

Minutes
Plateau Water Planning Group
Regular Meeting - Hunt, Texas
February 15, 2018
10:00 AM

Notice having been duly given the Plateau Water Planning Group (PWPG) conducted a Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2018, beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area (Bass Conference Facility), 2625 FM 1340, Hunt, Kerr County, Texas. Present at the meeting were: Ray Buck, Kerr County; Jonathan Letz, Kerr County; Joel Pigg, Real County; Gene Williams, Kerr County; Rene Villarreal, Kinney County; Feather Wilson, Bandera 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 Chad Norris, Texas Parks and Wildlife; Joseph McDaniel, Aqua America; Charlie Wiedenfeld, Kerr County; David Jeffery, Bandera County; Roland "Tooter" Trees, Real County; Rusty Ray; Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board; Otilia Gonzalez, Val Verde County; Michael Redman for David Mauk, Bandera County; Michael Mann, Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District; Randy Nunns, Devils River Conservancy; Genell Hobbs, Kinney County; Tony Smith, Carollo Engineering; Charlie Flatten, Hill Country Alliance; Wes Robinson, Kinney County; John Elliott, Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District.

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.

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of minutes from the November 9, 2017 Regular Meeting and minutes from the Population Revision Committee meeting on January 4, 2018.

Motion by Ray Buck to approve the minutes as submitted; second by Joel Pigg. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

IV. Reports.

a. Report from Chair.

Mr. Letz informed the Group that:

The balance in the checking account as of the end of January is \$12,570.

Jody Grinstead completed the Public Information Act training

Certificates for Open Meetings Act training are still needed from Tully

Shahan and Otila Gonzalez

A letter was sent to the City of Del Rio regarding the vacancy for Mitch Lomas, inquiring whether or not they wanted to nominate someone to replace him.

As of today's date a response has not yet been received.

b. Report from Secretary.

No report given

c. Report from Political Entity.

Ray Buck stated that the contract/paperwork had been updated as required to reflect WSP instead of LBG-Guyton and thanked Jennifer for her assistance with that task.

d. Report from Liaisons.

Feather Wilson gave an update on Region K

Joseph McDaniel stated that he had been in contact with Region L and their meeting was today so he was unable to attend

e. Report from GMA representatives.

David Jeffery gave an update on GMA9

Joel Pigg stated that GMA7 was meeting on March 22nd

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

Motion by Gene Williams to approve the following invoices: LBG-Guyton (11/1/17-11/30/17) - \$3,712.68, LBG-Guyton (12/1/17-12/31/17) - \$5,070.33, JPMorgan Chase (transcript reimbursement 11/9/17 mtg) - \$300.00; second by David Jeffery. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

VI. Texas Water Development Board Updates. (William Alfaro, Project Manager)

Mr. Alfaro thanked the Group for working on the projections and said TWDB was currently working on the revisions that were proposed. The anticipated adoption date for those projections is this April. Once those are adopted it will still be possible to request additional revisions. However that will require further justification submitted via a formal request.

He stated they have been working on draft rules that will impact the water planning process. The draft was posted on the Texas Register in December and public comments were received until January 1st. TWDB is set to adopt those in March.

A contract amendment for additional funding will be coming in spring. It will also incorporate some guidance documents that have been updated to the contract. Once the contract is prepared the Planning Group will need to authorize the political subdivision to execute the contract.

VII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to announce vacancy for Public Interest (Val Verde County) currently held by Tommy Qualia.

Mr. Letz announced the vacancy and stated there are 3 vacancies:

Public Interest (Val Verde County)

Water Utilities (Kerr County) - previously held by Jerry Heffley

Municipal Interest (Val Verde County) - previously held by Mitch Lomas.

Mr. Letz informed the Group that Charlie Flatten with the Hill Country Alliance has expressed an interest in filling one of those positions. Mr. Flatten lives outside the Region J area, but Mr. Letz checked the Bylaws and that would not prohibit him from serving as long as he represents the region. Mr. Flatten represents Kerr, Bandera, Edwards and Real Counties as part of his job with the Hill Country Alliance. Therefore he qualifies. Mr. Letz suggested allowing Charlie to fill the Val Verde interest, but making it an "at-large" interest. He stated it would be on the next agenda for further discussion.

VIII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to hold all future meetings at a location in Leakey, Texas.

Mr. Letz stated the Joel Pigg has offered to host all future meetings. **Motion by Rene Villareal to host future meetings in Leakey; second by Ray Buck. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.** Mr. Letz said this would not preclude the meetings being held elsewhere if needed.

IX. Update on Regional Water Planning Schedule. WSP USA (formerly LBG-Guyton)

Jennifer briefly gave a recap of what was discussed at the previous meeting (water demands and population projections). She reminded the Group that they:

Approved the population and water demand projections.

Agreed that the major water providers would be addressed the same as the wholesale water providers.

Approved the designation of sub-WUG's in Kerr County of Kerr.

Designated a subcommittee and consultants to develop population and water demand for

Designated Kerr County sub-WUG's

On January 4th TWDB staff along with members of the PWPG had a meeting. At that meeting they agreed on methodology to develop the water demands for sub-WUGs mentioned above. Those were submitted in the revision package. On February 5th, they were notified that the TWDB and the 4 agencies that it had to be reviewed by all approved the changes. Jennifer briefly summarized the changes that were made.

Jennifer addressed the Group regarding the Tech Memo and informed them it was time to begin looking at the analysis process for ground water and surface water supply sources. She stated they would be discussing the identification of potentially feasible water management strategies.

She informed the Group that Chapter Two had been drafted and asked for feedback once the members have had time to review it.

X. Consider and discuss the Plateau Region groundwater supply analysis process. WSP USA (formerly LBG-Guyton)

John Ashworth presented a slide show regarding groundwater and surface water sources. In that presentation he discussed: major aquifers, minor aquifers, other aquifers, and brackish supplies.

John briefly discussed when availability numbers would be coming out and the scheduling issues that might arise based on the tech memo being due on September 10th. The Water Development Board is recognizing that there may be a problem with some planning groups getting their tech memo's out in time. He suggested that the Group wait until the next meeting to determine whether or not they think this group will have a scheduling problem. If the Group believes there will be a problem then the Water Development Board is going to require the Group to approve a request for an extension of that deadline time and then that would require a letter from the planning group requesting that extension.

Feather Wilson stated that he would like to see Chapter 2 include a table that shows the per capita use of ground water for each county and maybe for some of the cities. Mr. Ashworth agreed that would be an appropriate place for that table.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the fracking that is being done, the amount of water being used and if that is included in the long term plans. Ms. Herrera stated that the Water Development Board's approach to their mining water demand projections included frack focused data. However the data is done on a volunteer basis so it won't capture everything, but it's the first step in trying to begin including some of that current fracking or water demand.

XI. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to approve the Plateau Region surface water supply analysis process and letter to TWDB requesting modifications to TCEQ Water Availability Model (WAM). (Carollo)

Tony Smith gave a presentation regarding the source and supply availabilities on surface water. He stated there are five river basins that are incorporated within the region, the Rio Grande, Nueces, Colorado, the Guadalupe, and the San Antonio. There are a lot of technical guidelines that are provided by the Water Development Board for how we characterize sources and supplies. He briefly discussed surface water supply availability stating that the key component is what supply is available during a critical period. Critical periods are typically the drought of record.

During the presentation he discussed: firm yield, water permitting models, TCEQ water models, USGS gauging system, how water rights work, environmental flows, Senate Bill 3, water management studies, naturalized flows and manmade effects, hydrology for WAMs and the interface between surface water and ground water.

He stated that the TWDB requires the Planning Group to submit a letter (often referred to as Water Supply Assumptions or a Hydrologic Variance Memo). That memo tells TWDB how the regional planning group plans on evaluating supply in a regional planning context. His firm compiled the recently authorized inactive service water rights from TCEQ, as well as the most recent five-year annual diversion so they could determine the magnitude of present use that's in place.

Mr. Smith reviewed his handout entitled "Procedures for Determining Water Availability and Water Supplies for the 2021 Plateau Regional Water Plan". He stated the letter needs to be submitted to the Board after approval by the Board. Mr. Letz noticed a typo page 5, paragraph 1 of the memo. It states 2,000 acre-feet and it should be 6,000 acre-feet. **Motion by Joel Pigg to authorize the memorandum to be submitted to Texas Water Development Board as presented with one modification (2,000 acre-feet changed to 6,000 acre-feet); second by Ray Buck. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

XII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to approve the process for identifying selecting potentially feasible water management strategies for the 2021 Plateau Region Water Plan. WSP USA (formerly LBG-Guyton)

John Ashworth reviewed his handout entitled "Process for Identifying and Selecting Potentially Feasible Water-Management Strategies to be Evaluated for the 2021 Plateau Region Water Plan" with the Group. He stated this was required before selecting strategies; it is what TWDB considers first step in coming up with the water management strategies. He explained the document in detail to the Group. Mr. Ashworth said it must be approved, but it can be done at this meeting or the next meeting. Jonathan Letz suggested that it be done at the next meeting.

XIII. Consider and discuss the revised, draft Chapter 2 – Population and Water Demands for the 2021 Plateau Region Water Plan. WSP USA (formerly LBG-Guyton)

Jennifer Herrera reviewed her handout entitled "Chapter 2 Population and Water Demand" with the Group. Mr. Letz suggested that the Group go through the chapter between now and the next meeting and send any comments they have to Jennifer and John so a final draft can be done for the May meeting.

A brief discussion ensued regarding Sub-WUGs.

XIV. Set next meeting.

The next meeting was set for May 17th in Leakey.

John Ashworth invited the planning members to join he and Jennifer to walk over to view the Headwater Spring which he described as probably the largest spring complex that feeds all of the Guadalupe River.