

Minutes
Plateau Water Planning Group
Regular Meeting - Leakey, Texas
October 24, 2018
10:00 AM

Notice having been duly given the Plateau Water Planning Group (PWPG) conducted a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 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; Elizabeth McCoy, Texas Water Development Board; Carl Schwing; Chad Norris, Texas Parks and Wildlife; Joseph McDaniel, Aqua America; Charlie Wiedenfeld, Kerr County; David Jeffery, Bandera County; Michael Redman for David Mauk, Bandera County; Genell Hobbs, Kinney County; Tully Shahan, Kinney County; Jerry Simpton, Val Verde County; Tony Smith, Carollo Engineering; Charlie Flatten, Kendra Ray, Ernie DeWinne; Sky Lewey and Clint Carter.

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 given

III. Approval of minutes from the May 17, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Motion by David Jeffery to approve the May 17, 2018 minutes; second by Joel Pigg. The Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

IV. Reports.

a. Report from Chair.

Mr. Letz informed the Group about the Chairs Conference Call that was held on October 22nd. He stated there would be another call in mid-January to go over the prioritization process.

He received a letter from the Llano River Watershed Alliance requesting that the South Llano River in Edwards County be designated as a unique stream segment.

The current balance in the administrative account is \$12,032.22.

We have a new representative from the Department of Agriculture; Rob Barthen

b. Report from Secretary.

No report was given.

c. Report from Political Entity.

No report was given

d. Report from Liaisons.

No reports were given

e. Report from GMA representatives.

David Jeffery gave an update 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 \$4,345.01 (3/3/18 – 3/30/18); WSP \$2,421.80 (3/31/18 – 5/4/18); WSP \$8,062.43 (5/5/18 – 6/1/18); WSP \$376.31 (6/2/18 – 6/29/18); WSP \$9,645.94 (6/30/18 – 8/3/18); WSP \$1,855.11 (8/4/18 – 8/31/18); WSP \$6,645.64 (9/1/18 – 9/28/18) and JP Morgan \$285.00 (Transcription Reimbursement for May meeting – paid to GMR Transcription with the Kerr County JP Morgan credit card); second by Joel McDaniel. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

VI. **Texas Water Development Board Updates. (William Alfaro, Project Manager)**
Elizabeth McCoy (at meeting on behalf of William Alfaro) gave the following updates:

All of the Tech Memo's for each of the regions that have been submitted are posted online. Based on those, a data visualization map was created which plots the data in the planning database and shows what the needs are for each of the WUG's.

TWDB sent out communication about two water management strategy evaluation tools that are going to be available in December: (1) a conservation planning tool and (2) a uniform costing tool.

The socioeconomic impact analysis; the planning groups are required to look at the impacts of not meeting the water needs. In the past the TWDB performed the analysis on all of them; in the future the Planning Group must request the analysis be done. She reviewed the process on how to request the analysis.

The Uniform Standard Stakeholder Committee is going to be meeting to review the uniform standards for prioritization for projects in the regional water plans. She gave some background on how that committee was created.

The TWDB financial assistance workshop will be November the 8th at 10:00 a.m., at Schreiner University in Kerrville.

The state flood assessment draft report was posted for public comment in September. That public comment period closed the beginning of October. TWDB staff are working on considering the comments that were received and a final assessment report is going to be taken to the Board for consideration in December.

The Water for Texas Conference will be held Austin, January 23rd through 25th, 2019. Topics will include: Texas water policy, the state flood assessment, conservation, and innovative water supply solutions, and water communication.

VII. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to fill vacancy for Public Interest representing Val Verde, Edwards or Kinney Counties.**

Mr. Letz stated that one nomination (from Edwards County Judge, Souli Shanklin) was received for Max Martin. Mr. Martin was not able to be at the meeting today as he cannot leave his ranch due to the recent flooding. **Motion by Tully Shahan to approve Max Martin for the Public Interest representative to Val Verde, Edwards, and Kinney Counties; second by Jerry Simpton. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

VIII. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to fill vacancy for Public Interest representing Kerr, Bandera or Real Counties.**

Mr. Letz stated that one nomination was received from Bandera County River Authorities for Charles Flatten. **Motion by Joel Pigg to approve Charles Flatten for the Public Interest representing Kerr, Bandera or Real Counties; second by Michael Redman. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

IX. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to fill vacancy for Public Interest - Val Verde County.**

Mr. Letz stated that a verbal nomination was received from Jerry Simpton, as well as a letter from the Devils River Conservancy, for Dell Dickinson. **Motion by Jerry Simpton to approve Dell Dickinson for the Val Verde County Public Interest vacancy; second by Tully Shahan. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.** Mr. Dickinson was unable to attend today's meeting as he is unable to leave his ranch due to localized flooding.

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

Ms. Herrera briefly reviewed the planning schedule timeline. She stated the Tech Memo is on the website for review and will remain there for an additional 14 days. After that time it will be submitted to the Water Development Board. Moving forward the Group will begin looking at the needs of the region and begin assessing upcoming water shortages which will start the strategy development. One of the requirements prior to developing the strategies is working on the Task 5A scope and budget. That will be presented at the next meeting.

Ms. Herrera gave a presentation regarding ground water.

Tony Smith gave a presentation regarding surface water.

XI. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to request that the Texas Water Development Board remove the water user group identified as Kerr County Steam Electric Power from the TWDB planning database.**

Motion by Ray Buck to request that Kerr County Steam Electric Power be removed from the TWDB Planning database; second by Joel Pigg. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. Ms. McCoy stated that the Group needs to send a letter stating the Group has approved the request to remove Steam Electric Power and send it to the TWDB.

XII. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to pursue or not pursue Simplified Planning for the Plateau Region Water Plan. (WSP)**

John Ashworth briefly described the Simplified Planning process. It is an option offered by the TWDB which reduces a significant amount of workload that's required in regional water planning. However, in order to pursue Simplified Planning the Group must answer in the affirmative either one of the following statements: (1) there is sufficient existing water supplies in the region to meet all water needs for the 50-year planning period (2) there are no significant changes to water availability, water supplies, or water demands in the region.

Mr. Ashworth reviewed the requirements for pursuing Simplified Planning. A brief discussion ensued. **Motion by Joseph McDaniel to not pursue simplified planning for the Plateau Region Water Plan; second by David Jeffery. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

XIII. **Consider, discuss, receive public comment, and take appropriate action to approve the Technical Memorandum as required by TWDB rule. (WSP)**

Mr. Letz noted that the public meeting to receive comments was posted properly. A Public Comment was made by Jerry Simpton. No other public comments were received.

Mr. Ashworth briefly discussed the “Plateau Regional Water Planning Area Technical Memorandum”. It was noted that the document mistakenly listed the “Far West Texas Water Planning Group” on the cover but Mr. Ashworth assured the Group that the material in the document was for the Plateau Water Planning Group. He stated no public comments have been received thus far, but the comment period will remain open for 14 more days. The deadline to submit the Tech Memo to the TWDB is November 9th and WSP will hand deliver the document.

Motion by Genell Hobbs to approve the Technical Memorandum with the one modification to change the cover page to reflect the Plateau Water Planning Group; second by Joel Pigg. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

XIV. **Authorize the UGRA to submit the approved Technical Memorandum to the TWDB by the November 9, 2018 revised deadline. (UGRA)**

Motion by Gene Williams to authorize UGRA to submit the Technical Memorandum to the Texas Water Development Board; second by Joseph McDaniel. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

XV. **Discuss upcoming planning activities. (WSP)**

Mr. Ashworth stated the Group will discuss the Task 5A scoping budget at the next meeting as well as the analysis of the proposed strategies.

He spoke briefly regarding the designation of the ecologically unique stream segments. He stated that the Group can recommend that streams be designated as ecologically unique; but the Legislature is the one who actually designates those. If it meets all the administrative correctness, the Water Development Board will put it into the State Water Plan as a recommendation. The Group briefly discussed: reservoirs, pipelines and Region H’s designation of streams and the flooding issues they have had .

XVI. **Set next meeting.**

The next meeting was set for January 30, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Leakey.