

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MARCH 11, 2015
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, John Blount, Jun Chang, James Comin, Mark Evans, Gene Fisseler, Judge Art Henson, Jace Houston, John Howard, Lisa Lattu, Robert Istre, Glenn Lord, Jimmie Schindewolf, J. Kevin Ward and Pudge Willcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Zach Holland for James Morrison, Mike O'Connell for Judge Hebert, Robert Thompson for Ron Neighbors and Marvin Marcel, Ken Cramer for Carl Masterson, Paul Nelson for Kathy Jones, Tom Michel for William Teer and Brad Brunette for David Collinsworth.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Backhouse for Lann Bookout

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans welcomed Louine Hancock from Senator Nichols Office as well as alternate voting members present.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2014 MEETING

Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2014, with one correction to members absent as stated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2015 MEETING.

Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 18. (PUBLIC COMMENTS LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

There were no comments.

5. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO SERVE AS THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION FOR THE FIFTH CYCLE OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING.

Mr. Houston explained that each planning cycle, the Board must re-designate an administrative agency of the Regional Water Planning Group. Mr. Howard made a motion to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to

serve as administrative agency for the fifth cycle of regional water planning. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fisseler and carried unanimously.

6. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS FROM THE REGION H LOCAL CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT TO PAY FOR PUBLIC NOTICE ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIFTH ROUND OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING TO BE REIMBURSED BY THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to use funds from the Region H local contribution account to pay for public notice activities for the fifth round of Regional Water Planning to be reimbursed by the Texas Water Development Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN.

Mr. Jason Afinowicz gave a brief overview of the draft of the Initially Prepared Plan, explaining that it is currently in the review stages until the next meeting. He further explained May 1, 2015, is the date in which the IPP will be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). At that time, the public process will begin. Public hearings will take place in the upcoming months. Mr. Afinowicz went on to state that comments would be provided at the October meeting, a final draft of the IPP would be presented at the November meeting with submission of the final plan taking place by December 1, 2015.

8. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES COMMITTEE REGARDING STATUS OF THE IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN.

Mr. Afinowicz explained that the WMS Committee met on February 9, 2015, and discussed the initial needs identified, the location of needs, and the approach which will be used in meeting each of those needs.

9. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DRAFT COPY OF CHAPTER 5: WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.

Mr. Afinowicz introduced Chapter 5 which now only addresses Water Management Strategies, which includes requirements, Strategy Evaluation Methodology, Potential WMS and Projects, Recommended WMS, Alternative WMS and Remaining Unmet Needs. Mr. Ward had questions regarding Table 5.5, and it was stated that it would be updated prior to the April meeting.

10. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DRAFT COPY OF CHAPTER 5B: CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS.

Mr. Afinowicz introduced Chapter 5B which now addresses conservation recommendations in Region H and the Goldwater Project.

11. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DRAFT COPY OF CHAPTER 6: IMPACTS OF THE REGIONAL WATER PLAN.

Mr. Afinowicz explained that Chapter 6 focuses on key strategies and projects, potential water quality impacts, summary of water resources, threatened and endangered species, impacts to unique stream segments, and freshwater inflows.

12. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DRAFT COPY OF CHAPTER 8: UNIQUE STREAM SEGMENTS, RESERVOIR SITES, AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

Mr. Afinowicz gave a brief overview of Chapter 8 which includes recommendations on Unique Reservoir Sites, unique stream segments and other regulatory, administrative and legislative recommendations. He stated that this will solidify what has been discussed before and puts it in to text. Mr. Afinowicz briefly discussed Allens Creek Reservoir being designated as a unique reservoir site and explained why it is being carried forward.

13. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DRAFT COPY OF CHAPTER 9: REPORTING OF FINANCIAL MECHANISM FOR WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.

Mr. Afinowicz explained that an infrastructure finance survey will be sent out to wholesale providers to identify their potential needs for state funding. He also explained that this chapter will give more information on capital costs for the 2016 Region H Water Plan.

14. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DRAFT COPY OF CHAPTER 10: ADOPTION OF PLAN AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Mr. Afinowicz explained that this chapter includes summaries of Regional Planning Group meetings, summaries of Technical Committee meetings, public review and comments of Initially Prepared Plan, and a summary of public hearings, public meetings, and written comments.

15. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DRAFT COPY OF CHAPTER 11: IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS REGIONAL WATER PLAN.

Mr. Afinowicz stated that this chapter has not been included in the past. He explained that it will include the implementation of the previously recommended Water Management Strategies, and a comparison to previous Regional Water Plans, focusing largely on what has been implemented.

16. CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE TWDB TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS OF UNMET WATER NEEDS IN THE REGION H WATER PLANNING AREA.

Mr. Afinowicz stated that a socioeconomic report is required to show the impact of unmet needs and that there is potential to have the Board develop this report. It requires requests by the Planning Group to execute this report. Mr. Houston made a motion to approve the TWDB to conduct an analysis of socioeconomic impacts of unmet water needs in the Region H Water Planning area. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blount and carried unanimously.

17. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE REGION H PLANNING GROUP.

Mr. Afinowicz gave a brief update that there have been presentations to the HGAC Natural Resources Committee as well as the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District.

18. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

Sarah Backhouse with the Texas Water Development Board gave a brief update regarding applications submitted from all sixteen Planning Groups, which will be going before the TWDB Board on April 9, 2015, for authorization to enter into contracts. She explained that these contracts need to be executed by political subdivisions by August 31, 2015. Ms. Backhouse also reminded everyone that before proceeding with any technical work on the fifth cycle, that a pre-planning public input meeting needs to take place as well as the re-procurement process of consultants.

19. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marcel Khouw with IDS Engineering, on behalf of the Central Harris County Regional Water Authority, was present to notify the group that they will be working with Freese and Nichols to request an amendment to their current Region H plan, primarily for the central to update the cost associated with the internal distribution water systems.

20. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Evans announced that the next meeting will be a Public Hearing on April 1, 2015.

21. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11: 21 a.m.