

MINUTES

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

9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

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 9.32 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
Frank Schuster, Executive Committee
Glenn Jarvis
John Bruciak
Sonia Lambert
Carlos Garza
Dennis Goldsberry
Judge Joe Rathmell
Jaime Flores
Armando Vela
Judge Humberto Gonzalez
Riazul Mia
Dale Murden

Category

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

The following members were not in attendance:

Donald McGhee, Secretary
Nick Benavides, Executive Committee
Mayor Jim Darling
Jorge Barrera
Robert Pena, Jr.
Dr. Neal Wilkins

Industries
Small Business
River Authorities
Municipalities
Electric Generating Utility
Agriculture

2. Consider Approval of July 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sonny Hinojosa made a motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2017 as presented. Mr. Carlos Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Hear Public Comment

There were no requests to make Public Comments.

4. Report on Open Meetings Training (TOMA) for RWPG Members

Chairman Rodriguez informed the Group that he and staff received notice from TWDB that due to additions to the Water Code by SB 347, Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) members must complete the Open Meetings Act training. The Attorney General's TOMA handbook states that completing the training in one capacity satisfies the requirement in all capacities, so RWPG members

who have completed the training for other purposes do not need to complete it again as RWPG members. Chairman Rodriguez requested that all voting members submit their TOMA certificates of training completion to staff to keep on file and ensure compliance with the Water Code. Additionally, those members who have not completed the training have 90 days from September 1, 2017 to do so.

5. Consider Approval to Advertise for Voting Member in Municipalities Category

Chairman Rodriguez announced that Mr. Jorge Barrera, Eagle Pass Water Works System in Maverick County, has submitted a letter of resignation from the Region M Group. As per the bylaws, all vacancies must be advertised in newspapers in all eight (8) counties of the Rio Grande Region. ***Mr. Glenn Jarvis made a motion to approve advertising for a voting member in the municipalities' category as per the bylaws. Mr. Dale Murden seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

6. Status Reports

A. Status on Current TWDB Contract Activities

Ms. Sara Eatman, Black & Veatch, was recognized to address the following items. She first quickly went over a Timeline for the Review of Draft Data from TWDB, and noted that responses from Sub-WUGs were submitted on September 1, and requests for any needed changes are due by January 12, 2018.

1. Population and Municipal Demand Projections

a. Revisions to Population Projections and Demand Projections

Ms. Eatman informed the Group that a survey was sent to all municipal WUGs, and the recommended revisions are based on survey responses and historical data provided by TWDB. Population totals in each county are not changed, so the county-other category absorbs most of the changes. Nine (9) of the seventy-one (71) municipal WUGs requested changes which affected the estimates in the county-other category for Hidalgo, Cameron, and Maverick Counties.

The population and demand revisions Ms. Eatman recommends are as follows:

- Population: Use Master Plan population estimates where available; use historical population & growth if no master plan is available.
- Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD): Use highest estimated historical GPCD or average historical estimates based on feedback; apply efficiency improvement estimates developed by TWDB to all revised GPCD
- Demand: Compared estimates with 2010-2015 records; calculated as GPCD multiplied by population.

b. Sub-WUG Update

Ms. Eatman informed the Group that efforts were made to contact all potential sub-WUGs; some either did not respond or did not have the capacity to develop the required data for the planning process. The Executive Committee agreed to move forward without sub-WUG designations, and continue to plan for these entities in county-other. ***Upon conclusion of discussion Mr. Glenn Jarvis made a motion to approve the revisions in the report titled "Summary of Proposed Revisions to Draft Population and Demand Projections" as presented. Mr. Riazul Mia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Revisions to Irrigation Projections

Ms. Eatman explained that the draft projections from TWDB are based on an average of the last five years, and those values are held steady through the 50 year planning horizon. The

big picture specifically for the planning process is that we are planning for a drought year in which we are hoping to capture high demand as a result of the drought, and not necessarily because of supply constraints that come from having low reservoir levels. So the year 2011 is recommended to represent the scenario where irrigators can access as much water as is reasonable for planning purposes, and they also have a high demand. These demands are used to drive the needs. Upon conclusion of discussion **Ms. Sonia Lambert made a motion to approve the recommendation to use the year 2011 as the base year for irrigation demand projections. Mr. Carlos Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Groundwater Availability Changes

Ms. Eatman reminded the Group that previously she presented numbers from the Gulf Coast MAG (Managed Available Groundwater) that had been reduced quite a bit from the last planning cycle. She explained that there is some recourse in that Region M is required to use the MAG as defined by Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 16. However, that only applies to certain components of the Gulf Coast Aquifer; so there might be physical areas that do not have a groundwater availability number, and a sub-unit of the Gulf Coast Aquifer could have been left out of their analysis and deemed non-relevant. Because of that the Group could do an assessment of the availability from that physical location and request a revision to the MAG from TWDB. Ms. Eatman is of the opinion that Region M's groundwater sub-consultant could research which component(s) might be relevant to this planning region and potentially make an estimate of the availability for non-relevant aquifer components.

4. Contract Updates

Ms. Eatman did a quick overview of the current and projected funds and where the budget currently stands.

5. Report on 2016 Process to Identify Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies

Ms. Eatman stated that in order to identify and evaluate Water Management Strategies (WMS) staff will reach out to all WUGs and request any proposed projects or strategies they are currently planning for. Each strategy must include the estimated volume of water supplied, the source of the water, and the users who would benefit from it. Strategies will be evaluated based on feasibility, the use of limited water sources, costs, and other factors. Staff will continue outreach efforts begun in the 2016 cycle throughout the 2021 cycle. No action needed at this time, but further into the planning process the Group will need to take action to approve the process for identifying WMS.

B. Financial Report

Ms. Marcie Oviedo, LRGVDC, was recognized and reported that as of August 31, 2017 there is \$4,684.59 in expenditures from the 2017 budget which leaves a budget balance of \$12,565.41, and the current amount of actual cash available is \$73,000.82. She stated that the last request for local funds Region M made was in 2013, and that in 2018 the Group may want to consider making another request for funds. No action taken.

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

There was no new information to report on this item.

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

There was no new information to report on this item.

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

Mr. Carl Schwing from Region J was recognized and reported that burn bans continue in some counties in Region J; and that the re-use project in Kerrville is moving along.

Judge Humberto Gonzalez was recognized and stated that he and Chairman Rodriguez attended the Region N meeting held prior to the August 25 landfall of Hurricane Harvey. Judge Gonzalez informed the Group that there is a \$50 billion project in Corpus Christi, and that almost the entire region is desalinating their water.

- F. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region
Chairman Rodriguez noted that the list of plans received was on the tablets for review and that several entities remained in non-compliance. Not submitting a plan to Region M will affect an entity's eligibility to receive grant funds from TWDB.
- G. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and Grants
Chairman Rodriguez noted that this list was in the meeting packet for review.

8. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

A. TWDB

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

1. Contracts
As part of the regular process and as a housekeeping item, the LRGVDC will need to amend subcontracts and submit them to TWDB for acceptance; reimbursements are acceptable back to April 20, 2017.
2. Working Schedule and Upcoming Deadlines
Mr. Alfaro informed the Group that the TWDB is seeking input on bills that passed during the regular legislative session. TWDB staff is preparing some rule making changes and request input from Regional Water Planning Group members; comments may be submitted by email to RulesComments@twdb.texas.gov by October 2, 2017.

He reminded the Group that draft projections revision requests are due by January 12, 2018, and the TWDB will consider adoption of those revisions at their March or April 2018 board meeting.

3. Legislative Update
Mr. Alfaro informed the Group that the legislature passed the following bills that are relevant to regional water planning: Senate Bill 347, House Bill 2215, and Senate Bill 1511. He summarized each bill and how they affect regional water planning.
4. RWPG Consultant Conference Call
There is a conference call scheduled for September 27 to go over different applications of data in DB22 and the timeline to enter data for the State Water Plan.
5. New Member Orientation – Part 2
Mr. Alfaro gave a presentation that continued from the one given in July. In it he covered the Fundamentals of Water Planning, Basic Planning Parameters that include Planning Units & Key Terms, as well as Key Planning Terminology among other topics.

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

Mr. Willy Cupit stated that there was no new information to report at this time.

9. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

It was the consensus of the Group to schedule the next meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Group the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Tomas Rodriguez, Chairman