

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
February 29, 2011
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, Jun Chang, Reed Eichelberger, Mark Evans, Art Henson, John Hofmann, John Howard, Robert Istre, Kathy Jones, Gena Leathers, Ted Long, Marvin Marcell, Carl Masterson, James Morrison, Ron Neighbors, William Teer, Danny Vance, and Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Charles Dean for John Blount, Mike O'Connell for Bob Hebert, Paul Nelson for Jimmie Schindewolf, and Tom Michel for C. Harold Wallace

MEMBERS ABSENT: Glynn Leiper and Steve Tyler

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Temple McKinnon and Melinda Silva

PRESIDING: Mark Evans, Chair

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING AT 10:08 A.M.

A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone and alternates were announced.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2011 MEETING

The minutes for the December 7, 2011, meeting were presented. Motion was made by Mr. Marvin Marcell, seconded by Mr. Danny Vance, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 13

There were no public comments.

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF REED EICHELBERGER AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WPG REPRESENTING RIVER AUTHORITIES

Mr. Eichelberger stated that the planning group is at the beginning of a planning cycle and therefore it is an appropriate time for Mr. Jace Houston to take his place. He mentioned that he has enjoyed his time as a member of the Region H WPG. Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Eichelberger's accomplishments while serving, and all remaining members thanked him for his time on the WPG.

Motion was made by Mr. Ron Neighbors to accept the resignation of Mr. Reed Eichelberger as a voting member of the Region H WPG representing authorities. Mr. Vance seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF JACE HOUSTON AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WPG REPRESENTING RIVER AUTHORITIES

Brief discussion ensued regarding Mr. Houston joining the Region H WPG and his service to the group over the years.

Motion was made by Mr. Vance, seconded by Mr. Carl Masterson, to approve the selection of Mr. Houston as a voting member of the Region H WPG representing river authorities. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE UPDATE ON STATUS OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Jason Afinowicz discussed the status of the committees and appointments within those established committees. He mentioned that the following committees had been formed: non-population demands, population demands, groundwater supply, surface water supply, and water management strategies.

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

Mr. Afinowicz discussed the schedule and milestones. He mentioned that the calendar has not changed dramatically. Revisions to scheduled tasks are based on changes from the Texas Water Development Board. The following scheduled tasks are specifically affected by changes from the TWDB: available supplies (05/2012) and population demands (08/2012).

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND NON-POPULATION DEMANDS COMMITTEE REGARDING NON-POPULATION DEMAND PROJECTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND CONSIDER APPROVING SUBMITTAL TO TWDB

Ms. Gena Leathers indicated that the Non-Population Demands Committee met on January 11th and February 6th, both meetings were very productive and were deliberately scheduled relatively close to the Region H WPG meeting to report committee discussion to the Group and Chair.

Mr. Afinowicz discussed the total non-population demand and alternative projections. Discussion ensued regarding how original and alternative projections were generated.

After its two meetings, the Non-Population Demands Committee agreed that the following changes need to be made: increase irrigation demands, adjust manufacturing demand for some counties, and verify steam-electric projections.

Discussion ensued regarding water use survey points and how the 2011 drought will affect numbers.

Motion was made by Mr. Vance to approve submittal of the recommended non-municipal demand projections to the TWDB with the exception of Galveston County manufacturing demands, seconded by Mr. John Howard.

Further discussion ensued regarding livestock, manufacturing, mining, and steam electric demands.

Mr. Vance restated his motion to approve submittal of the recommended non-municipal demand projections to the TWDB with the exception of Galveston County manufacturing demands, seconded by Mr. Bruner. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM JACE HOUSTON, CONSULTANT TEAM, AND TWDB ON THE REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

Mr. Houston began by passing around the Region H member list and asking all members and alternates to update their contact information. He continued by stating that since it is the beginning of a planning cycle, there had been some interest from the Group in receiving a presentation on regional water planning, including the history of regional water planning in Texas, the basic procedures and rules, and the deliverables of the regional planning process. Mr. Reedy, Mr. Afinowicz, and Mr. Houston delivered the presentation and answered questions.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM TWDB ON DRAFT RULE REVISIONS RELATED TO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Ms. McKinnon updated the Group on proposed rule revisions to the following: Texas Water Code, Ch. 16, Subchapter C, and Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 10. She continued by explaining the rule revision process, which is as follows: obtain initial input for early draft from state agencies, Region H WPG, and other stakeholders; develop formal draft rule revisions for publication; and revise and adopt final rules.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM TOM MICHEL ON PROGRESS AND STATUS OF THE BRAZOS BASIN AND BAY AREA STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE AND TAKE ACTION AS NECESSARY

Mr. Tom Michel gave a presentation regarding the Brazos River Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee (“BBASC”). Mr. Michel explained that the Brazos BBASC desired to engage a facilitator to assist with its meetings, but it lacks funding to cover the cost of these services. He asked the Region H WPG to consider providing financial assistance.

Discussion ensued regarding the decision to provide assistance. Mr. Neighbors asked if the Region H WPG has available funds to assist the Brazos BBASC. Mr. Houston then provided a summary financial report to the Group. Discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Mr. Neighbors to contribute \$5,000.00 from the Region H Local Contribution Account to the Brazos BBASC, seconded by Mr. Masterson. The motion carried. Mr. Mike O’Connell and Mr. Michel abstained.

Mr. Vance requested that a record be kept to reflect that the amount of the contribution came from contributors in the Brazos River area of Region H.

RECEIVE REPORT 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 the consultant team spoke at the *Brazoria County Water for Our Future Task Force Meeting* regarding how the Region H WPG recommendations affect Brazoria County.

Ms. Leathers noted that Mr. Afinowicz has done a great job educating and providing clarification on what the Region H WPG does regarding planning and implementation.

Mr. Afinowicz further mentioned that the *Houston Land Water Sustainability Forum* would take place at the end of March.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Ms. McKinnon stated that the *Water Conservation Savings Quantification Study* is available online and will be placed on the Region H WPG web page. She further mentioned that the study contains methodology that the planning group can utilize.

Mr. Mark Evans suggested having a legislative reception to give legislatures an overview of what has been going on with the planning group. He asked if the Group believes this is an appropriate thing to do with Region H WPG funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Michel to task the Executive Committee with recommending something at the next meeting regarding a legislative reception, seconded by Mr. Vance. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dan Davis, MUD Director in Montgomery County, thanked the Region H WPG for their service. He discussed Mayor Melder's legislative proposal for a one percent sales tax to be dedicated to water projects and how he would appreciate the WPGs assistance with implementation. He also encouraged the Group to look at brackish groundwater.

Ms. Kay Willcox, from the City of Anahuac, stated that there had been a serious problem with the City's water plant due to a mechanical failure. She continued by stating that the City contracted Rain for Rent to treat the water until the water treatment plant was operational. She also stated that this process is becoming more cost-effective.

NEXT MEETING

May 2, 2012
San Jacinto River Authority
General and Administration Building
1577 Dam Site Road
Conroe, Texas 77304

ADJOURNED AT 12:39 P.M.