

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MAY 1, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Robert Istre, Ken Kramer, Marvin Marcell, Alisa Max, Mike O’Connell, Byron Ryder, Loyd Smith, Michael Turco, Brandon Wade, Cynthia Wagener, and Kevin Ward.

NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS: Greg Eyerly, Jason Garrard, and Aubrey Spear.

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Sarah Kouba for Gary Ashmore.

MEMBERS ABSENT: WR Baker, Caleb Cooper, Ivan Langford, and Danny Pierce.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Max introduced Mr. John Lacy, who will serve as her designated alternate.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2024 MEETING

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the minutes of February 7, 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 comments.

5. PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

- a. Accept the resignations of Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston, and Glenn Lord as voting members of the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) and declare vacant positions for voting members representing Municipalities, River Authorities, and Industries**

Mr. Bartos made a motion to accept the resignations of Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston, and Glenn Lord as voting members of the Region H Water Planning Group and declare the positions vacant for voting members representing Municipalities, River Authorities, and Industries. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ward and carried unanimously.

b. Receive Nominating Committee report

Mr. Chang, Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated the vacated positions were posted according to the By Laws and nominations were received. He explained that the committee met prior to this meeting to review the nominations. He stated that the committee recommended Aubrey A. Spear to fill the vacancy for River Authorities with term expiring in 2028; Greg Eyerly to fill the vacancy for Municipalities with term expiring in 2026; and Jason Garrard to fill the vacancy for Industries with term expiring in 2028.

c. Discuss and consider taking action to approve members to fill vacancies on the RHWPG

Mr. Smith made a motion to accept and approve Mr. Aubrey Spear, Mr. Greg Eyerly, and Mr. Jason Garrard to fill the vacancies for River Authorities, Municipalities, and Industries, respectively. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bredehoft and carried unanimously.

d. Discuss and consider taking action to elect officers and members of the Executive Committee of the RHWPG

Mr. Evans explained the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and two Members At-Large make up the Executive Committee. Mr. Chang stated that the Nominating Committee deliberated and recommended the following members to serve on the Executive Committee:

Mr. Mark Evans – Chair
Mr. Marvin Marcell – Vice-Chair
Mr. John Bartos – Secretary
Mr. David Bailey – At Large Member, representing GMA 12
Mr. Arthur Bredehoft – At-Large Member, representing Water Utilities

Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the members as stated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryder and carried unanimously.

6. SPECIAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Receive presentation from the Consultant Team regarding the proposed application by the City of Montgomery to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP) and consider approving the submittal of the application package to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the determination of minor amendment status

Mr. Taucer explained that the City of Montgomery submitted an application to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan which included a new water plant with storage capacity and an expanded groundwater production capacity which would support the future needs of customers. He opined that the proposal should be a minor amendment which would impact the executive summary, the text and summary tables in Chapter 3 – Existing Supplies; text, strategy, project, cost tables, project technical memorandum, and Appendix DB in Chapter 5 – Water Management Strategies; and other various text, tables and figures from Chapters 6, 9, and 11. Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the submittal of the application package to the Texas Water Development

Board for the determination of minor amendment status. The motion was seconded by Ms. Max and carried with all present, voting aye.

b. Receive update on the Interregional Planning Council Report to TWDB

Mr. Kramer requested a presentation of the Interregional Planning Council Report to TWDB. Ms. Rose of TWDB presented various aspects of the report including three statutory charges, recommendations to the legislature, recommendations to TWDB, and recommendations to future Interregional Planning Councils.

7. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding technical analyses for the 2026 Region H RWP

Mr. Taucer explained the various refinements to the post technical memo, specifically related to MAG peak factors, non-MAG groundwater availability, Brazos Basin Surface water, Lake Livingston availability, new WUGs, contracts, infrastructure capacity limits, and GRP infrastructure. Mr. Wade reiterated his continued concern related to the Brazos Alluvium.

b. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding the status of water conservation plan and drought contingency plan submittals

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to the water conservation and drought contingency plans, which are due May 1, 2024. He stated that Region H has received numerous submittals and explained the importance of same.

c. Review and consider taking action to amend the budget for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP

Mr. Taucer explained the necessity for the budget amendment which increases Task 2A, Population Demand, by \$15,800; Task 2B, Non-Population Demand, by \$60,000; and Task 3, Supply, by \$80,434. He reiterated that there is no overall increase to the budget, only the reallocation of funds to Tasks 2A, 2B, and C, as stated above. Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to amend the budget for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kramer and carried unanimously.

8. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH

a. Receive updates 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, such as existing supply refinements, socioeconomic impacts analysis, WMS analyses, and conservation and drought activities summaries.

b. Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups

Mr. Wade resigned his position on the Region 6 Flood Planning Group and recommended the appointment of Alisa Max who is willing to serve on same.

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

Mr. Taucer discussed the various meetings attended in the last few months as well as upcoming outreach efforts.

d. Receive update from TWDB

Ms. Rose provided updates from TWDB related to the Conservation Resources Guide for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans, Water Use Survey, Water Conservation Plans, Annual Reports, Water Loss Audits, Texas Water Service Boundary Viewer, and the Conservation Information Dashboard for Water Supply Planning.

e. Other agency communications and general information

Mr. Bartos introduced Mr. Marty Kelly and Ms. Monica Polgar of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Mr. Erich Peterson, General Manager of The Woodlands Water Agency discussed the One Water Task Force. Mr. Spear discussed his representation on the Water Conservation Advisory Council.

9. Receive public comments.

There were no comments.

10. Next Meeting: August 7, 2024.

It was announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2024.

11. Adjourn.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.