

MINUTES

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

9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Jarvis called the meeting to order at 9:31 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
Tomas Rodriguez, Vice Chairman
Sonny Hinojosa, Executive Committee
Frank Schuster, Executive Committee
Dennis Goldsberry
Sonia Lambert
Donald McGhee
Ray Prewett
Jorge Barrera
Jaime Flores
Armando Vela
Robert Fulbright

Category

Other
Municipalities
Water Districts
Other
Water Utility
Water Districts
Industries
Agriculture
Municipalities
Environmental
Groundwater Management Area
Agriculture

The following members were not in attendance:

Mary Lou Campbell
John Bruciak
Carlos Garza
Judge Joe Rathmell
Mayor Jim Darling
Nick Benavides
Judge Humberto Gonzalez
Robert Pena, Jr.

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

2. Consider Approval of February 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Hear Public Comment

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

4. Consider Action RE: Election of Officers & Executive Committee (Tabled 2/18/2015)

Ms. Sonia Lambert made a motion to take this item off the table. Mr. Jorge Barrera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarvis explained that he has reconsidered voluntarily relinquishing his position as chair because, should the Group

approve, he would like to remain as chair until the 2016 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan (RWP) has been completed. ***Mr. Bob Fulbright made a motion to keep the same slate of officers and executive committee members that are currently serving:***

Chair, Mr. Glenn Jarvis

Vice Chair, Mr. Tomas Rodriguez

Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Mary Lou Campbell

Executive Committee Member, Mr. Sonny Hinojosa

Executive Committee Member, Mr. Frank Schuster

Mr. Sonny Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

5. Report RE: Law of the Rio Grande Conference

Chairman Jarvis stated that he and Vice Chair Tomas Rodriguez attended the Law of the Rio Grande Conference in Santa Fe, NM March 5-6. TWDB Chair Carlos Rubinstein gave a good presentation on the current status of the 1944 Treaty and is scheduled to give the same presentation at the Law of the Colorado River Conference in April. Chairman Jarvis noted that conferences such as these are important to 1944 Treaty issue. The U.S. has done much on the Colorado River to help Mexico and has religiously fulfilled its 1.5 million acre feet of water deliveries since the treaty was put in force. Mr. Rubinstein stated that by virtue of the legislation in the appropriations bill that was passed, the State Department is required to report the status of the treaty to congress which will keep the pressure on for this obligation to be filled. Chairman Jarvis reported that he also discussed the Fort Quitman issue with Mr. Rubinstein, but there was no new information to report at this time and this item will stay on the agenda in order to keep tabs on it.

6. Water Management Strategy Committee Update

Chairman Jarvis recognized Mr. Rodriguez to report on this item. Mr. Rodriguez stated that Ms. Eatman has been working on this item and sent reports that Ms. Sonia Lambert has responded to. Ms. Lambert was given the floor and stated that the committee is still reviewing the reports but one of the items that they took notice of is that TWDB was using the 20 year life of the project, which was not what A&M originally reported in the past. There is a 49-50 year life of the project and when a 20 year span is used it increases the cost per acre foot of savings and skews the numbers.

Ms. Connie Townsend was recognized and stated the intent of this rule is not to say that the life of a project is 20 or 30 years, it is the life of the loan. So when a loan is approved it will be a 20 year project, 30 year loans are mainly approved for reservoirs. So what will be seen over a 50 year planning period is that the unit cost of the water during the debt service period is "X", when that debt services is completed the cost will go down significantly; instead of being "X" it is only "0.1X" for example. TWDB's intent here is to show what happens after the debt service is finished.

7. Drought Management Strategy Subcommittee Report

Committee Chair Mayor Jim Darling was not present to report and Chairman Jarvis recognized committee member Mr. Sonny Hinojosa for this report. Mr. Hinojosa stated that the committee recently met and discussions centered on how to get maps of interconnects for the three-county area and rural areas that are dependent on well water.

8. Status Reports

A. Status on Current TWDB Contract Activities

Ms. Sara Eatman, Black & Veatch, was recognized and began her report and presentation by stating that the subcommittees have been helpful with chapter reviews, but some committees are so small that if one member is absent there are only two other members available to review. She encouraged the Group members that are not currently on a subcommittee that is working with one of these topics to consider joining one. Ms. Eatman then gave an overview of the topics she will present and began her report on the following items:

1. Review of Chapter 1: Description of Planning Area

Ms. Eatman stated that chapter 1 is a current snapshot of the region and that a fair amount of information from the previous plan was used that discusses soils, flora and fauna, agriculture, natural resources and those things that are not likely to have changed much in the last couple of years as well as the economic development information. It is important to note that after the discussion on the drought of record that took place during the last meeting, it has been verified that the drought of record was 1993-2000 and that is a firm yield number that we have already been using, but there is some change due to discussions that it was ambiguously stated in the previous RWP, whether the drought of record was the 1990s or 1950s, so now it can be stated with more clarity. There are also revisions to that firm yield based on the work that Kennedy Resources have done, so there are changes to the drought of record. Chairman Jarvis then began a page by page review chapter 1 where inaccuracies were noted and corrected. Upon conclusion of the review **Mr. Ray Prewett made a motion for provisional approval of chapter 1 of the 2016 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan incorporating the revisions discussed and to authorize the Executive Committee to have final approval and review of the revised chapter.**

2. Water Management Strategies

a. **Draft Water Management Strategies Posted for Review**

Ms. Eatman showed a slide that had a screenshot of iBackup which is the file sharing website where all of the WMS are posted for the Group to review and comment on. Information to access the website will be emailed to the Group.

b. **WMS Development Process**

Ms. Eatman showed a slide with an organizational chart that illustrated the “developed” WMS for Reuse and Irrigation District Improvements.

c. **WMS Evaluation Process Detail**

An organizational chart was also used to show the process for developed WMS considered, WMS submitted for the 2016 RWP and for WMS from the 2011 RWP.

Ms. Eatman stated that B&V staff recommended the following WMS for all applicable WUGs, and then described each topic:

- Irrigation District Improvements for all districts
- Advanced Municipal Water Conservation
- Potable Reuse, where large enough facilities exist
- Irrigation Conservation

Upon conclusion of this discussion Ms. Eatman stated that she will further discuss these strategies with the WMS Committee and encouraged other Group Members to join the committee.

3. Changes from Previous Plan (Chapter 11)

Ms. Eatman briefly noted the changes to chapters 1, 2, 3, and 7, and then went into a more detailed comparison of the differences in chapter 11 of the 2011 RWP and the developing 2016 RWP. Chapter 11 will come before the Group for final review at the next meeting.

4. Demand Chapter Review (Chapter 2)

Ms. Eatman stated that the demand data is summarized in chapter 2 for each WUG based on the Technical Memorandum that was submitted to and approved by TWDB. Region M agreed with the TWDB estimates of municipal, manufacturing, steam-electric, and livestock demands and the Group requested and agreed on revisions to irrigation and mining demands. **Mr. Don McGhee made a motion to approve the Demand Chapter Review (Chapter 2) as presented. Ms. Sonia Lambert seconded the motion, and upon a vote**

the motion carried unanimously.

5. Drought Preparation and Response Chapter Review (Chapter7)
Ms. Eatman stated that the requirements for chapter 7 include a summary of the existing regional drought response, including drought contingency plans; particularly triggers and responses to drought stages. The recommendations for triggers and responses particular to each source are surface water and groundwater. The main recommendations are to continue building interconnects between water sources that will address emergency situations and build more flexibility into the system and for consideration of emergency responses. ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to authorize the Drought Management Committee to approve Chapter 7 subject to final approval of the full Group. Mr. Dennis Goldsberry seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

6. Timeline for Completion of IPP
Ms. Eatman presented this timeline noting that some of the items have been completed. She also requested more members volunteer to serve on subcommittees to increase effectiveness of the review process; subsequently Chairman Jarvis made the following appointments:
 - Mr. Carlos Garza and Mr. Sonny Hinojosa as additional members to the Water Management Strategy Committee.
 - Mr. Jorge Barrera, Judge Joe Rathmell, Mr. John Bruciak, and Mr. Robert Fulbright to serve on the Chapter 7 Drought Management Strategy Committee

Upon conclusion of committee assignments Ms. Eatman continued going over the timeline and recommended the creation of a Policy Committee to consider and review Policy Recommendations. Mr. Ray Prewett volunteered to serve on the Policy Committee and Chairman Jarvis designated the members of the Executive Committee to also be on the Policy Committee.

The protocol for these committees to address the chapters and issues for the 2016 RWP will be as follows: the information to be reviewed will be sent to the entire Group for comment. After review of the information and any comments received the committee members will make a recommendation that will come before the entire Group for final approval.

9. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

A. TWDB

Ms. Townsend was recognized and reminded the Group that the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) is due on May 1, 2015. There is a 30 day notice period prior to the hearing date which means the earliest the public hearing can be scheduled is June 1. After the public hearing there is a public comment period of 60 days, but the federal and state agencies are allowed a 90 day, the TWDB has a 120 day public comment period. The finalized Regional Water Plan is due by December 1, 2015. Upon conclusion of discussion it was the consensus of the Group to schedule the public hearing on June 23, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the LRGVDC Transportation Center.

1. Consideration of Hydrologic Variance Request #2 (HCDD1's Proposed Nueces-Rio Grande WAM RUN 3 Revisions) RE: February 13, 2015 Response Letter from TCEQ
HCDD1 worked with TCEQ for approval of the changes to the drainage areas and to identify what the discharges would be for the waste flows into the system. TCEQ sent a letter of approval to the TWDB on February 13, and on March 10 TWDB sent a subsequent approval notice to Region M, a copy of both letters was provided in the meeting binders. TCEQ will make the appropriate changes to incorporate this

information into the official WAM Run 3, which is the official WAM currently in use, and in effect create a new WAM Run 3. The next step is for the consultant to write up the amendment and submit it to TWDB for review.

B. IBWC

Mr. Rodolfo Montero was recognized and reported on the water deliveries from Mexico for this cycle up to February 28. 1,213,039 acre feet have been delivered for the total 5 year cycle, and in the 5th year 88,290 acre feet have been delivered so far, according to the 1944 Treaty this leaves a total cycle deficit of 309,049 acre feet. Additionally Mr. Montero reported that pumps 1 and 2 at the El Morillo Drain are running, but will be shut down in a couple of weeks in order to install new pumps. The estimated down time is three weeks, and four new pumps will be installed upon completion. Mr. Montero then gave the status of the remaining ARRA projects.

C. TCEQ

Watermaster Lupe Luna was recognized and reported the current reservoir ownership statistics.

D. TPWD

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

6. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

It was the consensus of the Group to keep the previously scheduled April 15, 2015 business meeting as set at the last meeting.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Group the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman

Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary