

Minutes
Plateau Water Planning Group
Regular Meeting – Leakey, Texas
Wednesday - October 19, 2016

Notice having been duly given the Plateau Water Planning Group (PWPG) conducted a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the Frio Baptist Church, 919 S. US Highway 83, Leakey, Real County, Texas, Present at the meeting were: Ray Buck, Kerr County; Jonathan Letz, Kerr County; David Mauk, Bandera County; Joel Pigg, Real County; Gene Williams, Kerr County; Genell Hobbs, Kinney County; Homer Stevens, Bandera County; Feather Wilson, Bandera County; Scott Loveland, Kerr County; David Jeffery, Bandera County; Jody Grinstead; John Ashworth, LBG-Guyton & Associates.; Jennifer Herrera, LBG-Guyton & Associates; Lann Bookout, Texas Water Development Board; Chad Norris, Texas Parks and Wildlife; Chandra Eggemeyer, Texas Department of Agriculture; Kayla Rohrbach, Bandera County; Michael Redman, Bandera County; Joseph McDaniel, Aqua America; Sky Lewey, Wes Robinson, Carl Schwing and Tina Ashley

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Certification of Quorum in Compliance with Texas Open Meetings Law.

A quorum was present.

II. Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of minutes from the April 14, 2016 RWPG meeting.

Motion by Joel Pigg to approve the April 14, 2016 minutes of the Regular Meeting and the Public Meeting; second by Ray Buck. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

IV. Reports.

a. Report from Chair.

Mr. Letz state that the TWDB requested that he and 3 other Regional Water Planning Chairs attend a meeting on November 17th to review the planning process regarding the “county issues” as they relate to rural type issues.

Gene Williams spoke briefly regarding a project Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District is doing which involves numerous volunteer geologists drilling test wells with the intention of drilling to the bottom of the Ellenberger, possibly into the San Saba source. Mr. Letz stated that the wells will potentially have a lot of implications for long-term water supplies for Kerr, Kendall and Gillespie; and wanted to thank the volunteer group and Headwaters for funding the project.

The current balance in the PWPG Administrative account as of September 30, 2016 is \$15,003.69

b. Report from Secretary.

No report was given.

c. Report from Political Entity.

No report was given.

d. Report from Liaisons.

Chad Norris gave a brief report on the Apache Company’s discovery of 3 billion barrels of oil in the West Texas Permian Basin

e. Report from GMA representatives

David Jeffery gave a brief update on GMA 9. Genell Hobbs gave a brief update on GMA10. Feather Wilson gave a brief update on Region K.

V. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to approve invoices.

Motion by Gene Williams to approve the following invoices; second by David Jeffery. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

LBG-Guyton (8/1/16-8/31/16) \$882.82; LBG-Guyton (7/1/16-7/31/16) \$294.27; LBG-Guyton (5/1/16-5/31/16) \$252.24; LBG-Guyton (4/1/16-4/30/16) \$2,724.78; Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc. - \$1239.30 (Region J – County Summary); Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc. - \$183.60 (Region J – County Summary); Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc. - \$1577.10 (Region J – County Summary); Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc. - \$1000.00 (bound copies of 2016 Plan); Jody Grinstead - \$80.20 (reimbursement for mailing 2016 Plans to members); Jody Grinstead - \$207.90 (reimbursement for transcripts of 4/14/16 meeting); Kinney County GCD - \$125.00 (partial reimbursement for meal at 4/14/16 meeting)

VI. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action on vacancy in the Industries Interest for Kerr County.

Mr. Letz stated that Joseph McDaniel, a representative from Aqua Texas, has agreed to join the Board. **Motion by Ray Buck to allow Joseph McDaniel to fill the vacancy in the Industries Interest for Kerr County; Second by David Mauk. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.** Mr. McDaniel briefly introduced himself the Group.

VII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action on vacancy in Agriculture Interest for Kinney County.

Mr. Letz stated that this vacancy is to fill the position previously held by Zack Davis, and that Wes Robinson has been nominated to fill the vacancy. Wes briefly introduced himself to the Group. **Motion by Genell Hobbs to allow Wes Robinson to fill the vacancy in Agriculture Interest for Kinney County; second by Joel Pigg. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

VIII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action on vacancy in Municipalities Interest for Kerr County.

Mr. Letz stated that a formal nomination has not yet been received for this vacancy so it will remain open at this time.

IX. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to appoint a new liaison for Region M (to replace Zack Davis).

Mr. Letz stated that Carl Schwing has expressed an interest in serving as this liaison Mr. Schwing has attended several of the PWPG meetings, and is interested in becoming a board member in the future, but would like to fill this position in the meantime. Mr. Schwing briefly introduced himself to the Group. **Motion by Ray Buck to allow Carl Schwing to be the new liaison for Region M; second by David Mauk. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

X. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to authorize the Region J Political Subdivision to provide public notice and submit a grant application to the TWDB on behalf of Region J for funding to complete the fifth round of regional water planning, and to negotiate and execute the amendment to the TWDB contract.

Mr. Ashworth stated that Ray Buck will prepare the application to release the remainder amount of the budget which will allow work to begin on the tasks that have not yet been worked on. **Motion by David Mauk to authorize the Region J Political Subdivision to provide public notice and submit a grant application to the TWDB on behalf of Region J for funding to complete the fifth round of regional water planning, and to negotiate and execute the amendment to the TWDB contract; second by Joel Pigg. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

XI. Discuss and consider recommending Carollo Engineers as the water planning sub-consultants for the Fifth Cycle of Water Planning for Region J to the Plateau Water Planning Group members.

Ms. Herrera spoke briefly regarding Carollo Engineers qualifications. She stated that they are a local company, their representatives have full intentions of participating in the planning process and in the meetings, and that LBG-Guyton highly recommends them. **Motion by Joel Pigg to hire Carollo Engineers as the water planning sub-consultants for the Fifth Cycle of Water Planning for Region J; second by David Jeffery. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

XII. Texas Water Development Board Updates – Lann Bookout, Project Manager

Mr. Bookout gave the following updates:

TWDB is having financial workshops across the state; typically one per month in a different areas. He said the closest workshop will be in Vernon, Texas in January.

In addition to meeting with the Chairs of the rural area planning groups in November, the TWDB is also having a work session which will include all of the Chairs. They will discuss some of the interim charges from the Legislature that are of interest to the Regional Planning Groups. A brief discussion ensued regarding various Bills that are being filed with regards to Groundwater Districts.

He spoke briefly regarding the Grant Application process (just approved under Item X). He stated as the funds become available to the TWDB the contracts will be amended to add money as the work develops in the water planning. He stated there will likely be at least two more amendments to add funds to these contracts before they're fully funded. He went on to state that the political subdivision will complete the application and submit it.

TWDB is still working on evaluation of methodologies for irrigation, manufacturing, power projections that they will provide. Those will hopefully be released by the end of the month.

January 2017 is the target date to deliver the first data sets for draft population and municipal water demands projection to the consultants.

Mr. Letz asked if Kevin Kluge would be available to attend a future meeting to speak about population projections and the municipal investments. Mr. Bookout said he would try to coordinate things with Mr. Kluge. It was agreed that the next meeting will be mid-February in Del Rio and that Jody will coordinate with everyone to get the meeting set up.

XIII. Presentation on TWDB Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS) – LBG-Guyton.

Mr. Ashworth briefly described the Water Development Board's initiative called Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS); set up via House Bill 30. He stated that many years ago LBG-Guyton contracted with TWDB to do a statewide assessment of brackish water in all of the aquifers in the state and that information has been available for regional water planning groups to review. TWDB is now taking the next step by studying each aquifer and working to evaluate the specific zones within these aquifers that may contain unusual amounts of brackish ground water. He defined brackish water to be water that is a little saltier than drinking water; which is anywhere from 1000 TDS up to about 10000 TDS. TWDB is studying brackish levels because they are more capable of being developed on an economic basis through desalination.

TWDB has completed, or nearly completed, the first four aquifers: the Blaine, Carrizo, Gulf Coast and Rustler Aquifers. During 2017 they are going to be working on the Blossom,

The Group briefly discussed the aquifers within Region J and House Bill 30.

XIV. Presentation on potential new/revised TWDB utility-based WUGs – LBG-Guyton.

Jennifer Herrera informed the Board that on June 30th the TWDB distributed listings of their recommended utility water user groups to all regions. The method and the goal behind this utility-based planning is to make the plan more uniform from start to finish with who sponsors each projects and how the projects are going to come to fruition. She went on to discuss the criteria used for the lists. She noted that some of the entities are now identified with new names (instead of them being clumped into County Other); Bandera County FWSD, Leakey and Val Verde County WCID Comstock. She briefly explained why Aqua Texas and Southwest Water Company were not listed, and stated those could be listed as sub-WUGs. A brief discussion ensued regarding sub-WUGs. Mr. Bookout stated that in the new rural changes (which will hopefully be adopted) the criteria for a wholesale water provider is gone and some additional definitions have been added. Mr. Ashworth stated that in previous plans Del Rio was considered a wholesale water provider; now they will called a major water supplier since they are providing water outside their boundaries. The Group directed Ms. Herrera to prepare a list of sub-WUGs based on the discussions of today's meeting that the Group can ratify at the next meeting.

XV. Set next meeting.

It was determined that the next meeting will be held late February or early March.

Mr. Ashworth spoke briefly regarding the Water Conservation Advisory Council that the Governor's Office established. He said the Council compiled a list of conservation recommendations and they asked the Regional Water Planning Groups to look at the list and provide any suggestions by December 1st. Mr. Ashworth stated that the only suggestion he had deals with the agricultural conservation section. He noted that the Group has repeatedly complained that the methodology of determining agricultural water use, especially irrigated agricultural water use, has not stayed up with the times. The process is not good and we don't have a strong alliance on those numbers. . He suggested that the Group respond by saying that better methodologies need to be used regarding agricultural use. Mr. Letz asked Mr. Ashworth to prepare something stating such and submit it prior to the deadline. Mr. Ashworth stated he would prepare a statement, send it out to everybody for review, and then Mr. Letz could send it out.

Meeting adjourned