

**Minutes**  
**Plateau Water Planning Group**  
**Regular Meeting - Leakey, Texas**  
**January 30, 2019**  
**10:00 AM**

Notice having been duly given the Plateau Water Planning Group (PWPG) conducted a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, beginning at 10:00 A.M. at The Frio Canyon Baptist Church, 919 US-83, Leakey, Real County, Texas. Present at the meeting were: Ray Buck, Kerr County; Jonathan Letz, Kerr County; Joel Pigg, Real County; Gene Williams, Kerr County; Scott Loveland, Kerr County; Jody Grinstead; John Ashworth, WSP and LBG-Guyton & Associates; Jennifer Herrera, WSP and LBG-Guyton & Associates; William Alfaro, Texas Water Development Board; Sarah Backhouse, Texas Water Development Board; Chad Norris, Texas Parks and Wildlife; Charlie Wiedenfeld, Kerr County; Michael Redman for David Mauk, Bandera County; Charlie Flatten, Kerr/Bandera/Real Counties; Dell Dickinson, Val Verde County; Max Martin, Edwards/Val Verde/Kinney Counties; Wes Robinson, Kinney County; Homer Stevens, Bandera County; Rene Villarreal, Kinney County; Feather Wilson, Bandera County; Kendria Ray, Ernie DeWinne; Sky Lewey; Robin Barthen, Texas Department of Agriculture; Julie Lewey, Clint Carter, Chris Childs and Jeepers Ragsdale.

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

It was determined that a quorum was present.

**II. Public Comments.**

No public comments were received.

**III. Approval of minutes from the October 24, 2018, Regular Meeting.**

**Motion by Feather Wilson to approve the October 24, 2018 minutes; second by Rene Villarreal. The motion passed by a majority vote. Those not present at the 10/24/18 meeting abstained from the vote.**

**IV. Reports.**

**a. Report from Chair.**

The balance in the account as of the end of 2018 is \$12,032.22.

Mr. Letz gave a brief report on the November meeting of the Planning Group Chairs. The meeting was to review the prioritization that was used for the previous plan and determine if any changes were needed for the next Plan. The final decision was to leave it as is.

**b. Report from Secretary.**

No report was given.

**c. Report from Political Entity.**

No report was given.

**d. Report from Liaisons.**

Feather Wilson gave an update on Region K. Charlie Flatten gave an update on Region L.

**e. Report from GMA representatives.**

Gene Williams said the next GMA 9 meeting is scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup> in Kerrville.

- IV. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to approve invoices.**  
Motion by Gene Williams to approve the following invoices: WSP \$9,821.49 (9/28/18-11/02/18); WSP \$2,755.64 (11/3/18-11/30/18); WSP \$2,788.98 (12/1/18-12/28/18) and JP Morgan (GMA Transcriptions) \$227.50 – 10/24/18 transcripts. Second by Wes Robinson. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- VI. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to re-appoint Members whose terms have expired.**  
Motion by Ray Buck to reappoint the following individuals for a 5 year term (new terms will expire 12/31/23): Wes Robinson, Tully Shahan, Joseph McDaniel, Max Martin, Charlie Flatten, Homer Stevens, Roland Trees, Jerry Simpton and Otila Gonzales; second by Michael Redman. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- VII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to re-appoint Officers whose terms have expired.**  
Motion by Max Martin to reappoint Jonathan Letz as the Chair, Joel Pigg as Vice Chair and Gene Williams as Secretary; second by Rene Villarreal. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- VIII. Texas Water Development Board Updates. (William Alfaro, Project Manager)**  
Mr. Alfaro briefly discussed the following items:
- The abridged applications for the 2019 SWIFT program are due February 1<sup>st</sup> by 5:00 pm.
- Final versions of the project assessments were presented to the Board at the December meeting and the full report is available online.
- No significant changes were made at the Uniform Standard Stake Holder Committee Meeting (Chairs Meeting). He reviewed 4 small changes with the Group.
- The TWDB staff has developed a water management strategy guidance document that will be available for use after Board approval. The uniform costing tool and the conservation planning tool (including the user guides) are now available on the TWDB website. He briefly described the document.
- Mr. Alfaro spoke briefly regarding the Technical Memorandums and the Initially Prepared Plans (IPP).
- TWDB recently developed the public water system viewer to facilitate the correction of the digital maps for all communities. It is available for public viewing and downloading and will allow the Public Water System's to update and verify their service area boundaries.
- Social economic impact analysis; the rule requires a socioeconomic impact assessment be done if water needs will not be met. The group may request that the Texas Water Development Board perform that analysis by submitting a request to the project manager via email. Those requests are due by July 2019. Socioeconomic impact analysis will be developed based on the needs in the state-wide planning database as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 in order for the reports to be available by the end of 2019. This would allow the report to be included in the Initially Prepared Plan.
- IX. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to request the TWDB to develop the 2021 Plateau Region's Socioeconomic Impact Assessment.**  
Mr. Ashworth briefly described what was involved in the assessment. Motion by Wes Robinson

to request the Texas Water Development Board develop the 2021 Plateau Region's Socioeconomic Impact Analysis.; second by Ray Buck. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**X. Update on the regional water planning schedule. (WSP)**

Ms. Herrera briefly reviewed the schedule stating we are in the beginning of our water strategy development which puts the Group in place to begin strategy development. That entails working with communities and municipalities to determine if they have a water need and what strategies they would like to have in the plan. The strategies in the previous plan will be brought over to the new plan and updated as needed.

Mr. Letz briefly explained the process (for the new members). The first phase of the Plan addresses water demand which is driven by population (which is driven by the state numbers). The second phase is water supply, which looks at all the supplies in all the regions. Once we know the demand and supply the math is done to figure out where there is a deficit going forward. Once a deficit is discovered, a water management strategy is added to the Plan. A brief discussion ensued regarding water management strategies and interaction with other regions. Ms. Herrera explained the importance of having strategies in the plan (in order to be eligible for state SWIFT funding).

Ms. Herrera reminded the Group that at the last meeting they requested that the steam electric company showing in Kerr County be removed from the Plan (as there isn't one in Kerr County). She said the TWDB projection staff is aware of issue and those changes/amendments will go before the Board at their March meeting. After that meeting she will request clean tables from the Board; deleting the steam-electric power user.

She reminded the Group that at the last meeting they decided not to pursue the simplified planning process. She briefly discussed the reasoning for the decision with the new members.

She informed the Group that the Technical Memorandum had been submitted to, and approved by, the Water Development Board.

**XI. Discuss Planning Group review of Draft Chapter 3. (WSP)**

Ms. Herrera stated that she and Mr. Ashworth have been drafting and updating Chapter Three – the regional water supply source chapter of the plan. It was noted that when the Board decided to go from city-based planning to utility-based planning it changed some of the figures and content in the chapter. She noted that changes in the chapter can be changed up until the time of the IPP. She requested any comments from the Group to be submitted to the consultants by February 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ashworth pointed out a few specific changes to the chapter.

**XII. Consider, discuss, receive public comment, and take appropriate action to approve the Task 5A Scope and Budget for water management strategy evaluations. Authorize UGRA to submit the approved Task 5A Scope and Budget to the TWDB. (WSP)**

Mr. Ashworth explained that a very large percent of the energy and budget in regional water planning goes toward the analysis of water management strategies. The purpose of regional water planning is trying to solve future water problems by finding out what those problems are and recommending strategies for how communities can meet their needs in the future. The Texas Water Development Board is the agency who determines what water needs are needed in the future and how to solve and deficits. All 16 regions in the state turn in their regional plans with a large chapter showing how much money is needed state-wide to solve all the water issues in the state so the Legislature knows how much money the Water Development Board needs to set aside. The Board has mandated that the planning groups develop the Task 5A Scope and Budget because it is such a crucial part of regional water planning, and they want to make sure that the

planning groups take it seriously. This evaluation shows what strategies the planning group currently has in mind. They may change in the future, but the preliminary list of strategies are broken up and listed here - with an estimate of what workload it is going to take to accomplish analyzing each of the strategies and what portion of the budget is going to go to it. He explained the process of evaluating a strategy.

Mr. Ashworth stated that the Water Development Board will not issue funding for the strategy analysis until they receive the Task 5A Scope and Budget. He stated that the Board has already taken a first look at ours and have informed the consultants that they have some comments. So what is being presented today will not be the final version. He stated that our next agenda item (Item XIII) will request permission to authorize UGRA and the consultants to negotiate with the Water Development Board to complete the task. Mr. Alfaro stated that there would not be significant changes to the proposal. TWDB might suggest rearranging the strategies as to how they are categorized, but it there wouldn't be any major changes.

Mr. Ashworth was asked to explain the intra region process from a state point.

**Motion by Feather Wilson to approve the Task 5A Scope or Work and Budget; second by Dell Dickinson. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

**XIII. Authorize the consultant or UGRA to work with the TWDB on any follow-up information that might be required.**

**Motion by Max Martin to authorize the consultants and UGRA to work with TWDB on any follow-up information that might be required; second by Joel Pigg. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

**XIV. Authorize UGRA to negotiate and execute the subsequent TWDB contract amount.**

Mr. Letz explained that since PWPG is not a legal entity, they cannot sign a contract. Therefore, the political sub-division for each region handles the money and accounting and UGRA does that for PWPG. **Motion by Gene Williams to authorize UGRA to execute the contract with the Water Development Board and that contract will be to authorize this funding; second by Michael Redman. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

**XV. Discuss for informative purposes the process for consideration of recommending ecologically unique stream segments. (WSP)**

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of recommending ecologically unique stream segments. The following documents were discussed: Mr. Alfaro's handout entitled "Designating Unique Stream Segments and Unique Reservoir Sites"; letter from the Bandera River Authority (dated 1/24/19) listing their proposed segments from the Medina River, Sabinal River and West Verde Creek; letter from the Devils River Conservancy (dated 1/28/19) requesting that the Devils River in Val Verde County be designated; letter from the Llano River Watershed Alliance (dated 10/18/18) requesting that the South Llano River in Edwards County be designated; and a booklet prepared by WSP entitled "Plateau Water Planning Region Material for Consideration of Ecologically Unique River and Stream Segments". Numerous people shared their views on the subject and how best to handle it if the Group (PWPG) decides it is something they would like to pursue. Some of the members believed this task is outside the purview of the Water Planning Group and others disagreed. Mr. Letz suggested preparing a process to approve the streams instead of recommending any streams. It was agreed that the matter would be placed on the next agenda for further consideration and action.

**XVI. Set next meeting.**

The next meeting was set for May 15, 2019.