

**MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
OCTOBER 31, 2007
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY OFFICE
LAKE CONROE DAM
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Baker, John R. Bartos, John Blount, Robert Bruner, Reed Eichelberger, Mark Evans, Jason Fluharty, Jack Harris, John Howard, Robert Istre, James Morrison, James Murray, Ronald Neighbors, Jeff Taylor, William Teer, Steve Tyler, Mike Uhl, Danny Vance, and Pudge Willcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Tom Michel for Marvin Marcell, and Paul Nelson for Jimmie Schindewolf.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roosevelt Alexander, Bob Hebert, Marvin Marcell, Jimmie Schindewolf, and C. Harold Wallace.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Ahrens, Temple McKinnon, and Woody Woodrow.

PRESIDING: Jeff Taylor, Chairman

MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2007 MEETING

A motion was made by John Baker to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2007 meeting; second by Danny Vance. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 4 - 15

None.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PAYMENT PROCEDURES TO BE USED FOR REQUESTING GRANT FUNDS FROM THE TWDB AND PAYING INVOICES RECEIVED FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM

Jace Houston gave an overview of procedures recommended by the Executive Committee for review and payment of consultant invoices submitted to Region H as follows: invoices received by the San Jacinto River Authority would be reviewed by SJRA, the Region H chairman, and the Region H member designated to review the finances of the planning group; then the invoices would be paid in a timely manner; and finally, a report of invoices received and payments made would be provided at each Region H meeting. After a short discussion, motion was made by Danny Vance and seconded by Jack Harris to pay invoices as needed and present quarterly reports on payments that had been made during the quarter.

RECEIVE REPORT FROM TEMPLE MCKINNON ON PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF TWDB RULES REVISIONS

Temple McKinnon gave a report on the proposed implementation of TWDB rules related to planning and noted that there will be a 30-day comment period. Jeff Taylor commented about the expedited process for plan amendments and the impact that the planning groups had on this item.

RECEIVE REPORT FROM TEMPLE MCKINNON ON POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE BRAZOS SALTWATER BARRIER PROJECT

Temple McKinnon and John Baker led the discussion regarding the enthusiastic stakeholder support related to the Brazos Saltwater Barrier Project and status of same. They will move forward with the feasibility study as funding is available for the initial step. Temple McKinnon toured the site with the Corps of Engineers on September 26, 2007, along with representatives from the Brazos River Authority and Dow. Mike Uhl noted that the feasibility study should provide better yield numbers for consideration as a management strategy in future plans.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BYLAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP

John Bartos presented proposed amendments to the Region H bylaws for consideration by the planning group. The proposed amendments were developed by the bylaws committee appointed by Chairman Taylor and related to deleting the term limits provisions and modifying the quarterly meeting requirement. After a short discussion, motion was made by John Bartos and seconded by James Murray to adopt the proposed amendments to the bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOMINATIONS FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE BAY-BASIN AREA STAKEHOLDERS GROUP FOR THE SAN JACINTO-TRINITY RIVER BASIN

Jeff Taylor gave an overview of the environmental flows provisions adopted in the previous legislative session and the process for selection of members for the Basin-Bay Area Stakeholders group. He went through the list of individuals recommended by the nominations committee. After discussion, revisions were made to the proposed list. Motion was made by Ron Neighbors and seconded by John Baker to authorize the committee to finalize the list for submittal as directed by the group.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVE RESPONSE TO TWDB REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR 2ND BIENNIUM FUNDING

Mike Reedy with TCB discussed questions received from the TWDB along with potential responses to the same. Robert Istre gave an overview of language that he proposed regarding

back-up water rights for run-of-river rights counted in the regional plan. Ron Neighbors gave an overview of language that he proposed regarding groundwater issues in Harris, Galveston, and Fort Bend counties. Motion was made by Steve Tyler and seconded by John Blount to approve the responses recommended by the consultant team as amended to include the additional language proposed by Robert Istre and Ron Neighbors. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CITY OF GROVETON REGARDING A POTENTIAL REQUEST FOR WAIVER FROM THE TWDB CONSISTENCY PROVISIONS AND CONSIDER ACTION BY THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP

Allen Draper, engineer for the City of Groveton, discussed the TWDB’s request that they obtain a letter of support from Region H regarding the City of Groveton’s request for a consistency waiver for a water supply project being proposed by the City. A discussion ensued regarding the proposed project and its relationship to the recommended management strategies in the Region H plan. Danny Vance indicated that the Trinity River Authority had no objection to the proposed project. Motion was made by James Morrison and seconded by Danny Vance to approve a letter from Region H supporting the City of Groveton’s request for a consistency waiver. The motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE CURRENT STATUS AND PROGRESS OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Mike Reedy and Jason Afinowicz with TCB reviewed and updated the group on four tasks included in the scope of work for the Region H water plan as follows:

- Task 1 – Environmental Flows
- Task 2 – Drought Contingency
- Task 3 – Interruptible Supplies
- Task 0 – Administration and Public Participation

Mr. Afinowicz gave a presentation regarding Task 1 – Environmental Flows. The consultant team met with the TWDB via teleconference to discuss the WAM assumptions to be used for the study. The proposed baseline conditions include Naturalized Flows, Existing Conditions with Return Flows, and Full Authorized Diversions with Return Flows. These baseline conditions will be used to compare the impacts of management strategies on the bay and estuary inflow targets. Future efforts will focus on potential mitigation strategies for each management strategy.

CONSIDER AND APPROVE WAM REVISIONS BY CONSULTANT TEAM AND AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL TO TWDB FOR APPROVAL AS CONTRACTUALLY REQUIRED

Mike Personett and Dan Buhman with KBR gave a presentation regarding Task 3 – Interruptible Supplies. Dan Buhman discussed the overall goals of the study which include 1) quantify the interruptible amount of existing rights, 2) quantify the interruptible unappropriated supply, 3) compare interruptible supply amounts to potential demands, and 4) develop economic and policy implications.

Temple McKinnon stated that the group needed to take official action documenting and approving the WAM revision assumptions from an October 18, 2007 meeting between the consultant team and the TWDB regarding modeling assumptions used in Tasks 1 and 3. John Baker moved to authorize submittal of the distributed minutes as an official record of the October 18, 2007 meeting and to approve the WAM revision assumptions.

John Bartos questioned whether the consultant team had engaged the TPWD during development of the WAM assumptions. Mike Reedy stated that other than the involvement the TPWD may have had during the development of the original scope of work, the assumptions had not been presented to the TPWD officially. Mr. Reedy offered to seek input from the TPWD and discuss changes to the assumptions if needed. Woody Woodrow stated that the TPWD would welcome the opportunity to review the assumptions and offer any suggested modifications for consideration. This item was deferred to the next RWPG meeting. The motion was withdrawn.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM ON DEVELOPMENT STATUS OF THE REGION H WEBSITE

Mike Reedy and Jason Afinowicz gave an overview of the Region H website. The website address is www.regionhwater.org. Jason Afinowicz provided an overview of the website and the various information currently available. The website will continue to be updated and future meeting notices and meeting material will be posted.

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM TOM MICHEL REGARDING SURFACE WATER CONVERSION ACTIVITIES IN FORT BEND COUNTY

Tom Michel gave an update on surface water conversion activities, including information on regulations, population growth, and conversion plans in Fort Bend County. John Howard discussed the positive impact of the salt water barrier project on the Fort Bend County area.

RECEIVE UPDATES BY LOCAL WATER AGENCIES OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES REGARDING ANY WATER-RELATED INITIATIVES OR PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY OR PLANNED

John Baker reported to the group that the Region G RWPG approved developing an amendment to their regional water plan for a 100,000 acre-foot strategy for power generation in the upper basin. This water will be provided through the systems operation permit, and the contract is contingent upon the permit. HDR will do the work to show the impacts from the strategy on Region H. The utility is amenable to paying for an amendment to the Region H plan. The Region G amendment will be presented at their February meeting and will have a 45-day comment period.

Robert Istre highlighted GCWA's need for water from the BRA system operation permit.

David Parkhill provided a brief report.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Woody Woodrow had no update regarding the TPWD.

Temple McKinnon reported that there would be a State Revolving Fund workshop on November 15, 2007 at the San Jacinto River Authority, G & A Office, located at 1577 Dam Site Road in Conroe. She also mentioned the TWDB Water Summit that was scheduled for early December.

NEXT MEETING

February 6, 2007
San Jacinto River Authority
Lake Conroe Dam
1577 Dam Site Road
Conroe, Texas 77304

ADJOURNED