

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Brad Brunett (online), Carl Burch, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Ken Kramer (online), Glenn Lord, Mike O'Connell, Danny Pierce, Loyd Smith, Mike Turco, and Brandon Wade.

**ALTERNATES:**

Ekaterina Fitos for Yvonne Forrest and Bill Holder for J. Kevin Ward.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

*It was announced that due to inclement weather, all members that were not present would not be counted as absent.*

W.R. Baker

James Comin

Caleb Cooper

Ivan Langford

Marvin Marcell

Byron Ryder.

**CONSULTANT TEAM:**

Philip Taucer and Jason Afinowicz

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2022, MEETING**

Mr. Bartos made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bredehoft and carried unanimously.

**4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 8.**

There were no comments related to agenda items 5 through 8.

## **5. PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

### **a. RECEIVE NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DISCUSS AND ELECT OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP (RHWP)**

Mr. Chang explained that the Nominating Committee met this morning and unanimously recommended that the current slate of officers and the members of the executive committee continue fulfilling their terms. Members being Mark Evans, Chair, Marvin Marcel, Vice-Chair, Jace Houston, John Bartos, and Yvonne Forrest. Mr. Turco made a motion to elect the current members of the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bredehoft and carried unanimously.

## **6. SPECIAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **a. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE GULF COAST WATER AUTHORITY REGARDING THE BRAZOS RIVER ALLUVIUM**

Mr. Brandon Wade provided information related to the Brazos River Alluvium Aquifer. He opined that it is the next big drought threat. He provided history of the Gulf Coast Water Authority and the areas it serves. Mr. Wade explained that there are approximately 2,116 wells along the Brazos River Alluvium and in a drought situation, as it was in 2009, 2011, and 2013, the alluvium wells continue to pump, while the low flow downstream affects GCWA, NRG, and Dow. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Wade concluded by suggesting that Region H provide input into Region G's plan, monitor development of DFCs, Groundwater Districts, and well permit applications, perform an analysis of Brazos Alluvium pumping on flows in the Brazos River, and support Allen's Creek, desalination, groundwater subsidence, and reuse.

### **b. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM AND HARRIS-GALVESTON SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT ON THE JOINT REGULATORY PLAN REVIEW.**

Mr. Turco and Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District and Fort Bend Subsidence District 2023 Joint Regulatory Plan Review.

### **c. DISCUSS REQUEST FROM BASF CORPORATION REGARDING CONSISTENCY OF PROPOSED PROJECT WITH THE REGIONAL WATER PLAN (RWP) AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A LETTER FROM THE RHWP ON CONSISTENCY STATUS.**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to a request from BASF Corporation regarding the consistency of a proposed project with the Regional Water Plan. He explained that BASF Corporation submitted a water right application which includes an interruptible Brazos River diversion and bed and banks transfer. He stated the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") requires a letter from the Regional Water Planning Group stating that the request is not inconsistent with the Regional Water Plan. After discussion, Mr. Turco made a motion to submit a letter stating the proposed project is consistent with the Regional Water Plan and request that it include TCEQ's permitting process to include a public comment period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bredehoft and carried with all ayes and one nay (Mr. Istre).

## **7. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **a. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING NON-POPULATION DEMAND DATA AND PROJECTIONS FOR THE 2026 REGION H RWP.**

Mr. Taucer reported that the Non-Population Demand Committee is in the process of reviewing the draft projections provided by TWDB. He stated that revisions are due July 14, 2023.

**b. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING POPULATION DEMAND DATA AND PROJECTIONS FOR THE 2026 REGION H RWP**

Mr. Taucer explained that the Texas Water Development Board recently released population demand data and projections. He stated that the planning group is considering a potential alignment of populations with the Joint Regulatory Plan Review Process because of its detail and spatial resolution. Mr. Taucer provided a review of data of several counties.

**8. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH**

**a. RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2026 REGION H RWP**

Mr. Taucer explained that the current focus is on the demand projection process. He stated that the Texas Water Development Board anticipates adopting projections in October.

**b. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM LIAISONS TO OTHER PLANNING GROUPS**

Mr. Evans stated that the Interregional Council adopted rules and the next meeting is slated to take place in the spring.

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

There were no upcoming activities or events.

**d. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mr. Bookout provided updates relative to the legislative session and certain bills that TWDB is tracking.

**9. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

It was announced that the next meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group will be held on May 3, 2023.

**11. ADJOURN**

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