

MINUTES OF THE VITRUAL/JOIN BY PHONE  
REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP “T”  
MEETING

Thursday, August 5, 2020 – 10:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order – Chairman Kelley Holcomb called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.
2. Invocation – Chairman Kelley Holcomb
3. Welcome and Introductions – Chairman Kelley Holcomb
4. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum – The roll was called by Stacy Corley and quorum was determined as follows:

**Voting Members Present: (16 of 22)**

David Alders  
Mark Dunn  
Roger Fussell  
Stevan Gelwick  
David Gorsich  
Scott Hall  
Kelley Holcomb  
Fred Jackson  
John Martin  
Matthew McBroom  
John McFarland  
Mary Vann DA for David Montagne (2<sup>nd</sup> time 2020)  
Gregory Morgan  
Monty Shank  
Randy Stanton  
Terry Stelly

**Voting Members Absent: (5)**

David Brock  
Chris Davis  
Josh David  
Darla Smith  
Worth Whitehead

**Voting Member Category Vacancies: (1)**

Small Business

**Non-Voting Members Present: (1)**

Ben A. Stephenson, Dallas Water Utilities

**Government Reporting Agencies:**

Lann Bookout, Texas Water Development Board

Manual Martinez, Texas Department of Agriculture  
Rusty Ray, Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board

**Staff and Consultants:**

Stacy Corley, City of Nacogdoches  
Cynthia Syvarth, Plummer Associates  
Rex Hunt, Plummer Associates  
Cody McCann Plummer Associates  
Dexter May, Plummer Associates  
James Beach, WSP  
Jordan Skipwith, FNI  
Spandana Tummuri, FNI

**Other Guests:**

Yassin Gallardo, LNVA  
Kate Dietz, City of Tyler

**5. Consideration and approval of the minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting.**

John Martin moved the minutes of February 19, 2020 meeting be approved as presented. Mark Dunn seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

**6. Reports from other state agencies, as necessary.**

a. Texas Water Development Board – Lann Bookout

Lann Bookout reported on the RWP rulemaking update: revisions to Chapter 357 were adopted June 4<sup>th</sup> by the TWDB Ex Board and were effective June 28, 2020. An electronic rules pamphlet is due out this summer. Rules have been updated on the Secretary of State web site.

IPP comments have been issued. Lann emphasized the TWDB comments and regional response must be included in the final plan. He also touched on the Final plan process, noting the plans and prioritization list is due October 14; the Plan must be approved at a regular meeting; all comments received must be considered; and include finalized implementation and IFR survey.

Request for Applications (RFA) for **sixth** cycle of RWP are to be issued in March 2021, more information to be provided later this year. Planning groups will need to take action to select Political Subdivision and authorize them to submit an application prior to RFA deadline. After the application is submitted and a contract initiated, the political subdivision will need to go through their procurement process to obtain a consultant for the RWP cycle.

b. Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife – Stephen Lange (absent)

c. Texas Department of Agriculture – Manual Martinez

Manual Martinez reported on current grants TDA is funding: Main Street/Downtown; FAST-Fire Trucks and a Senior Citizen Nutrition program. He also advised the Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller is urging Texans to take extreme precaution when receiving unsolicited seed packets from China. These packets have been mailed to multiple states, including Texas, falsely labeled as jewelry. Residents are advised not to plant the seeds as they could contain harmful invasive species or be otherwise unsafe.

d. Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board – Rusty Ray

Rusty Ray stated the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual State Meeting had been cancelled due to Covid-19. He had no other information to report.

7. Discussion and potential action regarding a zero-dollar project budget amendment to shift funds from one task to another – Dexter May (Plummer)

David Alders moved to approve the City of Nacogdoches and Region I Chairman Kelley Holcomb the authority to shift funds up to \$30,000 between the tasks in the current RWPG Contract (1548301837). Matthew McBroom seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

8. Report from consultant team – Dexter May (Plummer)

a. Discussion of planning schedule.

Dexter May reviewed the planning schedule -- stating the RWPG IPP was submitted February 26, 2020; TWDB Comments were received by the planning group June 15, 2020; RWPG Final Plan and RWPG Prioritization is due October 14, 2020.

b. Discussion of comments received on the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP).

Entities that submitted comments: Texas Water Development Board, RWPG, other State Agencies and Public Comments.

Texas Water Development Board has two levels of comments: Level 1, which must be addressed to meet regulatory requirements, Region I received 33 Level 1 comments. Level 2, which are suggestions that may improve the readability of the plan, Region I received 22 comments.

Most Level 1 comments can be resolved with the addition of clarifying text or additional information in the Plan. The most significant comment was regarding projects with an online decade of 2020, these must be producing water by January 5, 2023. The consultant team's proposed approach is to push any project having a capital cost and an online decade of 2020 to 2030. Approximately 20 projects will be shifted; and will result in unmet needs being shown in the 2020 decade.

Planning Group Member Comments:

Many comments were received throughout the planning process – primarily grammatical comments and Technical Committee input during Prioritization.

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board:

One comment received was to include TSSWCD on the list of Non-Voting Planning Group Members.

Virtual Public Hearing May 14, 2020: 21 attendees including consultants and planning group members – two comments received. Neither comment requested a change to the plan or required a specific response.

c. Discussion of the Infrastructure Financing Report (IFR) Survey.

Seventy-six Water User Groups were contacted in late February and early March 2020: 62 via email and 14 via USPS. Three (3) responses were received from the Water User Groups. The survey is designed to help the TWDB anticipate future funding needs; and affect project prioritization.

- d. Presentation and discussion of the draft prioritization of recommended water management strategies.

There are 57 recommended WMS in the 2021 Region I Water Plan. The prioritization score of a project is taken in to consideration when applying for SWIFT funding.

David Alders asked whether any of the Region I projects from the last round of planning had received SWIFT funding. Have previous Region I projects been funded in a timely manner? Plummer will investigate these questions and provide information at the next planning group meeting.

**9. Public Comments. (limited to 3 minutes) – Chairman Kelley Holcomb**

No public comments were made.

**10. General Discussion – Chairman Kelley Holcomb**

**11. Set Next Meeting Date – September 16th, 2020 – Chairman Kelley Holcomb**

**12. Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:29 A.M. by Chairman Holcomb.**

APPROVED THIS 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020

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Kelley Holcomb, Chair  
ETRWPG – Region I

ATTEST:

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John Martin, Secretary

Minutes approved September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020