

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG)**  
**REGIONAL WATER PLANNING REGION "M" MEETING**  
**10:00 A.M. - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2005**  
**MISSION CITY HALL - COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM**  
**1201 E. 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET - MISSION, TEXAS**

**PRESIDING: GLENN JARVIS, CHAIRMAN**

Draft - 10/24/2005

Chairman Glenn Jarvis called the meeting to order, announced that, as required by statute, notice of the meeting had been posted, and it was stated that a quorum of the voting members was present. Those attending were:

Glenn Jarvis, <i>Chairman</i> , Law Offices	Other
Charles W. Browning, Jr., <i>Vice-Chairman</i> , NAWSC	Water Utilities
Mary Lou Campbell, <i>Secretary</i> , Sierra Club	Public
Robert Fulbright	Agriculture
John Bruciak, Brownsville PUB	Municipalities
Karen Chapman ( <i>elected at this meeting</i> )	Environmental
Jim Darling, McAllen City Attorney	River Authorities
Kathleen Garrett ( <i>elected at this meeting</i> )	Electric Generating Utilities
Sonny Hinojosa, HCID #2	Water Districts
Sonia Kaniger, CCID #2	Water Districts
James R. Matz, Palm Valley	Others
Donald K. McGhee, Hydro Systems, Inc.	Small Business
Ray Prewett, Texas Citrus Mutual	Agriculture
Xavier Villarreal, T&J Office Supply	Small Business
Gary Whittington, Unifirst Linen Service	Industries
Commissioner John Wood, Cameron County	Counties

Voting Members not attending were: Messrs. Robert Gonzalez; Judge Jose Aranda; Donald M. McGhee; and Mr. Adrian Montemayor.

Following roll call, Chairman Jarvis moved to agenda item 2. - Consider Approval of August 17, 2005 Meeting Minutes, and called for a motion. **Mr. Robert Fulbright made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Xavier Villarreal seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

There were no requests for public comment; therefore, the Chairman asked Mr. Ken Jones to address agenda item 4. - Recognition of Outgoing Board Member. Mr. Jones informed the Group that staff had planned to present a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Jaime Gomez, outgoing member, however Mr. Gomez was unable to attend, and the presentation would be rescheduled for a future meeting.

The Chairman then moved to agenda item 5. - Regional Water Plan Development, and recognized Mr. Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers. Mr. Norris reported on agenda item 5.A. - Review of Draft Initially Prepared Plan - Comments Received. A summary of the comments was distributed to the Group (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). Mr. Norris addressed the following responses:

1. Informal comments from TPWD were formalized later in the list.
2. To comments submitted from Mr. James Matz regarding the Town of Palm Valley, NRS proposed modifying the actual water user group supply and demand table for the next planning round, with a note that Palm Valley Utility District will be changed to the Town of Palm Valley, and the population figure would be adjusted accordingly.
3. Brownsville Weir database error with firm yield had been corrected.
4. To Karen Chapman, Environmental Defense, Corrections to the Water Management Strategy (WMS) for Advanced Water Conservation will be made in this round of planning. Recommendations from the TPWD estuary study will be included in the next round of planning. Environmental flows were recommended by the planning group for inclusion in the next round of regional planning.
5. Corrections have been made to typos in the text - Chapter Two discovered by Jody Gilliam, Fernandez Group, Inc.
6. To Ernesto Reyes, US Fish & Wildlife Service Ecological Services, his suggestion of making a wildlife/environmental user category will be evaluated in the next round of regional planning. The acreage amounts will be corrected for the specific protected areas and refuge lands. There will be an environmental impact quantitative report that will be added to the WMSs for the comment on the strategies. There will be clarification on the statements made on the nutrient levels in the Laguna Madre and the Arroyo Colorado.
7. In response to comments from TPWD, 1) a quantitative reporting of environmental factors associated with each WMS will be included in this Plan; 2) best Management Practices were used in regard to Advanced Conservation. Advanced Conservation Writeup will be edited in this round of planning; 3) No action was taken by the Board to include a unique stream segment; and 4) Cumulative impacts to receiving waters

may be analyzed in future plans.

8. To TWDB, the entire Plan will be broken up into two levels for response.
9. To Mr. Charles Shea Cockrum, Taste Water Inc., due to a lack of information, dehumidification was not recommended as a WMS. This strategy will be looked at for inclusion into the next regional plan.

Some comments made at the meeting were:

Ms. Karen Chapman, Environmental Defense, stated that the section dealing with advanced conservation methods should be more comprehensive in explanation, and that environmental flows should be classified as a WUG. Mr. Norris responded that this would be considered during the next planning round. It was also agreed to ascertain if this recommendation was included in policy recommendations in the current plan.

Mr. Randy Blankinship, TPWD, stated that there was not a specific item in the plan currently that states the quantitative environmental impacts, and Mr. Norris responded that this comment would be addressed by developing data. Mr. Blankinship added that information on this issue should be developed even further in the future.

At this time, Mr. Norris addressed the comments from TWDB, and distributed a list of TWDB comments, *also included with these Minutes*. Mr. Robert Flores stated that the TWDB would comment on the data base in the Plan later this week. He also stated that the responses to comments should be submitted to TWDB in December, prior to submittal of the completed plan January 4-6, 2006.

Mr. Jarvis then provided Mr. Norris with a copy of comments on the Plan from the Texas Wildlife Association, to be included with the others. The letter addressed the issue of land stewardship, and Mr. Norris stated that he would include these comments with the others and present another summary at the next meeting.

Discussion then occurred during which Mr. Mary Lou Campbell referenced a Region M Resolution on support of the El Morillo Drain Rehabilitation funding, and Mr. Norris stated that he would include a copy of that resolution in the Plan to verify Region M's support. It was agreed that this would be one of the policy issues in the Plan.

At this time, Mr. Jarvis provided Mr. Norris with a copy of comments received from the Texas Wildlife Association. (A copy of these comments are included with these minutes.)

Mr. Norris agreed to address all comments, comply with requirements from TWDB within the time constraints, as well as email the Executive Summary to the Group Members. Following discussion, Chairman Jarvis addressed agenda item 5.B. - Authorize Executive Committee to Approve Changes Prior to Submission to Texas Water Development Board. He suggested that this item be tabled until there was further review of the Water Plan. ***Mr. Robert Fulbright so moved, Commissioner John Wood seconded, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

At the conclusion of action and following discussion, the Chairman moved to agenda item 6.A - Consider Nominations and Election of Representatives to fill Vacancies RE: "Environmental" Category, and recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones reported that two nominations had been received for this category: Ms. Karen Chapman, Environmental Defense, and Mr. Richard LeFevre, Environmental Specialist. At this time, **Mr. Gary Whittington formally recommended Karen Chapman to be appointed to fill the "Environmental Category," and Mr. James Matz seconded the recommendation.**

**Lt. Colonel Holcomb was recommended for the "Environmental" category by Mr. Xavier Villarreal, and Mr. Robert Fulbright nominated Lt. Colonel Holcomb.**

**Mr. Jim Darling moved that the nominations cease and a vote be called. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa seconded the motion; the Chairman called for a vote, and by a show of hands, Ms. Karen Chapman was elected to fill the "Environmental" slot.**

Mr. Jones then addressed agenda item 6.B. - "Electric Generating Utility" Category. He stated that only one nomination had been received, for a Ms. Kathleen Garrett to fill this category. **Mr. Robert Fulbright made a motion to elect Ms. Kathleen Garrett to fill the "Electric Generating Utility" category by acclamation. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion passed unanimously, and Ms. Garrett was elected to fill that voting category.**

At the conclusion of voting new members in, Chairman Jarvis moved to agenda item 7.A. - TWDB, and asked Mr. Robert Flores, TWDB, to report. Mr. Flores stated that the comment process was continuing, and there was a Strategic Planning Stakeholders Meeting scheduled next Wednesday. Mr. Bill Norris then reported that the TWDB had advertised for proposals from engineers/project managers to assist TWDB oversee piloting projects for the three desalination facilities, and this will probably be on the agenda at the next TWDB Meeting. Mr. Norris also reported that preliminary analyses had been completed for each of the three projects.

Following Mr. Flores' report and Mr. Norris' comments, Mr. Rick Reyes, IBWC was asked to address agenda item 7.B. - IBWC. Mr. Reyes reported the following:

"Effective September 30, 2005, Mexico paid off the water debt based on an agreement reached in a March 10, 2005 meeting. The payment of the deficit which existed since 1997, concluding eight years of extensive negotiations, discussion, and tension between the water users, the State of Texas, and the United States and Mexico federal governments. Based on the current cycle year (2004-2005), Mexico did not deliver the 350,000 acre-feet yearly average required under the Treaty; however, included in the March 2005 agreement was a statement placed which required Mexico to continue deliveries at Anzalduas, which can be beneficially used by the U.S. All waters received from this source will be credited to the above mentioned cycle year in order to reduce or eliminate any 2004-2005 cycle year deliveries pending as soon as possible. Mexico continues to delivery 5 cms from this source. Any flows arriving to the system from the tributaries will be credited to the 2005-2006 water year."

At the conclusion of Mr. Reyes' report, the Chairman asked Mr. Jones to address agenda item 7.B.1. - Consider Support of Carlos Marin as IBWC Commissioner. Mr. Jones informed the Group that, in follow-up to the last meeting discussions, a draft letter of support was included in the binders for consideration. **Mr. Robert Fulbright made a motion that Region M approve the letter of support for Mr. Marin to be signed by Mr. Jarvis, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Sonny Hinojosa.** At this time, Commissioner John Wood stated that he understood there was a local person also being considered for the position, and the group might want to consider the other person. It was agreed that if another candidate were to be considered by the Group, that issue could be brought before this Board at a later time. Then, following discussion, **and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

The Chairman then moved to agenda item 7.C. - TCEQ Watermaster's Report, and recognized Mr. Carlos Rubinstein, Regional Director, TCEQ. During his report, Mr. Rubinstein stated the following: At October 4, 2005 the combined water level in the reservoirs was 95.35%, or 3,200,000 acre-feet; there are 411,000 acre-feet of unallocated water at present; and there is a Binational Water Summit scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in Reynosa and McAllen, and Mr. Jarvis is to be one of the speakers.

Following Mr. Rubinstein's report and discussion, Mr. Randy Blankinship, TPWD, was recognized and asked to address agenda item 7.D. - TPWD. Mr. Blankinship reported that as part of the estuary inflows study, data collection is ongoing, and the current data covers a 30-year period. He added that older data was available, and that there was a TPWD Symposium scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Then, with regard to agenda item 8.A. - Legislative Update, upon being recognized, Mr. Ray Prewett reported that the legislation proposing funding additional projects has not yet passed, and Texas Water Day is again scheduled for 2006.

At the conclusion of Mr. Prewett's report, Chairman Jarvis reported on agenda item 9.A. - Reports from Liaisons with Regions E, J, L, & N. He stated that nothing the other groups were working on impacted Region M. Mr. Rubinstein mentioned at this time that, as an experiment, the Rio Grande Silver Minnow was being introduced into the river.

Following discussion, Mr. Jarvis moved to agenda item 10. - Discussion and Action RE: Meeting Schedule, and asked Mr. Jones to report. Following discussion, **A motion was made by Mr. James Matz to schedule November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005, respectively, for the next Region M Meetings, and, if possible, to have both meetings at Mission City Hall. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gary Whittington, and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Jarvis stated that the members not attending should be provided with that information presented at this meeting, and given a brief summary of the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. At this time, there being no further business to be conducted by the Group, Chairman Jarvis adjourned the meeting.

**Glenn Jarvis, Chairman**

**Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary**