

# MINUTES

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

9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 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  
Nick Benavides, Executive Committee  
Glenn Jarvis  
John Bruciak  
Sonia Lambert  
Carlos Garza  
Dennis Goldsberry  
Jorge Barrera / Jorge Flores  
Jaime Flores  
Armando Vela  
Dale Murden

#### Category

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

The following members were not in attendance:

Donald McGhee, Secretary  
Frank Schuster, Executive Committee  
Mayor Jim Darling  
Judge Joe Rathmell  
Judge Humberto Gonzalez  
Robert Pena, Jr.  
Riazul Mia  
Dr. Neal Wilkins

Industries  
Other  
River Authorities  
Counties  
Counties  
Electric Generating Utility  
Municipalities  
Agriculture

### **2. Consider Approval of September 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

***Mr. Glenn Jarvis made a motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2017 as presented.***

***Mr. Nick Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

### **3. Hear Public Comment**

Mr. Ray Longoria, Freese and Nichols Engineering was recognized and provided a brief update on the North Alamo Water Supply Corporation's energy efficiency improvements project for groundwater desalination. Region M supported NAWSC's application to the Bureau of Reclamation and as part of the contract updates are to be provided to the Group.

Jaime Flores, Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership, was recognized next and brought to the Group's attention a National Geographic video that asks "What would happen if our rivers disappeared?" The

film discusses water planning in Texas and the importance of environmental flows. Mr. Flores encouraged the Group to view this video.

#### **4. Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Approval to Submit Revised Draft Population and Water Demand Projections.**

Chairman Rodriguez informed the Group that the Executive Committee discussed the revised draft Population and Water Demand Projections and that some edits were made with the help of staff and Mr. Sonny Hinojosa. The final draft was approved by the Executive Committee and submitted to TWDB, and it was provided to the Group in the meeting packet for review. Executive Committee action requires ratification by the Group. ***Ms. Sonia Lambert made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee's approval to submit the revised Draft Population and Water Demand Projections. Mr. Dale Murden seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

#### **5. Election of Officers**

Chairman Rodriguez stated the current slate of officers is as follows:

Tomas Rodriguez, Chair  
Sonny Hinojosa, Vice Chair  
Don McGhee, Secretary/Treasurer  
Frank Schuster, Executive Committee  
Nick Benavides, Executive Committee

***Ms. Sonia Lambert made a motion to elect the same slate of officers for 2018. Mr. Dale Murden seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

#### **6. Consider Nominations to Fill Vacancy in "Municipal" Category of Voting Membership**

Chairman Rodriguez stated that two letters of interest were received, however only one of them was from a person qualified to fill the vacancy in the Municipalities category. Mr. Jorge Flores, Assistant General Manager for Eagle Pass Water Works System, would like to be considered to replace Mr. Jorge Barrera. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Mr. Glenn Jarvis made a motion to elect Mr. Jorge Flores as a voting member in the Municipal Category. Mr. Nick Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

#### **7. Consider Approval to Add a Member to the County Category**

Upon conclusion of discussion it was the consensus of the Group to not add another voting member in the County Category. No action taken.

#### **8. Presentation RE: Ocean Naiad – Seawater Desalination Project**

Ms. Andrea Aleman-Webber from Valley Renewable was recognized and gave a presentation on the Titan 200 for Offshore Water & Wind Power Distribution. Information only, no action needed.

#### **9. Status Reports**

##### **A. Status on Current TWDB Contract Activities**

##### **1. Consider Approval of Process for Identifying Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies**

Ms. Sara Eatman, Black & Veatch was recognized and went over the planning timeline for the 2021 Regional Water Plan (RWP). She stated that one of the big accomplishments in the 2016 RWP was establishing the network of water supply and how it exists, especially in the Lower Valley through the irrigation districts. Staff is currently in the process of developing the supply surveys for the 5<sup>th</sup> Planning Cycle that will be sent to all water user groups and wholesale water providers. The results of these new surveys will determine if there have been any new water rights purchased and any changes in who supplies their water. The survey process ties into the larger process, which is to establish the demands, establish the existing supply, then identify the needs for the 50 year planning process and identify the Water Management Strategies (WMS). Upon conclusion of her presentation ***Mr.***

**Glenn Jarvis made a motion to approve the process for identifying Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies as presented. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

B. Financial Report

1. **Consider Approval of 2018 Budget**

Ms. Marcie Oviedo, LRGVDC, was recognized and reported that the budget amount for 2017 was \$17,250.00; expenditures from which are \$7,028.24 leaving a budget balance of \$10,221.76. The total available balance of funds is \$70,901.97. Staff recommends using the same figures from the 2017 budget for the 2018 budget. **Mr. Dennis Goldsberry made a motion to approve the financial report as presented and the 2018 budget as recommended by staff. Mr. Carlos Garza seconded the motion.** Mr. Carlos Garza asked for the amount requested for the last local match contributions made in 2013; and that he would like to consider making another request for local match contributions. Ms. Oviedo stated that the total amount requested in 2013 was approximately \$83,000 of which approximately \$48,000 was collected. Upon conclusion of discussion Chairman Rodriguez called for a vote **and the motion carried unanimously.** The consensus of the Group was to have staff prepare a letter to municipalities within Region M requesting local matching funds.

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

Mr. Armando Vela was recognized and stated that there is no new information to report.

1. **Update on TWDB Groundwater Study on Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, Sparta, and Yegua-Jackson Aquifers**

Chairman Rodriguez informed the Group that he received an update on this groundwater study and included it so the Group was aware of it. The report was provided in the meeting packet for review. No action needed.

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

Mr. Sonny Hinojosa stated that the law suit is pending in appeals court and will probably be there for a while.

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**  
No reports were available.

F. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region  
No new information was available.

G. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and Grants  
No new information was available. Staff will look into why new reports are not being received.

H. Report on Voting Member Completion of Texas Open Meetings Act  
Chairman Rodriguez encouraged members who have not yet submitted their training certificates to do so.

**10. Reports from Federal and State Agencies**

A. TWDB

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

1. **Working Schedule and Upcoming Deadlines**

The TWDB is scheduled to adopt the projections in April 2018; projections may still be

revised after this time, however once adopted by the Board, additional public notice and justification will be needed.

Mr. Alfaro informed the Group that TWDB anticipates contract amendments in the spring, to increase the contract committed funds, and incorporate updated guidance documents into the contracts. He informed the group that an abridged applications period for SWIFT will be open through February 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

**2. Best Management Practices (BMP) guide and notifications tools**

Mr. Alfaro provided internet links to the BMP Guide for RWPG Political Subdivisions, the RWP Public Notification Tool, and the RWP Public Notice Quick-Reference.

**3. Statewide Water Conservation Quantification Project**

He informed the Group that 170 utilities in the state participated in the study, which quantified the water savings of current conservation activities and compared future quantified savings with recommended conservation WMS volumes.

**4. 2017 State Water Plan Amendment**

Mr. Alfaro informed the Group that this amendment includes minor amendments to the 2016 Region G and Region K Regional Water Plans, and the designation of a new minor aquifer. In addition, Region L removed two previously recommended WMSs and its associated WMSPs designating them as alternatives.

**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 on the tablets for review.

**D. TPWD**

There was no new information to report at this time.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule & Region M's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

It was the consensus of the Group to schedule the next meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

Chairman Rodriguez informed the group that it was brought to his attention that the Group was established on March 25, 1998, which means that our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up on March 25, 2018. He suggested a small celebration with coffee and cake at the next meeting to mark this occasion; it was the consensus of the Group to do so.\*

**12. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Group the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

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Tomas Rodriguez, Chairman