and existing supplies. He stated that the strategies will be analyzed by the Major Water Provider (MWP) or WUGs. Mr. Taucer then provided details related to the shortage analysis, application of general WMS, identification of potential WMS to add new water supplies, and the WMS selection process. Mr. Chang made a motion to approve the process to identify and evaluate potentially feasible water management strategies to use in the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collinsworth and carried unanimously.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND NON-POPULATION DEMANDS COMMITTEE REGARDING RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO DRAFT TWDB PROJECTIONS FOR THE 2021 REGION H RWP AND CONSIDER APPROVING SUBMITTAL TO TWDB.

Mr. Taucer provided information relative to the Non-Population Demands Committee's ("NPDC") analysis and recommendations for each category. He stated that the RHWPG developed draft projections that were considered by the NPWDC based on input from the committee and local data provided by several industries and wholesale water providers, the RHWPG developed proposed demand revisions. He went on to detail how the proposed demand revisions were developed. Mr. Chang made a motion to approve the recommended revisions to the draft Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) projections for the 2021 Region H RWP and approve submittal of same to the TWDB. The motion was seconded by Ms. Forrest and carried unanimously.

8. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND POPULATIONS DEMANDS COMMITTEE REGARDING RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO DRAFT TWDB PROJECTIONS FOR THE 2021 REGION H RWP AND CONSIDER APPROVING SUBMITTAL TO TWDB.

Mr. Taucer provided information relative to the Populations Demands Committee's ("PDC") analysis and recommendations for each category. He explained that the TWDB developed projections of population and municipal water demand at the WUG level for the 2021 RWPs. Further, the projections were based on the projected population and demand in the 2017 State Water Plan and were adjusted to align with utility boundaries based on TWDB Water Use Survey data. He stated that based on the Fifty Amended General Guidelines for Fifth Cycle of the Regional Water Plan Development, RWPGs may request revisions to these draft projections. He explained that in July, 2017, the RHWPG issued a survey to the 342 WUGs in the region, in which WUGs were asked to review the draft population and demand projections for their entity. He stated that based on the survey results, the RHWPG identified 16 named municipal WUGs for which it recommends revisions to draft projections. He explained and detailed how the RHWPG developed the proposed revisions to population and municipal demand projections. Mr. Masterson made a motion to approve the Populations Demands Committee's revisions to the TWDB draft projections for the 2021 Region H RWP and approve submittal of same to TWDB. The motion was seconded by Mr. Houston and carried unanimously.

9. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING EVALUATION OF EXISTING WATER SUPPLIES AND UPCOMING SUPPLY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES.

Mr. Afinowicz provided an update relative to the evaluation of existing water supplies as related to surface water, groundwater, reuse, contractual transfer, and data management. He provided the status and activities for each category.

10. DISCUSS MEETING SITES AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO DESIGNATE A LIST OF APPROVED SITES FOR REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Mr. Evans discussed the possibility of designating specific locations for future Region H WPG and committee meetings. Mr. Houston stated that he researched the subject and did not find any statutory requirements related to the designation of meeting locations.

11. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP.

Mr. Taucer stated that he would be happy to present information related to the water planning process to any interested persons or organizations.

12. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Bookout reported on the proposed rulemaking process that will be presented to the TWDB on December 7, 2017. Mr. Evans reminded the RHWPG that there is a vacancy representing electric generating utilities and a vacancy representing small business, which will be addressed during the next RHWPG meeting.

13. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Savory spoke in regards to the USGS's MODFLOW 6.

14. NEXT MEETING: TBD

Mr. Evans announced that the next meeting will be determined at a later date.

15. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.