

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG) (REGION "M")

11:00 A.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2010

LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER BOARD ROOM
510 S. PLEASANTVIEW DR., WESLACO, TX
PRESIDING: GLENN JARVIS, CHAIRMAN

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Glenn Jarvis called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. and announced that the meeting had been posted as required by statute and a quorum was present. The following voting members were in attendance:

Board Members

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman
Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary
Charles W. Browning
Ella de la Rosa
Sonny Hinojosa
Sonia Lambert
Donald K. McGhee
Ray Prewett
Gary Whittington
Tomas Rodriguez

Category

Other
Public
Water Utilities
Electric Generating Utility
Water Districts
Water Districts
Small Business
Agriculture
Industries
Municipalities

The following members were not in attendance:

Jim Darling, Vice Chairman
Robert E. Fulbright, Executive Committee
Roberto Gonzalez
John Bruciak
Sonia Najera
Commissioner John Wood
Carlos Garza

River Authorities
Agriculture
Municipalities
Municipalities
Environmental
Counties
Small Business

2. Consider Approval of January 14, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sonny Hinojosa made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Don McGhee seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Hear Public Comment

There being no Public Comments Chairman Jarvis moved to the next item.

4. Consider Approval RE: Amendment(s) and Restatement of RGRWPG By-laws

Chairman Jarvis noted that Article XVI of the amended and restated Bylaws was a resolution, which has been made a part of these minutes. This resolution adopts these restated Bylaws that incorporates all amendments as of March 31, 2010. ***Ms. Sonia Lambert made a motion for approval of the amended and restated bylaws and of the resolution adopting and amending RGRWPG By-laws as presented. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

5. Status Reports

A. Report on TWDB Contract Activities

1. Status of Deliverables and Expenditures under Current Contract

Mr. White reported that the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) was delivered to TWDB and staff continues to work with TWDB on the data base.

2. Review and Discussion of Initially Prepared Plan (IPP)

Mr. White stated that the IPP was reviewed during the workshop preceding this business meeting. Some corrections and revisions were recommended and will be incorporated as soon as possible. Chairman Jarvis suggested resuming the workshop and review of the IPP upon adjournment of the business meeting.

3. Drought of Record and Future Water Planning

There was no new information to report.

4. Follow-up on WIF Loan Program

Mr. White had no new information on this item at this time.

5. San Felipe Springs Project

Mr. Jake White was recognized and reminded the Group that at the last meeting a draft of the San Felipe Springs Study was presented. Mr. White then introduced Mr. Bill Stein, LBG Guyton and turned the floor over to him for a more thorough presentation of the findings.

Mr. Stein gave a brief history of the springs then summarized the findings illustrated in charts and graphs detailing rainfall, water use, and inflows and outflows. The conclusion of the study is that the San Felipe Springs system has accounted for approximately 8% of the total volume of water to the Rio Grande near Del Rio. Currently the bigger threat to future flows from San Felipe Springs into the Rio Grande is the possibility of expanded irrigation or large scale commercial endeavors to produce and supply groundwater to entities outside the county. The impact of increased groundwater withdrawal from new wells to spring flow is difficult to predict but is dependent on the proximity of the withdrawal location to the springs and the impact should be minimal.

Upon conclusion of the presentation Ms. Connie Townsend, TWDB recommended this report be included in the Regional Water Plan. Chairman

Jarvis commented that this presentation should also be given to the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA). After the RGRWA has seen it this group can determine if there is anything further that needs to be done with it.

B. Discussion RE: Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA's 4, 5, 7 13 & 16 Under HB 1763 (2005)

Chairman Jarvis stated that letters have been prepared and are pending signature to send to GMA's 13 and 16 in order to open communications with those groups.

C. Discussion of IBWC Water Accounting at Fort Quitman

Mr. Herman Settemeyer was unable to attend and no report was provided at this time.

D. Reports RE: Other Water Planning Groups

1. Reports from Liaisons with Regions E, J, L, & N

Chairman Jarvis reported that the other Groups are also working on their IPPs and Public Hearings.

E. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region

No new plans have been received since the last meeting.

F. Voting Member Vacancies

Mr. Jones noted that in the Board folders was a list of dates on which nominations ads had run and what newspapers they were in. Chairman Jarvis suggested the Group may need to be more aggressive in recruiting. Maybe a Nominations Committee would be in order or posting the vacancies on the website. Mr. Jones volunteered to call each of the county judges to make them aware of the vacancies to get nominations, as well as spreading the word about the vacancy in the small business category.

6. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

A. TWDB

Ms. Connie Townsend stated that in addition to what has already been discussed she informed the Group that TWDB staff is currently reviewing the IPPs and she received a comment to relay to the Group before she left the Austin office: The information in DB 12 is correct, but in the Region M IPP some of the tables are not summing correctly. It appears that data from DB 12 is not being used to make those tables; this has resulted in occasional summing errors. Ms. Townsend stated that if data different from DB 12 was wanted to have been used in the IPP then a request of that nature should have been made of the TWDB. Mr. White assured Ms. Townsend that this item will be addressed and rectified.

B. IBWC

No IBWC representative was present and no report was provided.

C. TCEQ

No representative from TCEQ was present and the Chairman noted that the report on reservoir levels was in the Board folders.

1. Status of Water Availability Model (WAM) for Mexico
No report was provided at this time.

D. TPWD

Mr. Willy Cupit stated that there was no new information to report at this time.

11. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

It was the consensus of the Group to wait until after the workshop scheduled for April 21 to set a date for the next meeting.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Group the meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman

Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary