

MINUTES

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

10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009

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 10:48 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
Jim Darling, Vice Chairman
Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary
Jorge Barrera, alternate for Roberto Gonzalez
John Bruciak
Charles W. Browning
Sonny Hinojosa
Sonia Lambert
Donald K. McGhee
Tomas Rodriguez
Ray Prewett
Gary Whittington
Commissioner John Wood

Category

Other
River Authorities
Public
Municipalities
Municipalities
Water Utilities
Water Districts
Water Districts
Small Business
Municipalities
Agriculture
Industries
Counties

The following members were not in attendance:

Robert E. Fulbright, Executive Committee
Judge Jose Aranda
Sonia Najera
Joe Guerra
James R. Matz
Carlos Garza

Agriculture
Counties
Environmental
Electric Generating Utility
Others
Small Business

2. Consider Approval of September 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sonny Hinojosa made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Ms. Sonia Lambert 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. Public Meeting to Consider Proposed Revisions to Population and Water Demand Projections (Phase II of the Third Round of Regional Water Planning)

Chairman Jarvis recessed the regular meeting and opened the Public Meeting at 10:50 a.m. Mr. Jake White was recognized and reminded the Group that staff sent surveys to all Water User Groups (WUGs) in the region requesting information pertaining to population and population projections for use in the current round of regional water planning. For some entities the Texas State Data center statistics indicated more rapid growth than projected in the 2006 State Water Plan. In the survey each entity was given the option of using the State Data Center projections, the State Water Plan projections, or to develop their own set of population projections. Mr. White then summarized the results of the survey and stated that staff recommended the following: 1) use the information provided by the cities that responded to the surveys; 2) use the State Data Center projections for cities that did not respond to the survey but were identified by the State Data Center as exceeding the population projections; and 3) use the original 2006 State Water Plan projections for all other entities the state did not identify as exceeding their population projections.

Upon conclusion of discussion from the Group Chairman Jarvis requested comments from the public. There being none, the Chairman closed the public meeting at 11:45 a.m. and resumed the regular Board meeting.

Chairman Jarvis stated that due to deadline constraints a decision would need to be made at this meeting, and then moved to agenda item 7.A.3. – Revisions to Population Projections. Ms. Connie Townsend, TWDB, suggested adopting a portion of this recommendation, which represents a 5% increase in population changes. Only 3% of that change is actually from new population, the other 2% composes County Other and redistributing into another group, which should be done during the next planning cycle. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Commissioner John Wood made a motion to use 3% of the 5% increase in population projections and redistribute the remaining 2% from County Other to another group during the next planning cycle. Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

5. Presentation RE: Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan and Watershed Partnership

Chairman Jarvis recognized Mr. Jaime Flores. Mr. Flores informed the Group that part of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan and Watershed Partnership (Partnership) is to educate people on the purpose of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed and how it affects the every day lives of the residents in the Rio Grande Valley. The Partnership's current activities include Habitat Restoration and Wastewater Infrastructure, Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), Urban BMPs, Outreach and Education, and Water Quality Monitoring. Additional goals include Wastewater Infrastructure and Habitat Restoration.

6. RGRWPG Membership

A. Consider Advertisement RE: Vacancies in County and Electric Generating Utility Categories

Chairman Jarvis stated that there are two vacancies created with the resignation of Judge Jose Aranda representing counties and the retirement of Mr. Joe Guerra

representing Electric Generating Utilities and that newspaper advertisements need to be placed in the eight counties served by the Region M Group to fill these vacancies. ***Ms. Mary Lou Campbell made a motion to authorize staff to advertise to fill these two positions. Mr. Gary Whittington seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

7. Status Reports

A. Report on TWDB Contract Activities

1. Status of Deliverables and Expenditures under Current Contract

Mr. White was recognized and state that he had brought hard copies and CD copies of the revised Chapter 1 of the Region M Regional Water Plan. Chapter 1 contains general back ground information on the Region M area and staff incorporated new elements such as updates to the endangered species list, including information on the Border Fence. Mr. White stated that the information presented today was for review for consideration at the next Board meeting and staff plans to break down the revisions to the Regional Water Plan on a chapter by chapter basis. Staff expects to have drafts of chapters 2 and 3 available by the next meeting. No action.

2. Consider Amendment to Current Contract RE: San Felipe Springs Work Task

Mr. Ken Jones was recognized and stated that the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) funding the San Felipe Springs Work Task would be a direct relationship between Region M and the RGRWA; the amendment would be to Region M's current contract with NRS to include this work task with the funding coming from the RGRWA. Mr. White stated that staff in the NRS Contracts Department was working diligently to ensure the wording in the amendment reflects that this is not a task funded by TWDB. Chairman Jarvis noted that the Group has referred to this item as San Felipe Springs when actually the study will be on the alluvial aquifer connected to the San Felipe Springs. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Ms. Sonia Lambert made a motion for approval to amend the current contract regarding the San Felipe Springs Work Task. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

3. Revisions to Population Projections

This item was covered during the Public Meeting

4. Status on Classification of Irrigation Districts as WUGs/WWPs

No new information was available at this time.

B. Committee Report on Classification of Irrigation Districts as WUGs/WWPs

Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, Committee Chairman was recognized and stated that the Committee met and discussed this issue since the last meeting and recommends continuing under the classification of County Wide and noted that there is an ability to have subdivisions under that category in which each irrigation district could be named as a subdivision under County Wide. Chairman Jarvis stated that the purpose of considering this item was to try and identify each irrigation district in such a way that their individual supply and demand, figures and water management strategies could be dealt with separately. The Group discovered in congruities with the TWDB rules and

TCEQ rules, but after studying said rules and how they all fit into the planning process, the Committee developed the solution that within the TWDB Rules the Group can take sub-units of County Other and identify them with separate water management strategies. The Chairman noted that Ms. Townsend participated in these discussions, and TWDB will need to be advised of the Group's decision. This will be an addendum to the study that was already completed. ***Mr. Ray Prewett made a motion for approval of the recommendation by the Committee on Classification of Irrigation Districts as presented. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

C. Discussion RE: Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA – 16 Under HB 1763 (2005)

Chairman Jarvis stated that there was no further report available on this item at this time.

D. Discussion of IBWC Water Accounting at Fort Quitman

Chairman Jarvis stated that he met with Mr. Herman Settemeyer, TCEQ and Mr. Steve Niemeyer, the TCEQ Border Representative and stated that they are coordinating efforts to have a summer intern conduct research on this item.

E. Reports RE: Other Water Planning Groups

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

Chairman Jarvis stated that there was no new information to report at this time.

F. Report on LRGVDC/RGRWA Activities

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

Mr. Jones was recognized and stated that the Group received a Water Conservation Plan from Olmito Water Supply Corporation and an Amended Plan from the City of Laredo.

8. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

A. TWDB

Ms. Townsend was recognized and noted that Amendment 2 to Contract No. 0904830872 had been received by the LRGVDC Staff, and Mr. Jones noted that the amendment was promptly signed and returned to TWDB for completion of execution. Ms. Townsend brought the Group's attention to information in the folders on the Water Conservation Advisory Council's (WACA) activities noting that his might be of interest to the Region M Group.

B. IBWC

Rodolfo Montero gave a brief update on IBWC projects currently underway.

C. TCEQ

No representation from TCEQ was available for this meeting due to planned activities from the swearing in ceremony for Carlos Rubenstein as Commissioner of TCEQ.

D. TPWD

No representative was present and no report was available at this time.

8. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

It was the consensus of the Group to schedule the next meetings for Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

10. New or Old Business

There being no further business to come before the Group, Chairman Jarvis adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman

Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary