

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 7, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, John Bartos, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, James Comin, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, Marvin Marcell, Mike Turco, Brandon Wade, Kevin Ward, and Pudge Willcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Amber Batson for Jace Houston, Loyd Smith for John Blount.

MEMBERS ABSENT: W.R. Baker, Bob Herbert, Art Henson, Robert Istre, Carl Masterson, James Morrison, and William Teer.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2021 MEETING

Mr. Turco made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. Forrest and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 17

There were no comments related to this item.

5. DISCUSS VACANCIES ON THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP (RHWPG), ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PUDGE WILLCOX AS A VOTING MEMBER, DECLARE TWO VACANCIES FOR AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVES, AND APPOINT A NEW VOTING MEMBER REPRESENTING AGRICULTURE

Mr. Evans announced the resignation of Mr. Willcox and an additional vacancy due to the passing of Mr. Robert Bruner. Mr. Willcox recommended he be replaced by Mr. Caleb Cooper. Mr. Turco made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Willcox, declare both positions vacant, and to appoint Mr. Cooper as a new voting member of the Region H Water Planning Group representing Agriculture. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lord and carried unanimously.

6. CONSIDER AND APPOINT A NON-VOTING MEMBER TO THE REGION 6 SAN JACINTO REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP AND LIAISONS TO THE EAST TEXAS WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION I) AND THE REGION 8 LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Mr. Langford made a motion to appoint Mr. Brandon Wade to the Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group and Mr. Glenn Lord to the Region 8 Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO NOMINATE RHWPG MEMBERS TO SERVE AS A MEMBER AND ALTERNATE TO THE INTERREGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mr. Ward made a motion to appoint Mr. Mark Evans as a member of the Interregional Planning Council and Mr. Jace Houston as alternate to same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brunett and carried with all present voting aye.

8. RECEIVE UPDATE ON NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP ON THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP

Mr. Taucer provided an update and noted new non-voting members to the Region H Water Planning Group.

9. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CITY OF HOUSTON ON THE CITY'S WHOLESALE WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Ms. Sarah Robinson of the City of Houston and Mr. Stephen Cortes of Goldwater, provided information related to the various programs and incentives to encourage a reduction in water demand over the next five years in the City of Houston.

10. RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE 87TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. Taucer and Mr. Marcell provided a brief update and highlighted several bills that were passed during the 87th Legislative Session that directly impact water planning, funding, etc.

11. RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2026 REGION H WATER PLAN

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the 2026 RWP schedule and Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning provided by the Texas Water Development Board. Mr. Taucer announced that grant applications are due April 12, 2021.

12. RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING AND THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE SIXTH CYCLE OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING (2022-2026)

Mr. Taucer stated that the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) was released on March 12 and has been submitted by the San Jacinto River Authority. He provided an overview relative to the additions of various tasks to the scope as well as proposed budget of same.

13. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO REQUEST STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS TO PREPARE THE 2026 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN ON BEHALF OF THE RHWPG IN ACCORDANCE WITH 31 TAC 355.92(C)

Mr. Taucer and Ms. Amber Batson explained the procurement process. Mr. Ward made a motion to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to request statements of qualifications to prepare the 2026 Region H RWP on behalf of the RHWPG in accordance with 31 TAC 355.92(c). The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

14. DISCUSS POTENTIAL TIMING AND OPTIONS FOR RESUMING IN-PERSON RHWPG MEETINGS

The RHWPG discussed the various advantages and disadvantages of virtual versus in-person meetings. It was agreed that the next meeting in July will take place via GoToWebinar and in-person meetings will resume thereafter.

15. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE RHWPG

Mr. Taucer stated there were no upcoming activities.

16. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM TWDB ON THE STATEWIDE ASR-AR SUITABILITY SURVEY

Mr. James Golab of TWDB presented information related to the Statewide ASR-AR Suitability Survey.

17. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Bookout provided an overview of the various information related to TWDB.

18. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

19. NEXT MEETING: JULY 7, 2021

Mr. Evans announced that the next meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group is scheduled for July 7, 2021.

20. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.