

# MINUTES

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG)  
(REGION "M") MEETING - 10:30 A.M. – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2007  
MISSION CITY HALL – COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM  
1201 E. 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET – MISSION, TEXAS**

**PRESIDING: GLENN JARVIS, CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Glenn Jarvis called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m., 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  
Robert E. Fulbright, Executive Committee  
John Bruciak  
Sonia Najera  
Charles W. Browning  
Sonny Hinojosa  
Sonia Kaniger  
James R. Matz  
Donald K. McGee  
Gary Whittington  
Commissioner John Wood

Category

Other  
Agriculture  
Municipalities  
Environmental  
Water Utilities  
Water Districts  
Water Districts  
Others  
Small Business  
Industries  
Counties

The following members were not in attendance:

Jim Darling, Vice Chairman  
Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary  
Roberto Gonzalez, Executive Committee  
Judge Jose Aranda  
Joe Guerra  
Adrian Montemayor  
Ray Prewett  
Xavier Villarreal

River Authorities  
Public  
Municipalities  
Counties  
Electric Generating Utility  
Municipalities  
Agriculture  
Small Business

After calling the meeting to order Chairman Jarvis moved to item 2. – Consider Approval of the September 21, 2007 Meeting Minutes. ***Mr. John Bruciak 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. – Reports from Federal and State Agencies.

Regarding item 4.A. – TWDB, Chairman Jarvis recognized Ms. Kathleen Ligon. Ms.

Ligon asked the Group's permission to defer to her co-workers from TWDB Marketing and Finance, and give her report at the end of their presentation.

The Chairman then moved to item 4.A.1. – Presentation RE: TWDB Financial Programs. Ms. Ligon introduced Mr. Bruce Crawford, Ms. Francia Harutunian and Ms. Earleen Baker who gave a comprehensive presentation on financial strategies for a variety of water projects.

Upon conclusion of the presentation Ms. Ligon began her report to the Group and distributed information on the Projected Regional Water Planning Timeline (2007-2011). Ms. Ligon stated that the TWDB was currently in the first phase of the third round of planning, and preparing for the second phase of the third round of planning. The Board was developing RFPs for the second phase which should be completed in January 2008. Ms. Ligon also distributed revisions of rules which were a result of changes in the legislation and explained that one of the major changes was to rule 357.06 which expedited the amendment process for minor amendments to water plans. Ms. Ligon also informed the Group that TWDB was developing training modules covering various topics; information on these training modules would be sent to all the water planning groups. One module would cover the basics of regional water planning, which Ms. Ligon suggested would be appropriate for new Region M Group members.

Regarding item 4.B. – IBWC, Commissioner Carlos Marin was unable to attend; however, Mr. Robert Ramos was recognized and gave the IBWC report in his stead. Mr. Charles Browning asked about the proposed 7-10 foot height increase to some areas of the levee system, and wanted to know if the height of the levee was controlled by treaty. Chairman Jarvis stated that the levee height would not be in the treaty itself, but rather in a minute order, and that height was not specifically identified.

Regarding item 4.C. – TCEQ Watermaster, no one from the Watermaster's office was in attendance; Chairman Jarvis stated that the weekly reservoir level report was in the folders.

Regarding item 4.D. – TPWD, Mr. Mark Lingo was unable to attend; no report was available.

Chairman Jarvis then moved to item 5. – Status Reports.

Regarding item 5A. – Report on Current TWDB Contract Activities and recognized Mr. Bill Norris. Mr. Norris then turned the floor over to Mr. Bob Brandes. Mr. Brandes distributed information on Task 3 in the Scope of Work for 2007 and explained the results of the exercises staff conducted. Upon conclusion of Mr Brandes' presentation Chairman Jarvis commented that the rules that govern these types of exercises were derived from data from the 1950's as the drought of record. The Chairman speculated that data from the recent drought might prove more useful for planning purposes, and that this exercise may provide new insight into the Group's strategies. Chairman Jarvis then suggested conducting an exercise that made assumptions based on use and population using data from the recent drought, because the municipalities that had sufficient water rights did not experience water shortages, then increase the projected use in connection with projected population growth to see what that outcome might be. Mr. Brandes stated that was somewhat done in the plan, but revisiting it might be beneficial; in the plan staff took the projected municipal demands by decade through 2060 and imposed those on the system and then calculated yield, the balance being irrigation water. The

results showed municipal supply going up and firm supply of irrigation water going down. Mr. Charles Browning suggested the possibility of using data from either the year 2000 or 2005 because a lot of municipal rights were used during those years. Mr. Jarvis suggested using actual use figures as opposed to using water rights data. At the conclusion of discussion Mr. Brandes stated he would make a summary of today's discussion, create exercises using the suggested changes and present the results at the next meeting. No action taken.

Regarding item 5.A.1. – Respond to TWDB Request for Information RE: Fiscal Years 2007 and 2009. Mr. Jake White was recognized and stated that the TWDB was asking for insight into what the different regions would want for the biennium (2008-2009) for the 2011 Plan. Ms. Kathleen Ligon stated that the responses would be compiled and used in the development of the Request for Proposals that would be distributed in December 2007. Mr. White then went over the questions and responses and asked for feedback from the Group. Regarding the first question it was the consensus of the Group to emphasize changing conditions as opposed to providing a blanket statement. For the second question Chairman Jarvis suggested adding “follow through”, especially regarding Task 3 in the Scope of Work, as well as the addition of verbiage regarding the ramifications of the groundwater house bill. The answer to the third question was consistent with a previous letter the Group sent to TWDB and there were no changes to the answer for the fourth question. At the conclusion of the discussion **Mr. Robert Fulbright made a motion for approval of the letter of response subject to the modifications the Group discussed. Mr. Gary Whittington seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Regarding item 5.A.2. – Consider Amendment to Contract RE: NRS Consulting Engineers. Mr. Jones was recognized and stated that staff was notified by the TWDB that an amendment to the Group's current agreement with NRS must be made in order to process reimbursement requests under the current grant. These changes reflected the inclusion of standard TWDB contract language. **Com. John Wood made a motion for approval of the amendment to the NRS Consulting Engineers contract. Ms. Sonia Kaniger seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action Chairman Jarvis moved to item 5.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. Ms. Ligon noted that Region E was planning a conference in the spring to address global warming as it related to Region E, and added that the TWDB was planning a statewide conference on global warming; a date had yet to be set.

Chairman Jarvis then moved to item 5. C. – Discussion RE: Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA-16 Under HB 1763 (2005). Chairman Jarvis stated he found articles in a Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) magazine and the newsletter from the TWDB that provided general information regarding groundwater issues under SB 1763. Chairman Jarvis asked Ms. Mary Sahs, Sahs & Associates, P.C., who represented some groundwater districts that are involved in this process to provide a brief report; that correspondence was in the folders along with the articles. Ms. Sahs' report was about the GMA-16 Joint Planning Committee meeting held October 25, 2007. Ms. Ligon stated she would contact Mr. Lonnie Stewart, who was the contact person for GMA-16, and request the Region M Group be added to their mailing list. Mr. Jarvis also asked Ms. Ligon to contact GMA 13 for the same reason, because part of Webb County is in that district. Mr. Jarvis stated that the TWDB encouraged all

Regional Water Planning Groups to attend GMA meetings and to stay involved with the DFC process. No action taken.

The Chairman then moved to item 6 – 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 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, 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 stated that there were several Group Members whose terms were set to expire in January 2008, and who, according to the current by-laws, were ineligible to serve another term. Mr. Jones suggested the by-laws could be revised to include three 5-year terms. Upon conclusion of discussion, it was the consensus of the Group to contact those members whose terms would expire, and who were ineligible to continue after January 2008, and determine if they would be interested in continuing service if the current bylaws were so revised. This item will be added to the January 2008 agenda; no action taken.

Regarding item 7.A. – Discussion RE: South Texas Fever Tick. Mr. Bob Fulbright stated that the general public was not aware of how great a threat the South Texas Fever Tick is to the U.S. cattle industry. If the tick became reestablished it would be impossible to eradicate because it would become resistant to the insecticides currently being used. Wildlife carried the tick from Mexico, across the Rio Grande River and into the United States where it infects domestic cattle mostly in the Starr County area and further west. Mr. Fulbright stated that this was more of an agricultural issue than a water issue, but asked the Group to consider including an item on the January 2008 agenda that considered support of a resolution in support of building the border fence from Rio Grande City to Del Rio. No action taken.

Regarding item 7.B. - Status Report RE: SB 1870 Mr. Fulbright stated that there was a section in SB 1870 that changed the definition of “navigable waters of the U.S.” to “waters of the U.S.”, which would give the government jurisdiction over small inland bodies of water. Mr. Fulbright reported that the last major action on this bill was taken on July 25, 2007 where it was referred to the committee on environmental and public works; no further action has been noted. Chairman Jarvis stated that the various water associations were keeping track of the activity on this Bill and while there may be issues regarding the germaneness of agricultural issues to Region M's duties, the Group needed to be kept informed of activities such as these.

As there was no further business to discuss the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

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**Glenn Jarvis, Chairman**

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**Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary**