

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
of the
REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP "T"
Wednesday, February 11, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Nacogdoches Recreation Center
1112 North Street, Nacogdoches, Texas

1. Call to Order – Chair Kelley Holcomb called the regular meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.
2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance –Kelley Holcomb led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. David Alders gave the invocation.
3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum –The roll was called by Lila Fuller and a quorum was determined as follows:

Voting Members Present (15 of 21)

Kelley Holcomb
Worth Whitehead
Dr. Michael Harbordt
Jerry Clark
David Alders
George P. Campbell
Josh David
Chris Davis
William Heugel
Glenda Kindle
Duke Lyons
Monty Shank
Herman Reed
Dr. J. Leon Young
Dale R. Peddy

Voting Members Absent (6)

David Brock
Ernest Mosby
Jeff Branick
Bill Kimbrough
Darla Smith
Robert Stroder

Proxies:

Bill Kimbrough for Jeff Branick
Monty Shank for David Brock
William Heugel for Darla Smith

Non-Voting Members Present:

Temple McKinnon, Texas Water Development Board
 Terry D. Stelly, Texas Parks and Wildlife
 Rex Hunt, Alan Plummer Associates
 Linda Parker, Texas Department of Agriculture
 Walter Glenn, SETGCD

Other Guests Present:

Bill Jacobs, Lower Trinity GCD
 Bob Bowman, Bowman and Associates
 Terry McFall, NRCS
 Simone Kiel, Freese & Nichols
 Rick Bourque, Schaumburg and Polk, Inc
 James Beach, LBG-Guyton Associates

14. New Business**A. Consideration and Approval of Lead Consulting firm for Round 3, Phase II Water Planning activities.**

Chair Holcomb took the agenda items out of order and presented the consideration and approval of the lead consulting firm Round 3, Phase II planning. He stated that Alan Plummer Associates was the only firm who submitted an RFQ, and the selection committee was confident in their ability to provide outstanding service to the Planning Group. He stated they would be partnering with Freese and Nichols, Inc., LBG-Guyton Associates, Inc. and G.E. Walker Associates, LLC, with many of the staff already working on projects associated with the ETRPG. Chair Holcomb stated Rex Hunt would be the project manager.

Mike Harbordt commented that the Executed Committee put a lot of work into the RFQ process and was happy with the Alan Plummer Associates team.

David Alders moved to approve the selection of Alan Plummer Associates, Inc. as the lead consulting firm for Round 3 Phase II Water Planning activities for the East Texas Regional Water Planning Group. The motion was seconded by George P. Campbell and unanimously passed.

4. **Consideration and Approval of the Minutes for the November 5, 2008 meeting.** Chair Kelley Holcomb referenced the minutes in the packet. Monty Shank moved to approve as presented. The motion was seconded by Glenda Kindle and unanimously passed.
5. **Report from City of Nacogdoches** – Lila Fuller commented on the agenda process and that it was their goal to provide more information to the members in the agenda packets so that they could be better prepared for the meetings. Ms. Fuller stated a draft membership directory had been provided to each member, with a final copy to be distributed in the near future. She asked that members notify her of any changes in their contact information. Ms. Fuller also commented that a thank you note from the family of Tommy Glenn Mallory had been received in response to flowers being sent on behalf of Region I.

On behalf of the Region I membership, Monty Shank extended condolences to Glenda Kindle in the loss of her husband Bobby.

6. **Reports from adjoining regions activity:**

- A. **Region C** – Mike Harbordt reported that he had attended one Region C meeting and received lots of information. He stated Region C was very active and had many projects, encouraged members to view the Region C website at www.regioncwater.com to get more information on their activities.
- B. **Region D** – Temple McKinnon with TWDB gave an update on the groundwater supply and small system regionalization studies being performed by Region D. She stated they would be meeting again on March 25.
- C. **Region H** – David Alders referred to Temple McKinnon with TWDB. She stated Region H had requested an extension on the region-specific reports, including the feasibility of drought management strategies. She explained the environmental flows regional work would be submitted to the Science Advisory Committee for consideration, and that Region H was working on many of the same regional planning tasks as Region I.

Jerry Clark, chair of the Sabine/Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee stated they were waiting on work to be completed by the Science Advisory Committee before they would begin work. Chair Holcomb requested that Mr. Clark keep the planning group informed as work progresses.

7. **Reports from Standing Committees:**

- A. **Executive Committee** – Chair Holcomb stated the Executive Committee had not met since scoring the consultant RFQs. He referenced a report by the Texas State Comptroller entitled “Liquid Assets” that was available on the comptroller’s website at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/water>.
- B. **Finance Committee** – Bill Heugel stated the committee would give a report later in the agenda.
- C. **Bylaws Committee** – No report.
- D. **Technical Committee** – Mike Harbordt stated he was pleased with the preparation by the consultant. He commented that Rex Hunt and his team had plans for conference call meetings and meetings outside the planning groups meetings, and referenced the schedule provided.
- E. **Nominations Committee** – Chair Holcomb stated the committee would give a report later in the agenda.

8. **Reports from other state agencies:**

- A. **Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife** – Terry Stelly with TPW Port Arthur reported on upcoming meetings. He also stated there would be a PBS documentary on television February 12 regarding Texas water issues. The documentary is another in the agency's series on water. He stated he had requested DVDs of the show for planning group members and would provide them at the April meeting. He stated TPW Port Arthur would be moving back into their offices by the end of the week and stated their old phone number would be activated March 1.
- B. **Texas Department of Agriculture** – Linda Parker reported that the TDA was doing many things and directed members to check the TDA website for information. She had available brochures for TCEQ grant funds that were available and stated the Texas Department of Agriculture was very interested in water issues and would report more information in the near future.
9. **Report from Texas Water Development Board Staff** – Temple McKinnon with TWDB stated they had spent a significant amount of time reviewing the region-specific studies. She stated the Region I comment letter would be sent out February 12. She informed the planning group members that Robert Mace was the new head of the Water Science Division at TWDB. He will replace Bill Mullican, who is retiring. Ms. McKinnon stated there were no major water legislation issues she was aware of at this time, but that TWDB would closely monitor any issues that might come up during the coming months.
10. **Report from Consultant Team** – The consultant team provided a summary of the tasks to be performed in this next round of planning for the region. This round of planning includes an update of the 2006 regional water plan. The schedule for the project is very tight, considering the amount of information that must be processed for the update. In addition, staying on schedule will require frequent input from the RWPG on issues that affect water planning in the region. A schedule for RWPG meetings was proposed (and later approved by the RWPG).

Regional Water Plan

There are 10 required tasks in this planning cycle that ultimately form the 10 chapters of the regional water plan. The work required for each is summarized following.

Task 1 - Description of the Region

Chapter 1 of the regional water plan includes a description of the region, including its human, natural, cultural, and agricultural resources. In this task, relevant changes to the region since the last plan was prepared will be documented. Chapter 1 is scheduled for consideration and adoption by the RWPG in July 2009.

Task 2 – Current and Projected Population and Water Demands

The planning horizon for this update of the plan is 2010 to 2060 (same as the 2006 plan). Population projections for the region will be updated. The consultant team recommended that projections not be changed from the 2006 plan, except to account for new Water User Groups identified by TWDB. The next census, to be held in 2010, will likely cause changes in population projections at that time, that can be incorporated into the regional water plan at that time. Water demand projections will then be prepared based on the population projections and on other significant changes to water use in the region. Population projections will be considered by the RWPG at the April meeting. Chapter 2 will be considered for adoption by the RWPG at the July meeting.

Task 3 – Water Supply Analysis

The consultant team will analyze current water supplies within the region (groundwater and surface water) and prepare any updates to the water supply volumes previously projected. Groundwater availability models have been updated, so changes may be expected to some groundwater supplies. This may include effects of updated “desired future conditions” and “managed available groundwater” estimates. Surface water models have changed little, but will be reviewed. Infrastructure changes, changes in surface water rights, water quality, direct and indirect reuse, and environmental flow policies will need to be considered in the analysis of water supplies. Chapter 3 will be considered for adoption by the RWPG in July 2009.

Task 4 – Water Management Strategies

In this chapter, water management strategies are developed for water users that have demonstrated that their demand for water cannot be met throughout the planning period (i.e., through 2060). This task will focus on changed conditions since the 2006 plan. The most notable change is the addition of 11 water user groups identified since the 2006 as independent Water User Groups. Water management strategies will be revised only if demands, volumes, or needs have changed. In addition, costs for all water management strategies previously identified will be updated. Chapter 4 will be considered for adoption by the RWPG in October 2009.

Task 5 - Impacts of Selected Water Management Strategies on Key Parameters of Water Quality and Impacts of Moving Water from Rural and Agricultural Areas

This task includes a discussion of the impacts of water management strategies on the region. Specifically, the potential impact on water quality is reviewed. Impacts of moving water from rural uses (e.g., agricultural) to urban uses will be reviewed. The new water user groups will be evaluated in this round of planning. In addition, new irrigation and manufacturing demands for the Lower Neches Valley Authority will be included. Chapter 5 will be considered for adoption by the RWPG in October.

Task 6 – Water Conservation and Drought Management Recommendations

In this task, water conservation will be considered for any water user group with an identified need. The results of the study on per capita water use will be considered in this

chapter. This chapter will be considered for adoption by the RWPG at its meeting in October 2009.

Task 7 - Description of How the Regional Water Plan is Consistent with Long-term Protection of the State's Water Resources, Agricultural Resources, and Natural Resources

This task will focus on changes due to the new water user groups identified. The chapter will address the consistency of the plan with the protection of resources in the region. This chapter will be considered for adoption by the RWPG in December 2009.

Task 8 – Unique Stream Segments and Reservoir Sites and Legislative Recommendations

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has updated its study of ecologically significant stream segments within Region I. This updated plan will be reviewed to determine if there are stream segments within the region that should be recommended for status as a "Unique Stream Segment." In addition, there are a number of proposed reservoir sites in the region and these will be considered for potential inclusion as unique reservoir sites. Recommendations for unique stream segments and unique reservoir sites will be presented to the RWPG in July 2009. The completed Chapter 8 will be considered for adoption by the RWPG in December 2009.

Task 9 – Infrastructure Financing Recommendations

A survey of those Water User Groups with needs will be prepared to determine if these groups have considered how water supply projects will be financed. The results of the survey will be analyzed for this chapter. Funding mechanisms for Water User Groups with no political subdivision (e.g., livestock, mining, and irrigation) will be considered. This chapter will be considered by the RWPG at the December 2009 meeting.

Task 10 – Public Participation and Adoption of the Plan

The public participation nature of the planning effort will be described for Chapter 10. In addition, all chapters prepared for the updated plan will be brought together in this task for inclusion as the new regional water plan. Chapter 10 and the Initially Prepared Plan will be considered for adoption by the RWPG in February 2010. The final regional water plan will be considered for adoption by the RWPG in September 2010.

Population Projections Discussion

The consultant team addressed issues associated with population projections for this round of planning. The TWDB provided a memorandum to the RWPG on December 5, 2008 that indicated that the overall population of the county could not be changed in this round of planning because the population of the region was growing at a slower rate than projected previously. Fifteen counties in the region have lower population projections. Adjustments between Water User Groups could be made, but are not necessary. Since the 2010 census

will take place prior to the next round of planning, the consultant team recommended that population projections not be changed at this time, except to account for the newly identified Water User Groups. This would not preclude a discussion of any significant differences in populations of current Water User Groups.

Use of the Water Availability Model

The consultant team recommended that the RWPG authorize submittal of a letter to TWDB outlining how the Water Availability Model Run 3 will be utilized in the evaluation of water supplies for this round. In addition, the letter will address any projections of reservoir yields based on anything other than "firm yield." A draft of the letter was provided to the RWPG for review.

Other Consultant Team Issues

The consultant team is planning to meet by telephone conference with the RWPG Technical Committee prior to the next RWPG meeting. A date for the conference call has not been set. In addition, the studies drafted during the first phase of this round of planning will be finalized prior to the next RWPG meeting.

11. **Educational Presentation**: None

12. **Public Comments**: None

13. **Unfinished Business**: None

14. **New Business**:

A. **Consideration and Approval of Lead Consulting Firms for Round 3 Phase II Water Planning activities.**

This item was considered earlier in the meeting and can be found on Page 1.

B. **Consideration and Possible Approval of Meeting Schedule for calendar year 2009.**

Chair Holcomb identified the meeting schedule for 2009 consistent with the Bylaws and required work of the Phase 3 Round II Water Plan development. Michael Harbordt moved to approve the meeting schedule for FY 2009 as follows:

February 11, 2009 -	Discuss Planning Project Scope and Schedule
April 2009 -	Approve population projects (Chapter 2); Approve final reports of the Special Studies
July 2009 -	Approve Chapters 1, 2 and 3
October 2009 -	Approve Chapters 4 through 6
December 2009 -	Approve Chapters 7 through 9
February 2010 -	Adopt Initially Prepared Plan
As needed March	
Through August 2010 -	Discuss the Initially Prepared Plan and receive comments
September 2010 -	Adopt 2010 Regional Water Plan

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The motion was seconded by Josh David and unanimously passed.

C. Consideration and Approval of FY 2009 Executive Committee.

George Campbell, chair of the Nominating Committee, stated the committee had met and unanimously recommended maintaining the entire slate of current officers.

George Campbell moved that the Region I Executive Committee for FY 2009-2010 be elected as follows:

Chair	Kelley Holcomb
1 st Vice Chair	Worth Whitehead
2 nd Vice Chair	Dr. Mike Harbordt
Secretary	Jerry Clark
Assistant Secretary	David Brock
At- Large	Dr. Leon Young
At-Large	David Alders

The motion was seconded by Glenda Kindle and passed unanimously.

George Campbell briefly commented on the small business position currently held by Ernest Mosby and stated Mr. Mosby was doing well and was moving to Harris County to be closer to family. He stated Mr. Mosby would be submitting his letter of resignation in the near future. Mr. Campbell stated the committee would be reviewing recommendations for this position and would bring this appointment up in the near future. Mr. Campbell also commented on the requirements of the position according to the Bylaws.

He also commented that Robert Stroder had retired from LNVA and Scott Hall would be brought forward in the future for consideration, as he had taken Mr. Stroder's position at LNVA.

D. Committee appointments.

Chair Holcomb stated there would be no action on this item until he had time to verify the willingness of the committee members to serve.

E. Consideration and Possible Approval of a Request to the Texas Water Development Board to use a modified WAM Run 3 model and to utilize water supply yields other than firm yield for planning purposes.

Rex Hunt provided a copy of a draft letter to TWDB requesting the use of modified WAM Run 3 models and to utilize water supply yields other than firm yield for planning purposes.

Leon Young moved to authorize the submission of the letter to TWDB as requested by the consultants. The motion was seconded by Michael Harbordt and unanimously passed.

F. Consideration and Possible Approval of a FY 2009 Annual Budget amendment.

William Heugel spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee in the absence of Chair Darla Smith. He reviewed counties who had not paid their allocations for FY 2008 and FY 2009. He stated that the Finance Committee was recommending that the FY 2009 budget be amended by 20% to \$31,740 to compensate for the shortfall from allocations not received.

There was considerable discussion of the allocations, method of calculation, etc. Chair Holcomb requested the ETRWPG be given the allocation assessed for each county, what has been paid for each county for FY 2008 and FY 2009, and the letters requesting payment to the group for consideration at a future meeting.

No action was taken at this time.

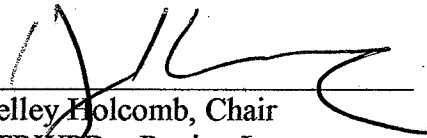
15. **Chairman's Report** – No report.

16. **General discussion** – Chair Holcomb stated the proposed date for the next meeting was Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

17. **Adjournment:**


Adjourned 12:14 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL 2009.



Kelley Holcomb, Chair
ETRWPD – Region I

ATTEST:



Jerry Clark, Secretary