

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
December 7, 2011
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, Reed Eichelberger, Mark Evans, Art Henson, John Howard, Robert Istre, Kathy Jones, Gena Leathers, Ted Long, Carl Masterson, Jimmie Schindewolf, Steve Tyler, C. Harold Wallace, and Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Lisa Lattu for Jun Chang, Brad Brunett for John Hofmann, Jace Houston for Marvin Marcell, Tom Michel for Ron Neighbors, and Robert Stevens for Danny Vance

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Blount, Bob Hebert, Glynn Leiper, James Morrison, and William Teer

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Temple McKinnon and Melinda Silva

PRESIDING: Mark Evans, Chair

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING AT 10:06 A.M.

A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone and alternates were announced.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF August 3, 2011 MEETING

The minutes for the August 3, 2011 meeting were presented. Motion was made by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

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

There were no public comments.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF KATHY JONES AS VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP REPRESENTING GMA 14 & CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF DAVID BAILEY AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP REPRESENTING GMA 12

Mr. Jace Houston mentioned that although the Agenda stated that an action from the Group was anticipated, no vote was necessary because the new voting members representing local GMAs were assigned to the planning group by statute. Mr. Houston also stated that he will work on a Bylaws amendment to incorporate the changes to the Group's membership.

Mr. Robert Istre asked for comments from Kathy Jones and David Bailey on the area they represent. Ms. Kathy Jones thanked the group and stated that GMA 14 covers the area of southeast Texas from Houston to Louisiana and includes four groundwater conservation districts and two subsidence districts. Mr. David Bailey stated that he looks forward to serving on Region H and mentioned that GMA 12 covers an area north of GMA 14 overlying the Carrizo Wilcox aquifer, including Madison, Leon, and Freestone counties.

DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON SELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Reedy continued by discussing a proposal to utilize committees for the 2016 Regional Water Plan and the interest of the Group in forming committees on specific topics, such as population, water demands, WMS selection, regional issues, non-population water demands, and public outreach. He asked the Group to consider whether or not committees would be appropriate, and if so, he requested recommendations on the structuring of same. Mr. Houston briefly discussed the formation of committees in the past and the benefits to forming such committees. Mr. Evans stated that the Group does not have to make a final decision at the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the formation of committees and restrictions based on the open meetings act.

Mr. Burnett asked Mr. Evans if it would be appropriate for members to email the consultants or Mr. Houston with recommendations of committees the members would like to serve on. Mr. Istre suggested that some consideration be given to alignment of the committees with river basins.

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Houston asked several questions regarding the technical memorandum. Ms. McKinnon and Mr. Afinowicz answered the questions and explained the connection between the technical memorandum and funding. Discussion ensued regarding public hearings.

Mr. Afinowicz and Mr. Reedy discussed the schedule and various milestones for the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning, including the scheduled tasks.

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE PROGRESS OF THE ONGOING REGIONAL GROUNDWATER UPDATE STUDY AND PRELIMINARY POPULATION PROJECTIONS TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Reedy discussed the project to develop updated groundwater and subsidence models, population projections, and water demand projections. He stated that they have hired two organizations to help with the population projections – Metro Study Group (Housing Surveys) and University of Houston, Dr. Steven Craig (long-term growth modeling). Discussion ensued regarding past issues with changing population projections.

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING NON-POPULATION DEMAND PROJECTIONS PRODUCED BY TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Afinowicz continued by discussing non-population water demand projections. He discussed irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, and steam electric demand projections. He also stated that all numbers and graphs are on the Region H website. Mr. Tom Michel asked if the projections take into account drought conditions. Ms. McKinnon answered by describing the data sets included in the report. Discussion ensued regarding non-population water demand projections.

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SUPPLY PROJECTIONS FOR THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Afinowicz stated that the consultant team is working on the development of water supply projections for the 2016 Region H Regional Water Plan. He further stated that the consultants are awaiting TWDB approval of a Region H request to use alternate WAM runs, reviewing TCEQ models for revisions since the 2011 RWP, and coordinating with Regions C and G regarding return flows and model development.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND TWDB REGARDING POTENTIAL FOR ACCELERATING SCHEDULE FOR TASK 4D (MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION) FOR THE CURRENT PHASE OF PLANNING OF THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Reedy discussed Task 4D Management Strategy Evaluation Schedule Acceleration including submittal to TWDB for approval. Mr. Houston suggested that the agenda item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

RECEIVE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE AND TAKE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF A NEW VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP REPRESENTING THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jimmie Schindewolf stated that the Nominations Committee met prior to the Region H meeting and that Mr. Carl Masterson has been nominated for the replacement of Mr.

Alexander. He stated that the Nominations Committee received a number of outstanding candidates for the position. Motion was made by C. Harold Wallace, seconded by Robert Bruner, to approve the nomination of Mr. Carl Masterson as the replacement of Mr. Alexander. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Steve Tyler asked for clarification on qualifications for the person that fills the public seat for the group. Discussion ensued regarding the rather broad statutory definition for representation of this interest group.

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

Mr. Afinowicz continued by discussing recent community outreach activities. He stated that the consultant team spoke at the following events: *Civic Forum: Water – Challenges Facing the Houston Region; Brazoria County Petrochemical Council; and Drought & Water Today: A Workshop for Galveston County.*

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Ms. McKinnon updated the Group on the draft of the State Water Plan, including the dates and locations of public meetings and the timeline for submittal of the final document.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

NEXT MEETING

February 29, 2012
San Jacinto River Authority
General and Administration Building
1577 Dam Site Road
Conroe, Texas 77304

ADJOURNED AT 12:08 P.M.