

MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG)
(REGION "M") MEETING - 10:30 A.M. – THURSDAY APRIL 16, 2008
WESLACO CITY HALL – LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
255 S KANSAS, 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
Robert E. Fulbright, Executive Committee
John Bruciak
Sonia Najera
Charles W. Browning
Joe Guerra
Sonny Hinojosa
Sonia Kaniger,
James R. Matz
Donald K. McGee
Ray Prewett
Gary Whittington
Commissioner John Wood

Category

Other
River Authorities
Agriculture
Municipalities
Environmental
Water Utilities
Electric Generating Utility
Water Districts
Water Districts
Others
Small Business
Agriculture
Industries
Counties

The following members were not in attendance:

Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary
Roberto Gonzalez, Executive Committee
Judge Jose Aranda
Adrian Montemayor

Public
Municipalities
Counties
Municipalities

After calling the meeting to order Chairman Jarvis moved to item 2. – Consider Approval of the January 10, 2008 Meeting Minutes. ***Ms. Sonia Kaniger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Gary Whittington seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Jarvis then 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 (tabled 1/10/08). ***Ms. Sonia Kaniger made a motion to remove this item from the table; Mr. Jim Darling seconded and this item was removed from the table.***

Chairman Jarvis stated that the Bylaws Committee met on March 13, 2008 and made a recommendation, which was in a memo in the folders. Mr. Ken Jones was recognized and summarized the recommendation. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Ray Prewett made a motion for approval to revise the bylaws section 2 regarding Member Terms with the addition of the following sentences at the end of the paragraph: "Those persons completing two consecutive terms may petition the RGRWPG to serve additional terms. A two-thirds vote by the members is required for approval of a petition for additional terms."** Mr. James Matz seconded the motion and upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.

Upon conclusion of action on item 4, Chairman Jarvis moved to item 5. – Presentation RE: HCDD #1 Recapture Program and recognized Mr. Godfrey Garza. Mr. Garza then stated that the purpose of the Water Resource Development Project was to develop a comprehensive water development plan to utilize Hidalgo County's existing drainage and flood control system as well as additional facilities to collect rainfall runoff and shallow groundwater discharges for beneficial uses without compromising the primary functions of the existing drainage and flood control systems. No action taken at this time.

Upon conclusion of presentation Chairman Jarvis moved to item 6. – Reports from Federal and State Agencies.

Regarding item 6.A. – TWDB, Chairman Jarvis recognized Mr. David Meeseey who introduced Ms. Connie Townsend, the new TWDB Liaison and informed the Group that Ms. Kathleen Ligon, the previous Liaison had taken over the planning grant program.

Regarding item 6.B. – IBWC, Com. Carlos Marin provided a written report but was unable to attend; however, Chairman Jarvis summarized the report to the Group. Mr. Godfrey Garza added information regarding the levee improvement progress.

Regarding item 6.C. – TCEQ Watermaster, Chairman Jarvis recognized Mr. Erasmo Yarrita who attended on behalf of Mr. Carlos Rubinstein; Mr. Yarrita then read the Water Master's report on reservoir levels.

Regarding item 6.D. – TPWD, Chairman Jarvis recognized Ms. Bianca Carlson who attended on behalf of Mr. Mark Lingo; Ms. Carlson stated that there was no report at this time.

Chairman Jarvis moved to item 7. – Discussion RE: Possible Presentation of Development of Monthly Water Accounting System for the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman. The Chairman informed the Group that a study was done regarding the accounting system used by the IBWC on the accounting between Mexico, the United States and Texas. The purpose of the report was to explain the modernization of the accounting method to become computer friendly in order to post information on internet websites as well as other electronic functions. The part of the project this Group would be interested in is the overall operational system. This relates to the projects this Group is doing because this is a Water Management System, and it is the crux of how this region receives water. Mr. Bob Brandes has agreed to give a presentation on this topic at the May 28, 2008 meeting. No action taken at this time.

Upon conclusion of reports from Federal and State Agencies Chairman Jarvis moved to item 8. – Status Reports, item 8.A. – Report on Current TWDB Contract Activities.

Regarding item 8.A.1. – Update on Exercises for Task 3 in the Scope of Work, Mr. Bob

Brandes will discuss this item at the May 28, 2008 meeting.

Regarding item 8.A.2. – Discuss and Consider Action RE: Draft Scope of Work and Budget for Phase II of Third Round of Regional Water Planning. Mr. Norris was recognized and asked Mr. Meesey that since this is the third round of planning does the Group need to submit a supplement to the plan, or does the plan need to be completely rewritten? Mr. Meesey informed the Group that a full approvable plan in draft needed to be produced by March 2010. Mr. Norris then turned the floor over to Mr. Jake White who gave a presentation on each task of the Scope of Work. Mr. White stated that the key term of this Scope of Work is “Changed Conditions”; as many tasks would need justification for funding due to a change in previous conditions. Regarding Task 1, Mr. White asked Mr. Meesey if information on Architectural, Archeological, and Cultural land marks could be included in the plan; to which Mr. Meesey responded that with a good case it would fit in Task 1. Mr. White then proceeded with the presentation detailing Tasks 1 – 8 of the Scope of Work. Upon conclusion of the presentation Mr. Ken Jones asked when the Scope of Work would be available to the Public. Mr. Norris stated that the Scope of Work should be available in two to three weeks and would be posted on the Region M website. At the conclusion of discussion **Commissioner John Wood made a motion to authorize NRS Consulting Engineers to move forward with the proposed draft of the Scope of Work. Mr. Ray Prewett seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Jarvis then moved to item 8.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 8.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 9 – Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule. Chairman Jarvis stated that the next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2008 immediately following the Public Meeting at 10:30 a.m. at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room in Weslaco, Texas. Mr. Jones added that the RGRWA scheduled a Joint meeting with the Conference at 9:00 a.m. the same morning, at the same location and invited the Group to attend that meeting as well.

Chairman Jarvis then moved to item 10 – New or Old Business. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman

Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary