

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Greg Eyerly, Jason Garrand, Ken Kramer, Ivan Langford, Alisa Max, Mike O’Connell, Byron Ryder, Aubrey Spear, Michael Turco, and Cynthia Wagener.

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Sarah Kouba for Gary Ashmore, Susan Santos for Loyd Smith, and Doug Haude for Kevin Ward.

MEMBERS ABSENT: W.R. Baker, Caleb Cooper, Robert Istre, Marvin Marcell, Danny Pierce, and Brandon Wade.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2024 MEETING

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the minutes of May 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 8

There were no public comments.

5. SPECIAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Receive presentation on and discuss a proposal to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan (“RWP”) related to the Baytown East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion.

Mr. Taucer presented information related to the proposed amendment by the Baytown Area Water Authority (“BAWA”) which requested the 2021 RWP and the 2022 State Water Plan to be amended to incorporate BAWA’s planned East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion Water Management Strategy (“WMS”) and associated WMS Project. He explained the amendment would impact Volume 1 and Volume 2, with very few changes overall. Mr. Taucer stated that no comments from the public

were received. Discussion ensued related to allocation, possible environmental impacts, capacity, and future expansion.

- b. Consider taking action to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed Baytown East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion.**

Mr. Langford made a motion to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed Baytown East Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spear and carried unanimously.

- c. Receive presentation from Consultant Team regarding the proposed application by the City of Houston to amend the 2021 Region H RWP and consider approving the submittal of the application package to TWDB for the determination of minor amendment status.**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the City of Houston's proposed amendment to the 2021 Region H RWP. He explained that the amendment better reflects the expanded treatment capacity of the existing facility site to support current and future needs of customers. Mr. Taucer stated that the amendment would most likely be considered a minor amendment per TWDB's definition of same. He explained that the amendment would affect the Executive Summary, Chapter 5 – Water Management Strategies, Chapter 6 – Impacts of the RWP, Chapter 9 – Financing, Chapter 11 – Implementation and Comparison, and Data Base 22 data entry. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the submittal of the application package to TWDB for the determination of minor amendment status. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

6. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. Receive update on changes to the planning process for sixth cycle of RWP development.**

Mr. Taucer explained that the various changes to the planning process for the sixth cycle of the RWP development were nominal. He provided a brief overview of the various changes relative to Water Management Strategies, drought responses, and implementation, funding, and outreach.

- b. Receive update from the Water Management Strategy Committee and Consultant Team regarding the status of investigation of water supply alternatives and other analyses for the 2026 Region H RWP.**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the status of investigation of water supply alternatives and other analyses for the 2026 Region H RWP. He provided a brief overview of the various ongoing and upcoming technical analyses.

- c. Receive update on the 89th Texas Legislature and discuss potential legislative and policy issues and recommendations for the 2026 Region H RWP.**

Mr. Taucer explained that the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature begins on January 14, 2025, and concludes on June 2, 2025. He provided an overview of the previous legislative recommendations from

the 2021 RWP and provided a summary of potential 2026 recommendations from the RWPGs related to infeasible WMS, projections, groundwater, conservation, IBTs, and emerging technology.

d. Discuss the Region H Legislative Committee for the 2026 Region H RWP.

Mr. Evans provided background information related to the appointment of members to the Legislative Committee. He explained that the Legislative Committee is comprised of all the Region H Water Planning Group Committee Chairs. Mr. Evans announced that the members of the Legislative Committee for the upcoming session are Marvin Marcell, Mike Turco, Kevin Ward, John Bartos, Carl Buch, and Jun Chang.

7. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH

a. Receive update regarding schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP.

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to the development of the 2026 Region H RWP, announcing upcoming due dates for several scheduled events and tasks.

b. Receive updates from liaisons to other planning groups.

Mr. Evans announced the completion of the Interregional Planning Council Report to the Texas Water Development Board now posted on their website. Ms. Max announced the Region 6 Flood Planning Group's next meeting taking place on August 8, 2024.

c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG.

Mr. Taucer announced the various meetings, activities, and outreach opportunities.

d. Receive update from TWDB.

Ms. Rose provided various updates from TWDB related to SWIFT funding and the TWF Implementation Plan.

e. Other agency communications and general information.

There were no other agency communications and general information to report.

8. Receive public comments. (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

There were no public comments.

9. Next Meeting: October 2, 2024 and possibly November 6, 2024.

Mr. Evans announced that the next meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group will take place on October 2, 2024.

10. Adjourn.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.