

**Minutes**  
**Plateau Water Planning Group**  
**Regular Meeting - Leakey, Texas**  
**November 21, 2019**  
**10:00 AM**

Notice having been duly given the Plateau Water Planning Group (PWPG) conducted a Regular Meeting on Thursday, November 21, 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; Gene Williams, Kerr County; Joseph McDaniel Kerr County; Jody Grinstead; John Ashworth, WSP; Jennifer Herrera, WSP; William Alfaro, Texas Water Development Board; Charlie Wiedenfeld, Kerr County; Dell Dickinson, 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; Carl Schwing; Grady Douglass, Real/ Edwards County; Hayli Phillips, Bandera County; Ernie DeWinnie; Ann Peay; Melissa Grote; and Ross Potter

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

A quorum was present.

**II. Public Comments.**

No public comments were received.

**III. Approval of minutes from the August 15, 2019, Regular Meeting.**

**Motion by Tooter Trees to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2019, meeting; second by Joseph McDaniel. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

**IV. Reports.**

a. Report from Chair.

Mr. Letz said the balance in the administrative account is \$11,057.22

b. Report from Secretary.

No report was given

c. Report from Political Entity.

No report was given

d. Report from Liaisons.

Joseph McDaniel gave an update on Region L. Carl Schwing gave an update on Region M.

e. Report from GMA representatives.

Hayli Phillips gave an update on GMA 9. Genell Hobbs gave an update on GMA 7.

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

**Motion by Lee Sweeten to pay the following invoices: WSP (8/31/19 – 9/27/19) for \$11,643.89; WSP (8/3/19 – 8/30/19) for \$7,096.04; WSP (6/29/19 – 8/2/19) for \$11,243.98 and JP Morgan (for GMR transcriptions) for \$202.50; second by Gene Williams. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

**VI. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to appoint Genell Hobbs to fill the GMA 7 vacancy (previously held by Joel Pigg).**

**Motion by Wes Robinson to appoint Genell Hobbs as the GMA 7 representative; second by Lee Sweeten. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

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

Mr. Alfaro spoke briefly regarding:

Proposed new rules the Water Development Board is considering regarding: Texas Infrastructure Resilience Fund, Flood Financial Assistance, State Flood Planning and Chapter 357 (to incorporate new House Bill 807 requirements).

TWBD Contract Amendment #5. The contract was fully executed in September 2019, increasing funds by \$57,482 (bringing the total to \$331,983).

The Socioeconomic Analysis Report. PWPG requested the Water Development Board to perform the analysis at our last meeting. TWDB has been working on it and has prepared the report for Region J (report was sent out this past Monday). He asked of the group would like to have a presentation on the report. The group agreed that they would like to have a presentation. Mr. Letz suggested that it be done at one of our future meetings (after the February meeting).

Drought Management Costing Tool – used to assist planning groups in evaluating the economic impact of the water volumes reduced by implementation of drought management strategies.

The IPP deadline is March 3, 2020. TWDB prepared a schematic that the planning groups can use to review the process. It outlines the posting requirements for the public hearing and adoption of the IPP as well as the adoption of the final plan. A brief discussion ensued regarding the posting requirements specifically regarding the requirement to post in a “newspaper of general circulation in each county”. Mr. Letz noted that Real County does not have a newspaper. It was asked if the information could be put on their website instead. Mr. Alfaro said he would verify that putting it on the website would be a suitable replacement for the newspaper. Mr. Robinson said he believed publishing requirements for the newspaper are only applicable if there is a newspaper in circulation in that county. Mr. Trees said the newspapers that are in Real County are: Uvalde, Rock Springs and the Kinney Broadcaster. Mr. Robinson said that any of those would qualify as general circulation newspapers. Mr. Alfaro agreed that the newspaper doesn’t have to be from the county, as long as it’s in circulation there.

**VIII. Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action to authorize the UGRA to execute consultant contract amendments.**

Mr. Ashworth explained that there are three amendments involved with the current contract: (1) the request for an extension of the deadline to submit the tech memo, (2) the Task 5A scope of work and (3) this one deals with the amount of money that’s being allowed - \$57,000. **Motion by Lee Sweeten to authorize UGRA to execute the contract amendments; second by David Jeffery. The motion passed by a unanimous vote**

**IX. Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action to authorize the Planning Group Consultants to perform evaluations of water management strategies previously categorized as “Other Strategies” in the scope of work developed for the water planning contract (TWDB Guideline item 5.11 Developing the Scope of Work for Task 5A).**

Mr. Ashworth explained that approximately two years ago the consultants completed a Water Development Board spreadsheet where they took all the potentially feasible strategies, grouped

them into categories and described the type of work that had to be done on each one of them. Then took the strategy budget and broke it into each one of those categories. In the process of doing that 17 additional strategies (all conservation strategies) have been added to the list. One of the requirements for developing strategies is that any WUG with a need has to have a conservation strategy. So those additional 17 strategies will now become a part of the full list of water management strategies. Therefore, the group needs to vote to authorize spending \$7,000 for the consultants to perform the evaluation and develop the new strategies. A discussion ensued regarding the new strategies. **Motion by Dell Dickinson to authorize spending \$7,000 to allow the consultants to evaluate the 17 additional water strategies; second by Wes Robinson. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

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

Ms. Herrera spoke briefly regarding the March 3<sup>rd</sup> IPP submittal date. She stated that at the last meeting the group decided on three potential future meeting dates (today's meeting, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup>). She stated that she and Mr. Ashworth believe they may be able to get everything accomplished in January and there may not be a need to meet in February. They hope to have the draft IPP done for the January meeting, and have it ready to submit after discussions at that meeting. She said they hope to have the remaining chapters on the website before Christmas. The group reviewed the schematic provided by TWDB in detail and determined that:

TWDB has a 120-day comment period for the IPP

There is a 30-day minimum notice for the public hearing on IPP

There is a 60-day public comment period for IPP

There is a 90-day federal and state agency comment period for the IPP

The final IPP plan is due by October 14, 2020

TWDB will publish the final plan in January 2021.

It was agreed that if the Public Hearing on the IPP was held in April it would give the consultants enough time to make adjustments to the plan based on comments from TWDB and the public in order to get the final plan approved and submitted by the October 14, 2020 deadline. **Motion by Wes Robinson to set the Public Hearing on the IPP for April 23, 2020 at 10:00 AM; second by Ray Buck. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.** It was agreed that each of the entities would receive electronic copies (not a hard copy) of the IPP.

Ms. Herrera briefly reviewed what was discussed at the last meeting. She requested that if any of the members would like to see anything changed in the Chapters (especially Chapter 5) that those comments be sent to them no later than the first week in December.

XI. **Discuss process for Planning Group review of Plateau Water Plan draft chapters, including responses to HB 807 planning requirements. (WSP)**

Mr. Ashworth briefly reviewed the draft chapters that have been distributed to the group, and posted on the PWPG website that is hosted by UGRA.

Chapter 1 - overall regional description

Chapter 2 - population and water demand

Chapter 3 - water supply

Chapter 4 - needs analysis

Chapter 5 – recommended water management strategies

Chapter 6 – impacts and consistency

Chapter 7 – drought response

Chapter 8 – recommendations and ecologically unique river and stream segments

Chapter 9 - water infrastructure finance analysis

Chapter 10 - public participation and plan adoption

Chapter 11 - implementation and comparison to previous plans

Mr. Ashworth discussed his handout entitled “House Bill 807 Requirements Addressed in the 2021 Plateau Region Water Plan”.

The group briefly discussed the drought of record (1950’s versus 2000’s) and ASR assessments. **Motion by Joseph McDaniel to set the significant identified water needs at anything greater than 800-acre feet per year; second by Tooter Trees. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

XII. **Review and discuss current water management strategy evaluations and conservation recommendations (Task 5A and 5B). (WSP)**

Mr. Ashworth reiterated that the management strategies must generate a new water supply. They must have: a description, location, volume of water produced as well as capital, operation, and maintenance cost. He stated they must have strategies for WUGs with needs. He stated that we are carrying over strategies that are appropriate from the previous plan. We are also including strategies for any WUG that has a water loss of greater than 10 percent. We are going to continue to contain our vegetative management strategy recommendation for every county and every river basin within that county. He briefly reviewed Tables 5-2, 5-3, 5-4.

A brief discussion ensued regarding Public Water Systems (PWS), water project impacts on other entities and SWIFT funding.

XIII. **Discuss development of Chapter 8 – Planning Group policy and planning recommendation. (WSP)**

Mr. Ashworth informed the members that the TWDB lists the title on this chapter as Water Policy and Planning Recommendations; this is the chapter that comes directly from the planning group. He supplied the members with the language from the 2016 Chapter 8 plan for their review and recommendations. The members were asked to submit any requested changes directly to Ms. Herrera or Mr. Ashworth.

XIV. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to reschedule the February 12, 2020, meeting.**

Mr. Letz stated that he had a conflict with the February 12<sup>th</sup> date, but that conflict has since been resolved. However, based on earlier conversations at today’s meeting there may not be a need for this meeting. The group will decide at the January 23, 2020 meeting if they will need to meet in February.

XV. **Set next meeting.**

The next meeting was set for January 23, 2020 at 10:00 AM in Leakey, Texas.