

**MINUTES**  
**(Agenda Addendum done due to change of venue)**  
**Plateau Water Planning Group**  
**Regular Meeting - Leakey, Texas**  
**August 15, 2019**  
**10:00 AM**

Notice having been duly given the Plateau Water Planning Group (PWPG) conducted a Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2019, beginning at 10:00 A.M. at Leakey Church of Christ, 229 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Leakey, Real County, Texas. Present at the meeting were: Ray Buck, Kerr County; Jonathan Letz, Kerr County; Gene Williams, Kerr County; Scott Loveland, Kerr County; Jody Grinstead; John Ashworth, WSP; Jennifer Herrera, WSP; William Alfaro, Texas Water Development Board; Chad Norris, Texas Parks and Wildlife; Charlie Wiedenfeld, Kerr County; Michael Redman, Bandera County; Charlie Flatten, Kerr/Bandera/Real Counties; Dell Dickinson, Val Verde County; Max Martin, Edwards/Val Verde/Kinney Counties; Feather Wilson, Bandera County; Jerry Simpton, Val Verde County; Genell Hobbs, Kinney County; Tooter Trees, Real County; David Jeffery, Bandera County; Tina Ashley, Wes Robinson, Kinney County; Homer Stevens, Bandera County; Lee Sweeten, Edwards County; Robin Barthen, Texas Department of Agriculture; Kendria Ray, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board; John Byrum, Nueces River Authority; Cameron Blezinger; Real Edwards Conservation Reclamation District.

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

Mr. Letz called the meeting to order and noted that there was a late change of venue, but attendance was not affected.

**II. Public Comments.**

No public comments were made.

**III. Approval of minutes from the May 15, 2019, Regular Meeting.**  
**Motion by Charlie Wiedenfeld to approve the May 15, 2019, minutes; second by Tooter Trees. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

**IV. Reports.**

**a. Report from Chair.**

Mr. Letz reported the balance in the bank account is \$11,259.00.

He informed the Group that the freshwater mussels in the Guadalupe Basin are very close to being listed as an endangered species.

**b. Report from Secretary.**

No report was given.

**c. Report from Political Entity.**

No report was given.

**d. Report from Liaisons.**

Feather Wilson gave a report on Region K.

**e. Report from GMA representatives.**

Michael Redman gave a report on GMA 9; Genell Hobbs gave an update on GMA10.

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

**Motion by Genell Hobbs to approve the following invoices: WSP – Invoice #86454 (\$17,899.42), WSP Invoice #874830 (\$14,013.80), WSP Invoice #880069 (\$2,858.04), WSP Invoice #845142 (\$999.89) and JP Morgan (credit card) – paid to GMR Transcription - \$150.00 and \$190.00 (transcript of 5/15/19 mtg); second by Gene Williams. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

**VI. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to announce vacancy of GMA 7 position (previously Joel Pigg).**

Vacancy was announced. No action was taken.

**VII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to authorize the UGRA to negotiate and execute TWDB Contract Amendment that will Increase authorized funds to the full contract amount.**

Mr. Ashworth stated that this is the final amendment to the contract that we've been working on this year. It authorizes the final output of money (for the strategy work). **Motion by Dell Dickinson to authorize UGRA to negotiate and execute TWDB Contract Amendment that will increase authorized funds to the full contract amount; second by Max Martin. The motion passed a unanimous vote.**

**VIII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action regarding nominations for the Interregional Planning Council.**

Mr. Letz explained that the Water Development Board, through some legislation passed at the last session, is putting together an Interregional Planning Council whose purpose is to improve coordination between regional water planning groups. The Council will help facilitate dialogue regarding regional management strategies and share operational best practices of the regional water planning process. They will hold at least one public meeting and prepare a report to the Texas Water Development Board on their work. The Water Development Board is requesting that each region nominate at least one person for this. **Motion by Tooter Trees to nominate Ray Buck; second by Max Martin. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

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

Mr. Alfaro spoke briefly regarding the following topics:

Implementation survey - relates to water management studies that were in the 2016 Regional Water Plan and the State Water Plan.

House Bill 807 - the requirements of HB 807 are effective immediately and the Water Development Board will provide guidance on how the Planning Group can meet the new requirements.

Planning Data Dashboard - useful in searching for historical and regional water planning data, water use, and historical statewide plan data.

Drought Preparedness Council (DPC) recommendations. Water planning groups must take recommendations from the DPC

Socioeconomic impacts report development - TWDB is working on preparing those reports and are expecting to have the final reports ready by the end of this year. TWDB representatives will be available, if requested, to present those report results to the Planning Group. The information will be posted on the Planning Data Dashboard also.

86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature: Updates Relevant to Regional Water Planning. Mr. Alfaro stated that three House Bills are directly related to regional water planning: House Bill 807, House Bill 721, and House Bill 723.

House Bill 807 is effective immediately and requires the Water Development Board to appoint an Interregional Planning Council that will be made from one representative for each of the 16 regions involved in the development of the regional water plans.

Mr. Alfaro explained that the Bill included the following requirements:

1. Reporting “unnecessary or counterproductive” drought response strategies in Chapter 7
2. Defining thresholds for identified water needs that are “significant”
3. List municipal WUG’s in each RWPG in Subchapter 5B
4. Document progress in encouraging cooperation between WUG’s in Chapter 11
5. Include any legislative recommendations the planning group believes would improve the water planning process in Chapter 8.

A brief discussion ensued regarding how to pay for these extra requirements. Mr. Ashworth said they would work with closely with TWDB to make sure the requirements are met. Mr. Letz pointed out that these new requirements are not part of the contract that our political subdivision has with the consultants, so he is uncertain how they can be paid for the work. Mr. Alfaro agreed that the changes are not part of the contract; but the changes are required by statute now.

TWDB has started the ruling process for this Bill and is looking for feedback from the planning groups. They are hoping to have the new rules ready in spring of next year so they have set an August 19<sup>th</sup> deadline to submit any input related to the rules.

Mr. Letz stated that he would write a letter to TWDB expressing the Groups concerns; and would submit the letter to TWDB by the August 19<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Mr. Norris shared how Region L handled the various aspects of the Bill

House Bill 721 – has two requirements for TWDB:

1. Look at strategies of ASR projects and aquifer projects in the State Water Plan
2. Conduct a statewide survey to identify the relative suitability of various major and minor aquifers for use in ASR projects or aquifer recharge projects and prepare a report of the survey.

House Bill 723 - requires TCEQ to develop updated runs for Brazos, Neches, Red, and Rio Grande River Basins by December 1, 2022.

Mr. Alfaro spoke briefly regarding Senate Bill 7 and Senate Bill 8:

Senate Bill 7 is aimed at providing flood funding through multiple funds

Senate Bill 8 establishes a state and regional flood planning process administered by TWDB:

The process will be similar to the water planning process  
 Planning will be by river basin  
 First Flood Plan is due by January 2023  
 State Flood Plan is due September 2024

Mr. Letz said there was a flood stakeholder meeting in Kerrville that addressed this Bill and that process would mirror the water planning process. The Group would include many of the same interest groups as PWPG. He encouraged the Group members to become involved in the Flood Planning process if they were interested in doing that. Mr. Flatten stated that specific agency, especially river authorities, should be paying attention to the process because there are funding mechanisms involved.

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

Ms. Herrera reviewed the items discussed at the last meeting including: reviewed some of the strategy development they had been working on, walked through our potentially feasible list of

strategies and talked about ecologically unique stream segments.

She stated that the IPP draft is due in March 2020. She spoke briefly about Chapter 7 (drought chapter) and said it has been modified because it's a utility-based plan and not a state based plan. She said they would have a Chapter 7 draft ready for review at the next meeting.

She stated the focal point now is meeting with clients to redefine strategies that were either in the previous plan or add new strategies into this plan.

She stated they are beginning to develop Chapter 8, which is the process of developing the water policy and planning recommendation chapter.

**XI. Discuss process for developing Planning Group water policy and water planning recommendations. (WSP)**

Mr. Ashworth informed the Group that Chapter 8 is PWPG's opportunity to speak to the Legislature and/or the Water Development Board. This is where they can make their voices heard. PWPG members develop the Chapter themselves. It is not developed by the consultants, though they will assist in any way possible. In the 2016 plan, this chapter was broken into general recommendations, water management recommendations, water planning, and water data and studies. He suggested that the Group look at the Chapter 8 from the previous plan and be thinking of any changes they want to make. He added that it would be best to have this chapter completed by the end of the year. Mr. Ashworth suggested that a process be determined on how to update the chapter. Mr. Letz suggested having Jody email a copy of Chapter 8 to each member and ask for comments and/or changes. Then it can be approved at the next meeting. Mr. Buck asked how we would handle comments that are not agreed on by the Group as a whole (i.e. unique stream segments). Mr. Letz said if there are specific items that are not agreed upon by the members, then the Group would vote on them one by one.

**XII. Discuss progress on development of water management strategies. (WSP)**

Mr. Ashworth explained that water management strategies are intended to develop, deliver, and/or treat additional water supply volumes or conserve water for an entity and they must have a non-zero capital cost. In most cases it's a capital cost for infrastructure needs. A brief discussion ensued regarding which management strategies are suitable to go in the plan, and which are not, as well as water loss audits. Mr. Ashworth reiterated that in order for a project to get funded through the Water Development Board, it needs to be in this plan. The Group spoke briefly regarding various projects/strategies and whether or not they should be included in the Plan and the process by which that is done. Mr. Ashworth went over his handout entitled "Table 5-2. Summary of Water Management Strategy Evaluations" with the Group. He noted that the costs listed under "Total Capital Cost" do not show the Operations & Maintenance costs, the impacts, or what the description is. He said that information would be provided prior to the next meeting.

A brief discussion ensued regarding livestock numbers, land management, brush control and conservation. Mr. Ashworth stated that he would like to list success stories from UGRA and the Nueces River Authority in this Plan. The Group briefly discussed the possibility of adding hyperlinks in the plan to direct people to the TWDB's website; thus making it easier to search for various reports and studies relevant to Region J. Mr. Ashworth reminded the Group that the Region J website (hosted by UGRA) has valuable information on it also.

Mr. Ashworth asked the Group members to send him or Jennifer an email regarding their specific management strategies needs and they can work on them one-on-one. He would like to have the list finalized in November, so they can begin to fine-tune it to get the costs and information in there properly.

**XIII. Set next meeting.**

Jennifer noted that there is a March 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline for the IPP, so she suggested setting up the next 3 meetings. Meetings were set for the following dates: November 21, 2019 – January 23, 2020 and February 12, 2020. All meetings will be held in Leakey, TX.