

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
of the
REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP "T"
Wednesday, January 28, 2015– 10:00 a.m.
Nacogdoches Recreation Center
1112 North Street, Nacogdoches, Texas

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

Voting Members Present (16 of 22)

Kelley Holcomb
Leah Adams
David Alders
David Brock
Josh David
Chris Davis
Mike Harbordt
William Heugel
Joseph Holcomb
Bill Kimbrough
John Martin
David Montagne
Gregory Morgan
Monty Shank
Worth Whitehead
J. Leon Young

Voting Members Absent (5)

Jeff Branick
Mark Dunn
Scott Hall
Dale Peddy
Darla Smith

Voting Member Vacancies (1)

Proxies:

Kelley Holcomb for Dale Peddy
Bill Huegel for Darla Smith

Non-Voting Members Present:

Connie Standridge – Region C

Governmental Reporting Agencies Present:

Lann Bookout, Texas Water Development Board

Terry Stelly – Texas Parks and Wildlife
 Manuel Martinez – Texas Dept. of Agriculture

Other Guests Present:

Stacy Corley, City of Nacogdoches
 Lila Fuller, City of Nacogdoches
 Rex Hunt, Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.
 Cynthia Syvarth – Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.
 Spandana Tummuri – Freese & Nichols, Inc.
 Philip Topek – Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.
 Mary Vann – SRA-TX
 Amanda Maloukis – RCGCD
 Jerry Nichols – TSSWCB
 Ben A. Stephenson – Dallas Water Utilities
 Trey Watson – TSSWCB
 David Alford – Neches & Trinity Valley GCD
 Steve Bartlett – City of Nacogdoches

4. Receive Comments from Ms. Kathleen Jackson, Director, Texas Water Development Board.

Chair Holcomb stated a conflict prevented Director Jackson from attending the meeting.

5. Consideration and approval of the minutes of the November 19, 2014 meeting.

Mike Harbordt moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Monty Shank and unanimously passed.

6. Report from City of Nacogdoches – Lila Fuller.

No report.

7. Reports of adjoining regions activity (only as needed):

- A. **Region C** – Mike Harbordt reported Region C met January 26, 2015 and discussed items related to resolution of the interregional conflict regarding the Marvin Nichols Reservoir Water Management Strategy.
- B. **Region D** – Worth Whitehead stated Region D was in the process of taking the same steps for the regional water plan.
- C. **Region H** – David Alders stated they were discussing amendments to the 2011 plan to account for development of brackish groundwater desalination facility for Brazosport Water Authority, as well as conventional treatment operations by BWA and the application of Dow Chemical related to the expansion of existing off-channel reservoir and pump station infrastructure.

8. Reports from Standing Committees (only as needed):

- A. **Executive Committee** – Has not met since last Planning Group meeting. No report.
- B. **Finance Committee** – No report.
- C. **Bylaws Committee** – No report.
- D. **Technical Committee** – Mike Harbordt deferred his report to the action items later on the agenda.
- E. **Nominations Committee** – Monty Shank deferred his report to Agenda Item 18.

9. **Reports from other State agencies:**

- A. **Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife** – Terry Stelly reported on the Fly Fish Texas event (March 14) and Friends of Neches River Trail event (March 21). He stated he would share the links to the events with Lila who could forward to all of the members.
- B. **Texas Department of Agriculture.** –Manuel Martinez stated water was a priority for Ag Commissioner Miller and that TDA would be more involved in water issues going forward. He stated Dan Hunter had been named the Assistant Commissioner for Water and Rural Affairs, which was a new position in the Texas Department of Agriculture.

10. **Report from Texas Water Development Board staff:**

A. **Update on Region C and Region D Conflict, Stakeholder Meetings, SWIFT Funding**

Lann Bookout gave an update on the SWIFT Funding, stating applications were being accepted to fund any water project that was included in the State Water Plan. He stated the pre-application was due February 3, 2015.

He reviewed the Stakeholders Committee meeting. Kelley Holcomb gave more information on modification standards that were discussed. The committee ultimately decided not to make changes to the prioritization guidelines as the 2016 Prioritization is developed.

Lann stated additional information on the SWIFT funding was available on the TWDB website.

Lann stated he could provide a copy of the Order regarding the Region C and Region D conflict regarding the Marvin Nichols Reservoir Water Management Strategy.

11. **Report from consultant team -- Rex Hunt/Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.**

A. **Review of Draft Chapter 5A of the 2016 Regional Water Plan**

Rex reviewed the project schedule, stating this would be a review only of Chapter 5A, as there was still work to be done before it was presented for approval by the ETRWPG in March. He stated he would ask for a vote on Unique Stream Segment and Unique Reservoir Site evaluation methodologies today and vote on recommendations in March.

Spandana Tummuri with Freese & Nichols, Inc. reviewed the methodology for determining Water Management Strategies and the Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies. She stated water management strategy selection for regional planning consisted of potentially feasible strategies, recommended strategies and alternate strategies. She presented the types of water management strategies and discussed them in greater detail.

Spandana stated Region I was a “water rich” region, with many identified shortages primarily due to lack of infrastructure, contracts with water suppliers, and/or the development of additional groundwater supplies. Because Region I had ample water, it should look at conservation as making sure ample supplies remain. However, she stated there would be no significant savings in conservation efforts because of the low municipal demands compared to non-municipal demands as well as the low per capita water use in the region. Most shortages were addressed by expanded use of existing supplies, which was the most important strategy for the region.

She reviewed the available groundwater and surface water supplies in the region, stating 60% of WUGS with need are expected to continue to use groundwater. She showed Counties near capacity in groundwater as being Angelina, Cherokee, Nacogdoches, Orange, Shelby and Smith Counties, but noted it did not account for brackish water supplies in these counties.

Spandana went into greater detail regarding the expanded use of local supplies which are generally limited to irrigation, livestock and mining.

She stated they were in the process of sending a survey to all WUGS with needs to identify potentially feasible water management strategies, and the FTP site link to Chapter 5A would be sent to the ETRPG members within the next few days.

Rex briefly reviewed potential legislation and regulatory recommendations, stating a vote on the recommendations would be presented in March or April. Any recommendations from members should be sent to Chair Holcomb.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation can be obtained from the Administrator)

Chair Holcomb recessed for lunch at 11:20 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:34 a.m.

12. **Public comment** – None.

13. **New Business** –

Consideration and Approval Authorizing of a Resolution designating the City of Nacogdoches as the Political Subdivision for the 2021 (5th Cycle) Regional Water Plan; and Authorizing the City of Nacogdoches to apply for funding with the Texas Water Development Board for the 2021 Regional Water Plan and to enter into a contract to accomplish same.

David Alders moved to adopt a Resolution designating the City of Nacogdoches as political subdivision for the 2021 (5th Cycle) Regional Water Plan; and authorizing the City of Nacogdoches to apply for funding with TWDB for the 2021 Regional Water Plan and enter into a contract to accomplish same. The motion was seconded by Worth Whitehead and unanimously passed.

14. **Consideration and Approval of a request to the TWDB to perform a Socio Economic Impact Analysis.**

Rex Hunt explained the analysis would be performed by TWDB staff, but that the RWPG needed to request the analysis be done.

Joseph Holcomb moved that APAI be authorized to request TWDB to perform a Socio Economic Impact Analysis. The motion was seconded by David Montagne and unanimously passed.

15. **Consideration and Approval of Draft Chapter 1 of the 2016 Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan.**

Cynthia Syvarth with APAI reviewed updates to this Chapter, stating detailed information was included in the written chapter. She further stated Chapter 1 would be posted on the Region I website upon approval.

After some comment about poultry production in Anderson County and its possible identity as an expanding demand, David Alders moved to approve Chapter 1 as presented, with poultry production in Anderson County being expended in the final IPP. The motion was seconded by Monty Shank and unanimously passed.

16. Consideration and Possible Approval of the Methodology for and/or Recommendation of Unique Stream Segments.

Rex Hunt with APAI reviewed the unique stream segments utilizing TWDB study "Draft Ecologically Significant River and Stream Segments of Region I, Regional Water Planning Area (2005)", stating a lot of the streams in the region meet the requirements of "unique", with 11 meeting 3 or more criteria.

After some discussion on the methodology, Michael Harbordt moved to approve the methodology for evaluating unique stream segments and to also make no recommendation to designate unique stream segments in Region I in this round of planning. The motion was seconded by David Alders and unanimously passed.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation can be obtained from the Administrator)

17. Consideration and Possibly Approval of the Methodology for and/or Recommendation of Unique Reservoir Sites.

Rex Hunt with APAI reviewed the definition of a unique reservoir site and identified the proposed sites in Region I. He noted that Lake Columbia and Fastrill Reservoir have previously been identified as Unique Reservoir Sites by the Texas Legislature. Rex stated the options for the RWPG were to select one or more of the remaining proposed reservoir site for status as a Unique Reservoir Site, or elect not to name any proposed sites for this status.

After some discussion, Leon Young moved to make no recommendations regarding additional Unique Reservoir Sites in Region I in this round of planning and to recommend that the the Reservoir Sites of Lake Columbia and Fastrill Reservoir continue to be designated as Unique Reservoir Sites. The motion was seconded by David Montagne and unanimously passed.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation can be obtained from the Administrator)

18. Election of Officers and Executive Committee At Large positions.

Monty Shank, Nominations Committee Chair, presented the following officers from the Committee:

Chair: Kelley Holcomb
 1st Vice Chair – Worth Whitehead
 2nd Vice Chair – Dr. Michael Harbordt
 Secretary – David Brock
 Assistant Secretary – John Martin
 At-Large – Dr. Leon Young


At-Large – David Alders

David Montagne moved that the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee be approved. The motion was seconded by Joseph Holcomb and unanimously passed.

19. **General discussion.** Chair Holcomb announced the next meeting was scheduled for March 11, 2015.

20. **Adjourn** – Chair Holcomb adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 11th day of March 2015.



Kelley Holcomb, Chair
ETRWPG – Region I

ATTEST:



David Brock, Secretary

Minutes approved: March 11, 2015