

**MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
NOVEMBER 2, 2016
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TX 77304**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, John Blount, Robert Bruner, Jun Chang, David Collinsworth, Mark Evans, Gene Fisseler, Bob Hebert, Art Henson, John Howard, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, Carl Masterson, Jimmie Schindewolf, Ruth Stultz, Michael Turco, Kevin Ward, and Pudge Wilcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: David Parkhill for Jace Houston, Robert Thompson for Marvin Marcell, Tom Michel for Bill Teer, and Paul Nelson for Kathy Jones

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Comin, Robert Istre, and James Morrison

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Backhouse

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2016 MEETING

Mr. Schindewolf made a motion to approve the minutes of August 3, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henson and carried unanimously.

3. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 10

There were no comments.

4. DISTRIBUTION AND PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE REGION H BYLAWS

Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Jace Houston and Mr. John Bartos agreed to volunteer to review and amend the bylaws to reflect Region H changes. Mr. Bartos provided an overview of the proposed changes to the bylaws, stating that all of the changes were minor amendments. Mr. Evans stated that the proposed amendments would be presented for consideration and approval at the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting.

5. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM HARRIS COUNTY AND FREESE AND NICHOLS REGARDING RESULTS OF A SUPPLY AND RETENTION FEASIBILITY STUDY CONDUCTED FOR NORTHWESTERN HARRIS COUNTY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POTENTIAL FUTURE WATER SUPPLIES

Mr. Cory Stull of Freese and Nichols, presented information related to the results of a supply and

retention feasibility study. He stated that in 2014, the Harris County Flood Control District identified two reservoir sites (Plan 3 and Plan 5) to try to manage the Cypress Creek overflows as part of the Cypress Creek Overflow Management Plan. Mr. Stull provided details related to the analysis for the potential for a firm water supply, concluding that Plan 3 “Mound Creek Reservoir” and Plan 5 “Katy-Hockley Reservoir” had a high evaporation rate and did not provide benefit for a firm yield to be generated. Next he provided information related to two conceptual retention sites within the Addicks and Little Cypress Watershed. He stated that studies were also conducted related to interruptible supplies, return flows, water demands/population growth, the feasibility of distributed retention facilities, and TCEQ financing. Overall, Mr. Stull concluded that the model reservoirs were not a viable source of water supply. Further, the dual use (flood control and water supply) were counteracting to each other, reducing the volume available to each use. Finally, he stated that distributed retention may provide the potential to supplement irrigation and other non-potable demands, however permitting, treatment, and transmission requirements may hinder implementation.

6. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Afinowicz provided information related to the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2021 Region H Region Water Plan. He stated that the Texas Water Development Board is on schedule to finalize the rules later this month. He provided information related to the items identified as deliverables which are related to population and non-population water demands. Mr. Afinowicz then provided a high-level overview of the schedule for 2017 through 2020.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL WUGS FROM THE 2021 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND RATIFY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW WUGS.

Mr. Afinowicz provided an update related to the identification of Municipal WUGs. He briefly reviewed the list of privately owned utilities and state or federal owned facilities that responded to be included in the plan. With no discussion, Mr. Fisseler made a motion to ratify the recommendations made previously for the new Water User Groups. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blount and carried unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC NOTICE AND SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TWDB ON BEHALF OF REGION H FOR FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE FIFTH ROUND OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING, AND TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT TO THE TWDB CONTRACT

Mr. Afinowicz provided an overview of the proposed funding allocations and contracting process for the completion of the 2021 regional water plans. Mr. Henson made a motion to submit a grant application for the Request For Application (“RFA”), to post notice related to the RFA submittal, and to negotiate and execute the contract with the TWDB Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hebert and carried unanimously.

9. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING REENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTRACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE REGION H PLANNING GROUP.

Mr. Afinowicz reported on the August 25, 2016, meeting of the Gulf Coast Water Efficiency Network related to the Region H Plan.

10. AGENCY COMMUNICATONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Ms. Backhouse provided an update related to the Chapter 357 Administrative Rules. Mr. Jun Chang announced his retirement from the City of Houston and his new position with the North Harris County Regional Water Authority. He stated that as he is no longer with the City of Houston and can no longer represent municipalities, he is resigning his position effective immediately.

11. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

12. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Evans announced that the next regular meeting will take place on March 1, 2017.

13. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.