

AGENDA

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG) (REGION M)

11:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2018

ZAPATA COUNTY COURT HOUSE,
200 E. 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 248
ZAPATA, TEXAS 78076

PRESIDING: TOMAS RODRIGUEZ, CHAIRMAN

1. Call to Order & Roll Call..... Chairman

2. Consider Approval of April 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes Chairman

ACTION ITEM

3. Public Comment..... Chairman

4. Consider Removal of Voting Member in Electric Generating Utilities Category Chairman

5. Consider Approval to Advertise for Voting Members in County Category and
Electric Generating Utility Category Chairman

ACTION ITEM

6. Presentation RE: Water Allocations in the Rio Grande Dr. Askarli K. Karimov
Texas A&M University

ACTION ITEM

7. Status Reports

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- A. Status on Current TWDB Contract Activities Sara Eatman
Black & Veatch
1. 2021 RWP Development Process
 2. Major Water Provider List
 3. "Virtual" Water Market Accounting

- B. Financial Report Marcie Oviedo
LRGVDC
 - C. Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA’s 4, 5, 7, 13, & 16..... Armando Vela
GMA 16
 - D. Status of No Charge Releases from the San Juan River Sonny Hinojosa
Vice Chair
 - E. Reports from Other Water Planning Groups
 - 1. Reports from Liaisons with Regions: Region E, Glenn Jarvis; Region J, Chairman Tomas Rodriguez; Region L, Don McGhee, and Region N, Judge Humberto Gonzalez
 - F. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region Chairman
 - G. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and Grants Chairman
 - H. Report on Voting Member Completion of Texas Open Meetings Act Training Chairman
8. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- A. TWDB William Alfaro
Regional Water Planning
 - 1. Presentation RE: Update on Revised 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Rules, Chapters 355 & 357
 - Rules Revisions
 - Population and Water Demand Projections
 - Flood Assessment
 - Working Schedule and Upcoming Deadlines
- B. IBWC..... Edward Drusina
Commissioner
- C. TCEQ Watermaster Jose “Lupe” Luna
Rio Grande Watermaster
- D. TPWD..... Willy Cupit
Coastal Ecologist

9. Discussion and Consider Action RE: Meeting Schedule Chairman

ACTION ITEM

10. Adjourn

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated and/or acted upon in a different order than numbered above. The Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) (Region M) reserves the right to adjourn into Executive (Closed) Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the items listed on this agenda as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act. No final action will be taken in Executive Session.

PUBLIC INPUT POLICY

Public Input Policy: "At the beginning of each RGRWPG meeting, the RGRWPG will allow for an open public forum/comment period. This comment period shall not exceed one (1) hour in length, and each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. All individuals desiring to address the RGRWPG must be signed up to do so, prior to the open comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public an opportunity to address issues or topics that are under the jurisdiction of the RGRWPG as outlined within final implementation guidelines of Senate Bill 1, 75th Legislative Session (SB-1). For issues or topics which are not otherwise part of the posted agenda for the meeting, RGRWPG members may direct staff to investigate the issue or topic further. No action shall be taken on issues or topics which are not part of the posted agenda for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on posted agenda items deemed appropriate by the Chairman as these items are considered, and the same time limitation (3 minutes) applies."

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG) (REGION "M")

9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018

LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS – KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM
301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TX
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT TOMAS RODRIGUEZ, CHAIRMAN

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Tomas Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 9.30 a.m. and announced that the meeting had been posted as required by statute, and that a quorum of the voting membership was present.

The following voting members were in attendance:

Board Members

Tomas Rodriguez, Chairman
Sonny Hinojosa, Vice Chairman
Donald McGhee, Secretary
Frank Schuster, Executive Committee
Nick Benavides, Executive Committee
John Bruciak
Sonia Lambert
Mayor Jim Darling
Carlos Garza
Dennis Goldsberry
Jaime Flores
Armando Vela
Riazul Mia
Dale Murden

Category

Public
Water Districts
Industries
Other
Small Business
Municipalities
Water Districts
River Authorities
Small Business
Water Utility
Environmental
Groundwater Management Area
Municipalities
Agriculture

The following members were not in attendance:

Glenn Jarvis
Judge Joe Rathmell
Judge Humberto Gonzalez
Robert Pena, Jr.
Dr. Neal Wilkins
Jorge Flores

Other
Counties
Counties
Electric Generating Utility
Agriculture
Municipalities

A Toast to 20 years of Regional Water Planning

Chairman Rodriguez announced that the Group was formed on March 25, 1998, and that two charter members continue to serve as voting members: Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, and Mr. Glenn Jarvis who served as the first chairman for 17 years. The Group has completed four (4) Regional Water Plans since its inception and celebrated with refreshments, generously provided by Black and Veatch, and a photograph of the Group and affiliates.

2. Consider Approval of January 24, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sonny Hinojosa made a motion to approve the minutes of January 24, 2018 as presented. Mr. Dale Murden seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Hear Public Comment

Ms. Kathleen Jackson, TWDB Board Member, was recognized and thanked the Group for their work. She stated that there are 450 Regional Water Planning Group volunteers from many areas of expertise and they all do this work because they care and because they are leaders in their communities. She assured the Group that their work impacts Region M and the State of Texas as a whole. She congratulated the Group on their 20th anniversary and the progress made in regional water planning.

Chairman Rodriguez also recognized Ms. Sarah Backhouse, TWDB Manager for Regional Water Planning, Water use, Projections, and Planning and welcomed her to the meeting.

Mr. Rusty Ray was recognized and introduced himself as the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board appointee as an ex officio member to the Group; he serves TSSWC as their Public Affairs Specialist. Chairman Rodriguez explained that recently the TWDB passed a resolution to have a member of the TSSWC as a non-voting member of each Regional Water Planning Group and welcomed Mr. Ray.

4. Consider Support of City of Penitas' Pursuit of an Amendment to 2016 RWP/2017 SWP

No one was present to address this item at its first call.

5. Consider Support of City of Primera's Pursuit of an Amendment to 2016 RWP/2017 SWP

Mr. Javier Mendez, City Administrator for the City of Primera was recognized. He stated that the City of Primera has experienced tremendous growth over the past few years and as a result has exhausted its water rights allotment of 400 acre feet before the end of the year. To address this issue on a temporary basis the city has leased 100 acre feet of additional water rights. As a long term solution the city has come before the Group to ask for an amendment to the 2016 Rio Grande Regional Water plan that will add the acquisition of 200 acre feet of water rights as a part of its water management strategy.

Ms. Sara Eatman, Black & Veatch was recognized and explained the process to amend an approved Regional Water Plan. The first step in the process is to determine if the amendment would be minor or major. The City of Primera needs to acquire more water rights to provide for the needs of the community, so the process would be to find from where in the Regional Water Plan the water rights would come, and then revise/adjust the associated tables and text that refer to those water rights. When the type of amendment is determined, staff would move forward with changing the documentation accordingly. Historically, applications for the SWIFT (State Water Implementation Fund for Texas) are accepted in February. So that would be a good timeline for the Group to consider regarding this amendment, and will give the Region M Group and the TWDB enough time to consider amending both the 2016 Regional and 2017 State Water Plans.

Chairman Rodriguez asked if Ms. Eatman had all the information needed for an amendment. She stated that she had enough to begin the process. Chairman Rodriguez confirmed with Mr. Mendez that the City of Primera was prepared to negotiate the cost of an amendment with Black & Veatch and is prepared to cover that cost. Mr. Mendez stated that the Primera City Council has approved it and that the cost has been budgeted. Upon conclusion of discussion Ms. ***Sonia Lambert made a motion to approve the City of Primera's pursuit of an amendment to the 2016 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan and the 2017 State Water Plan with the understanding that the City of***

Primera is responsible to negotiate the cost of said amendment with Black and Veatch and that the City of Primera is responsible to cover the cost of the amendment. Mr. Riazul Mia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

4. Consider Support of City of Penitas' Pursuit of an Amendment to 2016 RWP/2017 SWP

Upon conclusion of action on item 5, Dr. Armando O'Caña was recognized and stated the City of Penitas is requesting an amendment to the Regional Water Plan and State Water Plan. Penitas has developed a 10-year plan to obtain an independent surface water treatment plant and water service distribution lines project. These projects were not included in the 2016 RWP/2017 SWP and in order for the City to obtain SWIFT funding from TWDB, they have been advised that the first step is to attain approval from Region M to make said amendment to include these projects.

Chairman Rodriguez informed Dr. O'Caña that there are certain costs associated to amending an approved Regional Water Plan and the cost has to be paid by the entity making the request for the amendment; he asked Dr. O'Caña if the City of Primera is prepared to pay the associated cost. Dr. Ocaña stated that he and the Primera City Manager are aware of the costs. Upon conclusion of ***discussion Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve support of the City of Penitas' Pursuit of an Amendment to the 2016 RWP/2017 SWP. Mr. Dale Murden seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

6. Consider Authorizing LRGVDC to Execute TWDB Contract Amendment Committing Additional Funds and Incorporating Updated Contract Scope of Work and Exhibits C and D
Mr. Carlos Garza made a motion to authorize the LRGVDC to execute the TWDB Contract Amendment Committing Additional Funds and incorporating updated contract Scope of Work and exhibits C and D. Mr. Don McGhee seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider Authorizing LRGVDC to Execute Black & Veatch Contract Amendment Committing Additional Funds and Incorporating Updated Contract Scope of Work and Exhibits C and D

Ms. Sonia Lambert made a motion to authorize the LRGVDC to Execute the Black & Veatch contract amendment committing additional funds and incorporating an updated contract Scope of Work and exhibits C and D. Mr. Frank Schuster seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

8. Presentation RE: Overview of the West Gulf River Forecast Center's Capabilities and Responsibilities in Supporting the LRGV during River Flood Conditions

Mr. Greg Waller, Service Coordination Hydrologist for the National Weather Service (NSW) - West Gulf River Forecast Center (WGRFC) was recognized and gave a comprehensive and detailed presentation on the WGRFC. It included the area they cover, language barrier issues, demographics, and advances in technology that increase forecast accuracy for better advanced planning for weather events.

9. Presentation on North Alamo Water Supply Corporation's Project for Energy Efficiency Improvements for Groundwater Desalination

Mr. Ray Longoria, Vice President of Freese and Nichols, Inc. was recognized and provided a summary of the status of this project. He informed the Group that it is funded (50/50) by a United States Bureau of Reclamation grant. The remaining costs were provided NAWSC with contributions from McAllen PUB, Brownsville PUB and the Freese and Nichols Research and Development Fund. Institutional sponsors include Region M, Rio Grande Regional Water Authority, the Texas Water Development Board and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and support from East Rio Hondo WSC. To date the tasked that have been completed are literature

review, baseline data compilation, and website development (<https://clients.freese.com/nawsc/>). Current period tasks include Alternatives Development and analysis of various combinations of Nanofiltration Membranes (NF) and Reverse Osmosis Membranes (RO), modeling of the alternatives and analysis of using surface water or treated effluent instead of groundwater for blending of the concentrate. Future tasks include the environmental analysis of the alternatives which is due in May 2018, meeting with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) this May, a Recommendations Workshop in June 2018. The completion of the draft is due in July 2018 and the final reports are due in August 2018.

Mr. Armando Vela asked if the study considered the potential impact of subsidence from increased use of brackish groundwater. Mr. Longoria responded that a subsidence task is not included in the project and he referenced the TWDB LRGV Brackish Groundwater Study completed by Bill Hutchinson for information on subsidence.

10. Report on A & B Pipeline Project – Dimmit to Corpus Christi and Corpus Christi to RGV

Chairman Rodriguez informed the Group that he read an article in the TWDB Water Weekly Report and attached to it was a project about a water line that would run from Carrizo Springs in Dimmitt County going east to Corpus Christi and south to the Rio Grande Valley. The Chairman stated that he wanted to make sure the Group was aware of this, and that this is the same entity that has been working on developing a project to get groundwater from Dimmitt County and pumping it to San Angelo, San Antonio and other locations. Chairman Rodriguez voiced concern about water being pumped from a watershed in Region M because there is likely a direct relationship between groundwater and surface water.

11. Status Reports

A. Status on Current TWDB Contract Activities

Ms. Sara Eatman, Black & Veatch was recognized and reported on the following topics:

1. Supply Survey Status

Water Supply Surveys were sent to Wholesale Water Providers, and will also be sent to remaining Water User Groups. Ms. Eatman stated that better responses to these surveys will mean fewer amendments to the 2021 Regional Water Plan.

2. Water Market Representation in 2021 RWP

Ms. Eatman proposed representing the water market *in the Regional Water Planning Data* differently than in previous plans. For current and future buyers and sellers, a “*virtual* Water Market” entity would be shown in the data, which would enable the Plan to show only how much each entity wanted to buy and sell into a *virtual* pool, as opposed to representing it in the plan as individual sales from buyer to seller. Upon conclusion of discussion Chairman Rodriguez stated he would like to discuss this in more detail at the next meeting as a specific agenda item.

3. Designation of Major Water Providers for 2021 RWP

Ms. Eatman informed the Group that this is a new category of entities that was not in the previous plan. She stated that no additional data is required in order to make this designation and in the Regional Water Plan there will be tables that pull together all the information about major water providers that will provide quick points of reference. She asked the Group to determine a threshold amount to identify Major Water Providers. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to use 3,000 acre feet or more as the cut off to identify Major Water Providers in the 2021 Regional Water Plan. Mr. Riazul Mia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion***

carried unanimously.

Ms. Eatman stated that irrigation districts do not have a municipal demand associated with them and asked if the Group would like to include irrigation districts as Major Water Providers. **Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to designate only those irrigation districts that provide 3,000 acre feet of water or more to municipalities as Major Water Providers. Mr. Carlos Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

B. Financial Report

1. **Consider Approval of Letter of Request for Local Matching Funds**

Ms. Marcie Oviedo, LRGVDC was recognized and report that the current balance of local matching funds is \$70,686.09 and that this is the remainder of the previous request for local matching funds that was made in 2013. A draft letter requesting local matching funds was presented for consideration by the Group. **Mr. Carlos Garza made a motion to approve the letter requesting local matching funds as presented. Mr. Nick Benavidez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

C. Status of Newly Formed Water Management Working Group

Ms. Oviedo informed the Group that the main goal of this project is the preliminary development of the Lower Laguna Madre Watershed Planning Group. LRGVDC will partner with the Counties of Willacy, Hidalgo and Cameron, UTRGV, the Cameron County Coastal Cities Task Force, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Task Force for this project. This is a two (2) year project that will partially fund a Watershed Coordinator. This project aims to begin the preliminary assessment of sub-watersheds associated with the Raymondville Drain, the Hidalgo/Willacy Floodway and the IBWC Floodway. The Arroyo Colorado is currently managed by a watershed protection plan associated with the USEPA's Clean Water Act. Through this project the water quality in the Lower Laguna Madre Watershed will be characterized by collecting existing data from various sources, identifying the causes of water quality impairments and issues, identifying sources of pollution, quantification of pollutant loadings from these sources, and inventory of the data from the watershed. These major waterways contribute freshwater and storm water to the Lower Laguna Madre. Report only, no action needed.

D. Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA's 4, 5, 7, 13, & 16

Mr. Armando Vela was recognized and stated that the next meeting for GMA 16 is scheduled on April 24, 2018.

E. Status of No Charge Releases from the San Juan River

There was no new information to report on this item.

F. Reports from Other Water Planning Groups

1. **Reports from Liaisons with Regions: Region E, Glenn Jarvis; Region J, Chairman Tomas Rodriguez; Region L, Don McGhee, and Region N, Judge Humberto Gonzalez**

Mr. Carl Schwing was recognized and reported that the water levels for stock farms are low to dry. Rainfall to date in Region J is about half of normal annual rainfall. The Kerrville wastewater detention project will hopefully be completed by the next Region M

Meeting.

Chairman Rodriguez reported that he attended a Region N meeting in Robstown and that it was interesting to hear about challenges in Region N that differ from those in Region M.

- G. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region
The current plan from Brush Country was recently received.
- H. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and Grants
An updated list was available for the Group to review
- I. Report on Voting Member Completion of Texas Open Meetings Act
Chairman Rodriguez noted there were only a couple Voting Members who have yet to complete the training.
- J. Status of Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) in 5th Cycle of Planning
Chairman Rodriguez would like more time to study the MAG and to keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

12. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

A. TWDB

Mr. William Alfaro was recognized and addressed the following items:

1. Population and Water Demands Projections

Mr. Alfaro stated that the TWDB anticipates taking the projections to the TWDB Board on April 16, and that projections may still be revised after this time, however once adopted by the Board, additional public notice is needed to make revisions.

2. Rule Revisions

TWDB Staff has been working on revisions to the rules related to regional water planning. The changes were adopted by the TWDB on March 21, and will go into effect on April 11. Mr. Alfaro plans to give a presentation on these revisions at the next Region M meeting.

3. Interactive State Water Plan Enhancements

New features to the interactive State Water Plan include a new Water Management Strategy (WMS) view page, and a new WMS Type view page where one can explore the State Water Plan data by WMS type. Other enhancements include features to help navigate the web page and how to use the interactive map.

4. Flood Assessment Survey/Flood Assessment Website

The goals of the State Flood Assessment include: assessing flood risks, estimating flood mitigation costs and gathering stakeholder input on how flood planning should proceed in the state.

5. Regional Workshops

Mr. Alfaro informed the Group that an LRGV Stakeholder Workshop on flood assessment was taking place at the McAllen Public Library simultaneously to this meeting.

6. Working Schedule and upcoming Deadlines

He stated that the deadline for the spring contract amendment is early April 2018 and that the Technical Memorandum is due September 10, 2018.

B. IBWC

No representative from the IBWC was present and no report was provided.

C. TCEQ Watermaster

There were no representatives from the TCEQ Watermaster's Office; the report on reservoir levels was in the meeting packet for review.

D. TPWD

There was no new information to report at this time.

13. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

Chairman Rodriguez stated that it has been some time since the Group met in the western part of the region and asked the Group if they would consider meeting in Zapata, Laredo, or Eagle Pass for next meeting. It was the consensus of the Group to schedule the next meeting in Zapata County at 11:00 a.m. on either June 6 or June 20, depending on meeting space availability.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Group the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Tomas Rodriguez, Chairman



Office of the County Judge
P.O. Box 729
Hebbronville, Texas 78361

March 9, 2018

Debby Morales
LRGVDC Executive Assistant
301 W Railroad
Weslaco, TX 78596
Office: 956-682-3481 ext. 102
Cell: 956-607-1081

Ms. Morales please convey to the Water Planning Board that I wish to tender my resignation effective immediately. This will give the board time to begin the process of finding a replacement from a county government official interested in serving.

I am most appreciative of the opportunity to serve for over 3 years and thank the board for the important work that they do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Humberto Gonzalez". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Humberto Gonzalez, County Judge
Jim Hogg County

MAJOR WATER PROVIDERS

The Rio Grande RWPG threshold for determination as a Major Water Provider (MWP):

- Supplies or delivers 3,000 AF or more of municipal water in 2020

Based on current estimates of 2020 municipal supplies, the following entities will be included as MWP in the 2021 RWP.

Major Water Providers

Agua SUD	Hidalgo County Irrigation District #6
Alamo	Hidalgo County WID #3
Bayview Irrigation District #11	Laguna Madre Water District
Brownsville	Laguna Madre WD
Brownsville Irrigation District	Laredo
Cameron County Irrigation District #2	McAllen
Cameron County Irrigation District #3 - La Feria	Military Highway WSC
Cameron County Irrigation District #6 - Los Fresnos	Mission
Cameron County WID #10	North Alamo WSC
Delta Lake Irrigation District	Pharr
Donna Irrigation District-Hidalgo County #1	Rio Grande City
Eagle Pass	San Benito
East Rio Hondo WSC	San Juan
Edinburg	Sharyland WSC
Harlingen	Southmost Regional Water Authority
Harlingen Irrigation District-Cameron County #1	United Irrigation District
Hidalgo & Cameron Counties Irrigation District #9	Weslaco
Hidalgo County Irrigation District #1	
Hidalgo County Irrigation District #16	
Hidalgo County Irrigation District #2	

Region M 2018 Budget & Expenditure Report

Budget Item	Budget Amount	Revenues to date			FY '18 Total Expense	Available Balance
Salaries: (to include fringe & indirect)	\$8,500.00				\$2,295.91	\$6,204.09
Website Maintenance	\$2,600.00					\$2,600.00
Travel	\$500.00					\$500.00
Consumable Supplies	\$500.00					\$500.00
Printing	\$1,000.00				\$47.65	\$952.35
Communications Phone /Internet	\$500.00				\$260.27	\$239.73
Postage	\$1,000.00				\$55.44	\$944.56
Sponsorships/other	\$2,650.00					\$2,650.00
Local Match		\$83,397.95				
Interest Income		\$310.34				
Budget Total	\$ 17,250.00				\$2,659.27	\$14,590.73
Actual Cash Available		\$83,708.29				\$81,049.02

**Balance Of Funds in Acct. \$81,049.02