

Minutes
Plateau Water Planning Group
Regular Meeting – Del Rio, Texas
February 23, 2017
10:00 AM

Notice having been duly given the Plateau Water Planning Group (PWPG) conducted a Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2017, beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the Bank and Trust, 1200 Veterans Blvd., Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas. Present at the meeting were: Ray Buck, Kerr County; Jonathan Letz, Kerr County; Joel Pigg, Real County; Gene Williams, Kerr County; Genell Hobbs, Kinney County; Rene Villarreal, Kinney County; Feather Wilson, Bandera County; Scott Loveland, Kerr County; Jody Grinstead; John Ashworth, LBG-Guyton & Associates.; Jennifer Herrera, LBG-Guyton & Associates; Lann Bookout, Texas Water Development Board; Chad Norris, Texas Parks and Wildlife; Chandra Eggemeyer, Texas Department of Agriculture; Joseph McDaniel, Aqua America; Wes Robinson; Carl Schwing; Charlie Wiedenfeld, Kerr County; Grady Douglas Real Edwards Water Conservation Reclamation District; Matthew Henderson, Laughlin Air Force Base water programs; Ernie DeWinnie; Kit Averitt; Kevin Kluge, Texas Water Development Board; Tony Smith, Carollo Engineers; Otila Gonzalez, Val Verde County. The following people arrived after roll call: David Mauk, Bandera County; Jerry Simpton, Val Verde County; Tomas Rodriguez, Region M; and Aaron Wendt.

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 made.

III. **Approval of minutes from the October 19, 2016.**

Motion by Charlie Wiedenfeld to approve the October 19, 2016 minutes; second by Rene Villarreal. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

IV. **Reports.**

a. Report from Chair

No report was given

b. Report from Secretary

No report was given

c. Report from Political Entity

Ray Buck thanked Jennifer Herrera, John Ashworth and Lann Bookout for their help with the second round of funding application

d. Report from Liaisons.

Feather Wilson gave an update regarding Region K; Charlie Wiedenfeld stated that he had not been to a Region L meeting; Carl Schwing gave an update on Region M. Jonathan Letz introduced Tomas Rodriguez, Chairman from Region M – who was at the meeting as a guest.

e. Report from TWDB.

Update to be given later in the meeting

f. Report from GMA representatives.

Dave Mauk gave an update on GMA9; Genell Hobbs gave an update on GMA10; Feather Wilson spoke briefly regarding the IH-35 Corridor project.

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

Motion by Charlie Wiedenfeld to approve the following invoices:

LBG-Guyton (9/1/16-9/30/16) - \$1,429.35; LBG-Guyton (10/1/16-10/31/16) - \$4,191.86; LBG-Guyton (11/1/16-11/30/16) - \$2,858.69; LBG-Guyton (12/1/16-12/31/16) - \$1,933.64; Jody Grinstead - \$120.00 (Reimbursement for Transcripts) AND

Costs for Public Notice for RFA for 5th Cycle (to be reimbursed from TWDB account)

Postage - \$47.00; Bandera Bulletin - \$135.00; Del Rio News Herald - \$163.00; Hill Country Community Journal - \$50.00

Second by Feather Wilson. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

VI. **Texas Water Development Board Updates – Lann Bookout, Project Manager.**

Mr. Bookout informed the Group that:

TWDB has been having financial workshops all across the state; the next one in this area is in San Angelo in March.

TWDB is currently engaged in evaluating SWIFT applications that were submitted February 3rd (20+ applications) and they are in the process of ranking and scoring the applications. The goal is to get those evaluated by summer. Bonds will then be sold and are expected to close in the winter.

The State Revolving Fund invitations for priority projects have gone out and the project information forms on those potential applications for funds are due to the board on the 3rd of March.

They received the applications or additional funding for the Regional plans. Those will be reviewed, then amendments to the contracts will be sent out.

VII. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action regarding to discuss PWPG Bylaws, member representation, planning overview, and general meeting structure.**

Mr. Letz stated that all of the Regional Water Planning Chairs attended a meeting in Austin in November. At that meeting all Chairs were encouraged to look at their processes; everything from public participation, to membership, to where meetings were held.

One item that needs to be discussed is the Groups Bylaws. Mr. Letz asked all members to review the Bylaws so they could be discussed in detail at our next meeting. He stated that they have not been revised since 2010.

He spoke briefly regarding member representation. He stated when the Group was first formed, they added different slots to ensure that each geographic area had representation. He said that

many of the other regions have an environmental representative, and asked the Group to think about whether or not that is something they want to add.

He stated most Groups have their meetings in a central location; unlike Region J that rotates the meetings between all the counties in the region. He stated that he believed that Leakey area might be a good central spot to have meetings, if the Group decided to move in that direction. Joel Pigg stated they would be happy to host the meetings.

Mr. Letz spoke briefly regarding board orientation. The Group has not had an orientation in years and we have added new members since then. He stated the TWDB can do an orientation if the new members were interested in having one. Mr. Bookout stated he would be happy to present the TWDB “Planning 101” slideshow. He said the presentation includes the planning process, member’s responsibilities relative to their categories that they are representing as well as information regarding the tools that are available online at the Development Board website. Mr. Letz spoke briefly regarding the Opening Meetings Act, and stated that the PWPG is subject to those requirements.

VIII. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to change PWPG Bylaws as needed.**

Mr. Letz asked the members to review the Bylaws and said they would be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

IX. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to re-appoint Members whose terms have expired.**

Motion by Feather Wilson to re-appoint the following members to an additional 5 year term: Lee Sweeten, Stuart Barron, Feather Wilson, Thomas Qualia, Ray Buck, Jonathan Letz, Gene Williams, David Mauk, Rene Villarreal, and Charlie Wiedenfeld; second by Genell Hobbs. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

X. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to re-appoint Officers whose terms have expired.**

Mr. Letz stated that he and Gene Williams are willing to continue in their positions, but he has not yet had an opportunity to speak to Jerry Simpton. It was agreed that Mr. Letz would speak to Mr. Simpton prior to him being reappointed. **Motion by Charlie Wiedenfeld to reappoint Jonathan Letz as Chair, and Gene Williams as Secretary for an additional 2 year term; second by Ray Buck. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

XI. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to assign a Liaison to Region E to replace Otila Gonzalez.**

Ms. Gonzalez stated that the meetings are very far away (as far as El Paso). No other member was interested in being the Liaison. Mr. Letz stated the slot would remain open. Mr. Ashworth said that LBG-Guyton was the consultant for that region and if there is ever anything discussed of critical importance, they would share that information with this region.

XII. **Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to replace Stuart Barron (Kerr County Municipalities representative) with Scott Loveland.**

Mr. Letz stated the he received a letter from the City of Kerrville requesting that Scott Loveland replace Stuart Barron as the Kerr County Municipalities representative. **Motion by Joel Pigg**

to allow Scott Loveland to replace Stuart Barron; second by Charlie Wiedenfeld. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

XIII. **TWDB utility-based planning and changes to population and municipal water demand projections – Kevin Kluge.**

Mr. Kluge stated that TWDB will be putting out non-municipal projections (irrigation/manufacturing/steam electric power) in June. He spoke briefly regarding:

Utility planning – planning for the service area utilities instead of city boundaries

Draft projections – population/municipal water demand/mining

Reuse and brackish groundwater and how they are being included in this cycle of regional and state water plans

Anticipated timelines with regards to the projections.

June – send out draft projections for remaining non municipal projections. April

–July (depending on the Legislature and workload) – sending out historical, projection water use numbers

By September 1st – Submittal deadline for desired Sub-Wugs

November 15th – Changes to draft projections are due

XIV. **LBG-Guyton update on the TWDB draft population, municipal and mining water demand projections. Consideration of approval of draft mining water demand projections.**

Jennifer Herrera stated that with the utility based switch, she thought it would be a helpful exercise to compare what was in the 2016 plan to what some of those changes might look like when we make the switch to the utility based planning process. She reviewed the following handouts with the Group:

Table 1. 2016 Water User Group (WUG) Population

Table 1. 2016 Municipal and Mining Water Demands

Table 2. 2021 *Draft* Water User Group (WUG) Population

Table 2, 2017 *Draft* Municipal and Mining Water Demands

Preliminary Working Schedule: Fifth Cycle of Regional Planning

A brief discussion ensued regarding Sub-Wugs. John Ashworth suggested that, prior to the next meeting, that he and Jennifer meet with representatives from Kerr County and Bandera County to discuss suggested Sub-Wugs.

XV. **Presentation from Carollo Engineers regarding history of the firm and introduction to the WAM process.**

Jennifer Herrera introduced Tony Smith with Carollo Engineers - the sub consultant company Region J will be using for the 2021 plan for the surface water portion of the Plan. Mr. Smith spoke briefly regarding Carollo Engineers and some of the work they have done in the past and what they intend to do for Region J.

XVI. **Introduction of the Goldwater Project — a statewide effort to quantify and project water conservation savings. (Kip Averitt)**

Mr. Averitt stated that the agenda item submitted incorrectly stated he would be speaking about the Goldwater project; however he was here to speak about a research project that's sponsored by the Water Development Board. The nature of the project relates to water conservation. He

stated they would be going door to door in 233 cities through the state that the Water Development Board has identified as the target utilities. They would collect data to determine how much water people are saving with their conservation strategies. He said 2 of the cities they will be visiting are Kerrville and Del Rio and they would have a report, specific to Region J, which will give an idea of what's going on in the Region. The report will identify the actual million gallons per year of savings. They hope to be done by mid-summer (but are required to be done by the end of August). He stated that they will submit something to the Group prior to the report being finalized to ensure they have missed anything.

XVII. Presentation regarding Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) programs. (Aaron Wendt)

Aaron Wendt spoke briefly regarding their organization and its responsibilities. He then went on to discuss two of the programs offered by the TSSWCB:

Water Supply Enhancement Program – is part of the State Water Supply Enhancement Plan which is the state's comprehensive strategy for dealing with brush wherever it's a water conservation problem. It must be updated every two years.

Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program – was passed in the last Legislative session and deals controlling Carrizo Cane (only on the Rio Grande) for border security purposes.

Mr. Buck stated it was a very good program and that UGRA partnered with them to incentivize brush management in Kerr County.

XVIII. Presentation on recent revisions to the TWDB's regional water planning administrative rules regarding the use of a Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) Peak. (Lann Bookout)

This item was passed on until the next meeting.

XIX. Discuss remaining planning activities.

The next meeting will be in early July.

XX. Set next meeting.

No action.