

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
August 3, 2011
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Bartos, John Blount, Jun Chang, Reed Eichelberger, Mark Evans, Bob Hebert, Art Henson, John Hofmann, John Howard, Gena Leathers, Glynn Leiper, Ted Long, Marvin Marcell, James Morrison, Ron Neighbors, Jimmie Schindewolf, William Teer, Steve Tyler, Danny Vance, C. Harold Wallace, and Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Robert D. Pierce for Robert Bruner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Istre

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Ahrens, Temple McKinnon, and Melinda Silva

PRESIDING: Mark Evans, Chair

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING AT 10:03 A.M.

A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone and alternates were announced.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2011 MEETING

The minutes for the May 4, 2011 meeting were presented. Motion was made by Mr. Vance, seconded by Mr. Blount, to approve the minutes with the spelling correction to Mr. Chang's name. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 12

Mr. Dan Davis with Lake Conroe Communities Network updated the Group on the socioeconomic impact study focused on the withdrawal of surface water from Lake Conroe, which is being conducted by Texas A&M University. He stated that seventeen hundred surveys have been mailed out and that he would keep the Group updated on same.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE STATUS AND SCHEDULE RELATED TO THE APPLICATION FOR A REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GRANT SUBMITTED TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR FUNDING OF THE FOURTH ROUND OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING FOR REGION H

Mr. Mike Reedy with Freese and Nichols stated that contracts between the San Jacinto River Authority and the Texas Water Development Board and between the San Jacinto River Authority and Freese and Nichols have been executed. He stated work is being done to get subcontracts prepared and in place.

RECEIVE AND DISCUSS PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF STANDING COMMITTEES IN THE CONSIDERATION OF TARGETED ISSUES WITH THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Reedy continued by discussing a proposal to utilize committees for the 2016 Regional Water Plan and the interest of the Group in forming committees on specific topics, such as population, water demands, WMS selection, regional issues, non-population water demands, and public outreach. He asked the Group to consider whether or not committees would be appropriate, and if so, he requested recommendations on the structuring of same. Mr. Houston briefly discussed the bylaws and discussed the formation of committees in the past. Mr. Marcell and Mr. Vance briefly discussed the benefits of using committees; a consensus was reached among the Group to utilize committees in the future. Mr. Reedy stated that he would further discuss the structuring of the committees with the Group at the next meeting.

Ms. McKinnon reminded the Group of the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2016 Regional Water Plan.

RECEIVE AND DISCUSS PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR MEETINGS AND MATERIALS OF THE REIGON H PLANNING GROUP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Reedy discussed the current communication of meeting materials to the Group. He discussed the current practice of providing hardcopies of meeting materials and the options for consideration that will assist in reducing the use of paper, while also streamlining the distribution of meeting materials. Discussion followed regarding the availability of materials on Region H's website and the formatting of files to allow for the manipulation of data. The consensus of the Group was to downsize on the distribution of paper documents for the meetings, with the understanding that detailed data will still be available to the Group members in hardcopy format.

RECEIVE AND DISCUSS PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Afinowicz with Freese and Nichols discussed the schedule and various milestones for the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning, including the scheduled tasks.

RECEIVE REPORT FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE REGION H PLANNING GROUP

Mr. Afinowicz continued by discussing recent community outreach activities. He stated that Mr. Evans recently presented *Region H and the Regional Approach to Water Planning in Texas* for the National League of Cities. He then announced that he (Mr. Afinowicz) would be attending and presenting at *Civic Forum: Water the Challenges Facing the Houston Region* for the Rice Design Alliance on August 24, 2011.

Ms. McKinnon briefly discussed the drought and the planning process, including the submittal of water use surveys and the establishment of demand projections.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON REQUESTING APPROVAL FROM THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) FOR POTENTIAL USE OF ALTERNATIVES TO USING WAM RUN 3 MODELS AND POTENTIAL USE OF ALTERNATIVES TO FIRM YIELD FOR DEFINING REGIONAL WATER SUPPLIES IN REGION H

Mr. Afinowicz stated that this was a routine item for consideration. He discussed the use of alternatives to the WAM Run 3, including the modified Run 3 model for determining firm yield in the lower Trinity River Basin and the Brazos River Basin. He discussed adaption and utilization of models in the past. Mr. Vance briefly discussed the assumption of return flows and reuse and emphasized the need to clarify the various assumptions. Concerns related to the WAM, including return flows and reuse were discussed. Motion was made by Mr. Neighbors, seconded by Mr. Hebert and unanimously approved, to request approval from the TWDB for the potential use of alternatives to using WAM Run 3 Models and the potential use of alternatives to firm yield for defining regional water supplies in Region H.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON THE ADDITION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE REGION H PLANNING GROUP REPRESENTING LOCAL GMAs AS A RESULT OF RECENT LEGISLATION

Ms. Temple McKinnon with the TWDB discussed the additional Regional Water Planning Group members required by Senate Bill 660 to represent various Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs). She stated that the new legislation is effective September 1, 2011. Potential representatives from GMAs 12 and 14 were discussed. Ms. McKinnon stated no action was currently required but that the item would be revisited at the next meeting.

RECEIVE STATUS REPORT FROM THE REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Schindewolf stated that the Nominations Committee met prior to the Region H meeting and that a recommendation for the replacement of Mr. Alexander will be recommended at the next meeting. He stated that currently a couple of applicants are being considered for the position and that the solicitation for applicants is still taking place.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Ms. McKinnon updated the Group on the draft of the State Water Plan, including the dates and locations of public meetings and the timeline for submittal of the final document.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dan Davis inquired as to the status of Judge Sadler's previous request related to water management strategies (WMS). Mr. Reedy stated that a technical memorandum will identify feasible WMS that the Group recommends should be studied further. He stated that the technical memorandum is due in 2013. Ms. McKinnon stated that the planning process is the same; however the process is now task targeted, but that the same rules and parameters apply as in previous planning cycles. The consensus of the Group was that Judge Sadler's recommendations are worthy of further study.

NEXT MEETING

December 7, 2011
San Jacinto River Authority
General and Administration Building
1577 Dam Site Road
Conroe, Texas 77304

ADJOURNED AT 11:04 A.M.