

MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG)
(REGION "M") MEETING - 10:30 A.M. – THURSDAY JANUARY 10, 2008
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER BOARD ROOM
510 S. PLEASANTVIEW DR., WESLACO, TX**

PRESIDING: GLENN JARVIS, CHAIRMAN

Chairman Glenn Jarvis called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting had been posted as required by statute, and then stated that a quorum was present. The following voting members were in attendance:

Board Members

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman
Jim Darling, Vice Chairman
Sonia Najera
Charles W. Browning
Joe Guerra
Sonny Hinojosa
Sonia Kaniger,
Ray Prewett
Gary Whittington
Commissioner John Wood

Category

Other
River Authorities
Environmental
Water Utilities
Electric Generating Utility
Water Districts
Water Districts
Agriculture
Industries
Counties

The following members were not in attendance:

Robert E. Fulbright, Executive Committee
Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary
Roberto Gonzalez, Executive Committee
Judge Jose Aranda
John Bruciak
James R. Matz
Donald K. McGee
Adrian Montemayor

Agriculture
Public
Municipalities
Counties
Municipalities
Others
Small Business
Municipalities

After calling the meeting to order Chairman Jarvis moved to item 2. – Consider Approval of the November 8, 2007 Meeting Minutes. ***Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Com. John Wood seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of action on item 2, Chairman Jarvis moved to item 3. – Hear Public Comment. As there were no Public Comments the Chairman moved to item 4. – Consider Revision of Region M By-laws RE: Member Terms. Mr. Ken Jones was recognized and reminded the Group that at the last meeting there was interest in modifying the bylaws for those members

whose terms were ending this month (January 2008). Mr. Jones noted that a member was not officially off the Board until a replacement was found and approved by the Group. The Group expressed an interest in providing an opportunity to those interested members to continue service for another four year term. Mr. Jones stated that in a memo included in the meeting folders, the following amendment to bylaws section 5, Attendance was suggested: "Those Persons completing two consecutive terms may petition the RGRWPG to serve additional terms." Mr. Jones explained that this phrasing was broad enough to be flexible for the member yet still allowed for approval by the Group. Mr. Ray Prewett asked if more specific language would be appropriate. Mr. Jim Darling checked the current bylaws and suggested "approval upon a *majority* vote by the Group may grant a member an additional term". Mr. Prewett suggested using a members' previous attendance as a criterion for granting an extra term. Mr. Jones referenced section 5 of the current bylaws and recited the third sentence, "Voting members of the RGRWPG that have recorded absences from three consecutive meetings and/or hearings, or at least one-half of the sum of all meetings and hearings in the preceding twelve months, shall be considered to have engaged in excessive absenteeism and shall be subject to removal from membership under Section 7 of this Article". Mr. Jones stated that the Group had been lenient with this rule in the past. Mr. Prewett suggested a Bylaws Committee meet and make a recommendation to the Group at the next meeting. The following Group members volunteered to be on the Bylaws Committee: Mr. Jim Darling, Chairman; Mr. Ray Prewett; and Mr. Charles Browning. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Mr. Ray Prewett made a motion to table this item until the Bylaws Committee recommended an amendment. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a unanimous vote this item was tabled.***

Upon conclusion of discussion on item 4, Chairman Jarvis moved to item 5. – Reports from Federal and State Agencies.

Regarding item 5.A. – TWDB, Chairman Jarvis recognized Ms. Kathleen Ligon. Ms. Ligon informed the Group that Regions A and O were also considering amending their bylaws regarding member terms. Ms. Ligon then stated that a list of 15-30 minute long TWDB Training Modules for Regional Water Planning Groups was included in the meeting folders and were available to interested Groups. The Group expressed an interest in module 9. Agricultural Water Conservation Programs, Including Agricultural Demonstration Initiative; module 12. Water Conservation Best Management Practices – Who, What, When, Where, and How (Agricultural & Municipal); and module 3. Population and Water Demand Projections. Ms. Ligon agreed to coordinate the training with the Group's meeting schedule.

Ms. Ligon then advised the Group that the draft RFP was up for consideration at the next Board meeting scheduled for the end of the month. This RFP included a combination of base or formula-type funding for planning groups with a portion that would be competitive. One factor used to create the base formula funding for each of the regions was whether or not cities within the regions exceeded the projected populations. The TWDB used the recently released state census figures to evaluate which cities exceeded over 5% of the projected population growth, and that is how the Board would determine whether it needed to revise population. Chairman Jarvis asked if the faster growing regions would have an advantage regarding funding. Ms. Ligon answered in the affirmative and added that there were quite a few cities in the Region M area that exceeded projections. In conclusion Ms. Ligon stated that the draft RFP would be published in February, and Region M had until mid June to prepare its Scope of Work. TWDB staff would then review submittals in August and negotiate contracts by November 2008.

Regarding item 5.B. – IBWC, the Chairman recognized Mr. Rick Reyes who attended on behalf of Commissioner Carlos Marin. Mr. Reyes read the current status of IBWC projects. At the conclusion of Mr. Reyes' report Mr. Ray Prewett asked if there was any study in process regarding flooding potential on a regional basis. Mr. Charles Browning stated that the Valley Water Committee had looked at flooding potential along the Rio Grande on a multi-county basis, and suggested Mr. Godfrey Garza would be a good contact for this information. Chairman Jarvis stated that the RGRWA would have the authority to create a plan. Mr. Prewett asked Ms. Sonia Kaniger, also the Vice President of the RGRWA, to pass on the recommendation for the RGRWA to perform a study on flooding on a regional basis.

Regarding item 5.C. – TCEQ Watermaster, Chairman Jarvis recognized Mr. Ed Vela who attended on behalf of Mr. Carlos Rubinstein; Mr. Vela then read the Water Master's report. At the conclusion of the report Mr. Ray Prewett stated that the production of bio-fuels required a significant amount of water and suggested that category might need to be included in the planning session. Mr. Prewett stated that he had contacts at Texas A&M University and would like them to make a presentation at a Region M meeting on this topic. Chairman Jarvis agreed that would be prudent. Mr. Jones suggested Mr. Prewett send contact information for the appropriate staff at Texas A&M so he could coordinate said presentation.

Regarding item 4.D. – TPWD, Chairman Jarvis recognized Mr. Lingo, Mr. Lingo stated that he had no report at this time.

Upon conclusion of reports from Federal and State Agencies Chairman Jarvis moved to item 6. – Status Reports. Regarding item 6.A. – Report on Current TWDB Contract Activities Mr. Jake White was recognized and stated that one of the stipulations in the current contract with TWDB was that current projects need to be completed by the end of the 2008 calendar year; not completing these projects in that timeframe would compromise the RFP for Phase II of the Third Round of Regional Water Planning. NRS Consulting Engineers was finalizing a schedule that would allow completion of current projects prior to the RFP due date. Mr. White stated that the first project is the Water Rights Study and staff was coordinating a meeting with Carlos Rubenstein, TCEQ Watermaster and Mr. Bob Brandes. Under consideration was the possibility of conducting a workshop in mid January or February to discuss specific WAM runs for the study Mr. Brandes' was conducting.

Mr. White stated that the next project was Evaluation of Irrigation Districts as WUG's or WWP's for inclusion in the next plan. Mr. White emphasized the importance of having a recommendation on this issue made prior to submitting the RFP. This item was only funded 50% on the initial application, so follow-up may be required. Mr. White stated that Mr. Mike Irlbeck would spearhead this project; and current activities included tabulating data acquired in the last round of planning, and reviewing previously completed projects the Bureau of Reclamation conducted and evaluation the water conservation/water savings of each project. Mr. White stated that staff obtained maps and aerial photography that would assist in evaluation of urbanization in the region and what impact that has had. This information would be tied in with Irrigation District facts and figures currently on hand as they relate to urbanization and exclusion.

Mr. White next discussed Groundwater Management Areas (GMA) and the recommendation being developed for Regional Water Planning and interpreting groundwater availability. GMA 16 is predominate over Region M and stated that they could not meet the January 1st deadline for providing TWDB with their analysis and have asked for an extension until May 16th. Chairman Jarvis stated that GMA 16 has been very active. The Region N Group

sent a letter to GMA 16 stating that they would use GMA 16's data on groundwater and their desired future conditions if it is available by May 16th. Region N has also enquired if Region M would consider same. Mr. White stated that there would be no issue incorporating that information and that it would not affect the Scope of Work. Chairman Jarvis stated the Group could possibly write a letter to that effect but no action was necessary at this point, and suggested this item remain on the agenda with no action taken at this time.

Regarding item 6.A.1. – Update on Exercises for Task 3 in the Scope of Work, this item was discussed under the previous item.

Chairman Jarvis then moved to item 6.B.1. – Reports from Liaisons with Region E, J, L & N. The Chairman stated that the other Groups continued to go through the same process as the Region M Group.

Chairman Jarvis then moved to item 6. C. – Discussion RE: Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA-16 Under HB 1763 (2005). This item was discussed under item 6.A.

The Chairman then moved to item 7 – Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule. Upon conclusion of discussion it was the consensus of the Board that the next meeting would be scheduled for 10:00 a.m., to allow for training, on Wednesday March 19, 2008 at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room in Weslaco, Texas.

Chairman Jarvis then moved to item 7 – New or Old Business. Mr. Jones was recognized and with regret informed the Group that Mr. Xavier Villarreal resigned his position with the Group. Mr. Ray Prewett made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Xavier Villarreal. Mr. Garry Wittington seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

As there was no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman

Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary