

MINUTES

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

9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 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 9:41 a.m. and announced that the meeting had been posted as required by statute and a quorum was present. The Chairman then clarified the quorum requirement to act on the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) noting that a 2/3 vote is required to approve the Final Plan, and a quorum of 51%, as for regular meetings, is required to approve the IPP. 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
Donald McGhee
Ray Prewett
Judge Joe Rathmell
Jaime Flores
Armando Vela
Robert Fulbright
Robert Pena, Jr.

Category

Other
Municipalities
Water Districts
Other
Water Utility
Industries
Agriculture
Counties
Environmental
Groundwater Management Area
Agriculture
Electric Generating Utility

The following members were not in attendance:

Mary Lou Campbell
John Bruciak
Sonia Lambert
Carlos Garza
Jorge Barrera
Mayor Jim Darling
Nick Benavides
Judge Humberto Gonzalez

Public
Municipalities
Water Districts
Small Business
Municipalities
River Authorities
Small Business
Counties

2. Consider Approval RE: Minutes of the March 11, 2015 Meeting

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

3. Hear Public Comment

No one signed up for Public Comments.

4. Consider Action RE: WaterPR Contract Continuation

Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve the continuation of the WaterPR contract for 2015 as presented. Mr. Bob Fulbright seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion

carried unanimously.

5. Consider Approval RE: Request for Local Funds Contribution

Ms. Marcie Oviedo was recognized and stated that the last time the Group requested local fund contributions was in April 2013 at which time \$47,500 was received. Staff recommends requesting funds based on a .05¢ per capita formula based on the 2012 State Data Center population estimates for each entity in the Region M Planning Area. Based on the same formula as was used in 2013, \$49,770 will be invoiced. ***Mr. Don McGhee made a motion to approve the request for local funds contributions as presented. Mr. Robert Fulbright seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

6. Consider Finalization of Chapters in Initially Prepared Plan (IPP)

Chairman Jarvis stated that throughout this process the Group has appointed several committees to address various topics in the IPP and Ms. Sara Eatman has worked with each of the committees that have been assigned to different chapters. Some chapters have already been approved, but the Chairman recommended reviewing, possibly revising, and approving each chapter to ensure the Group agrees on each chapter's content prior to certifying and adopting the IPP. Chairman Jarvis then recognized Ms. Eatman and yielded the floor to her. Ms. Eatman thanked the committee members for their responses and guidance throughout the process and stated that the intent at today's meeting is for the Group to review the draft plan with revisions made from the previous meeting, and if the Group would like to make any other changes, they must be made at this meeting in order to meet the May 1st deadline.

Ms. Eatman stated that she will go through each chapter, briefly describe it, and give the Group the opportunity to comment before action is taken to approve.

A. Chapter 1 – Description of Regional Water Planning Area

Ms. Eatman recapped the changes that were made on this chapter at the last meeting and stated that it has been reviewed and those changes approved at the March 11th meeting. ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve Chapter 1 as presented. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

B. Chapter 2 – Projected Demands

This chapter includes demand projections and methodology for each Water User Group (WUG) and summaries of demands by county, WUG type, and for the entire region. This chapter was also reviewed and approved with changes on March 11th. ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve Chapter 2 as presented. Mr. Ray Prewett seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

C. Chapter 3 – Water Supply Analysis

This chapter includes evaluations of surface water, groundwater, and reuse. Chapter 3 has been reviewed by the Groundwater Management Committee and the Irrigation District Classification Committee. ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve Chapter 3 with revisions. Mr. Frank Schuster seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

D. Chapter 4 – Identification of Water Needs

Ms. Eatman stated that the *demands* are as described in Chapter 2 and the *supply* is described in Chapter 3. The needs calculation assumes the availability of only the current supplies with any known rates of change such as reservoir sedimentation. All surpluses are shown as zero, and higher needs will be expected in any area that has variable supplies in a drought year. ***Mr. Ray Prewett made a motion to approve Chapter 4 with revisions. Mr. Jaime Flores seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

E. Chapter 5 – Water Management Strategies

In this chapter are: The Process of Evaluation, an Overview of Each Type of Water Management Strategy (WMS) and Approach to the Evaluation, Recommended WMS, Alternative WMS, and WMS that are not recommended. This chapter has been reviewed by the WMS Committee and the Executive Committee. ***Mr. Dennis Goldsberry made a motion to approve Chapter 5 as presented. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

F. Chapter 6 – Impacts of Regional Plan

In this chapter are discussions of how each recommended WMS may potentially impact the environment and agricultural resources. Socioeconomic impacts of unmet needs will be provided by TWDB after the IPP has been submitted. ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve Chapter 6 as presented. Mr. Bob Fulbright seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

G. Chapter 7 – Drought Preparation and Response

This chapter contains a summary of existing regional drought responses, including drought contingency plans, triggers and responses to drought stages, and recommendations for triggers and responses particular to each source. It also has model drought contingency plans for irrigation districts, water supply corporations and public water supplies, and consideration of emergency responses for sole-source cities with populations of less than 7,500. ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve Chapter 7 as presented. Mr. Ray Prewett seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

H. Chapter 8 – Policy Recommendations and Unique Sites

Ms. Eatman noted that no new stream segments or reservoirs have been recommended for protection. The policy recommendations include: continued evaluation of groundwater-surface water interactions, consideration of unique situations for Rio Grande Valley farmers, updates of the Water Availability Model and the Groundwater Availability Model, Mexican Water Debt and the division at Fort Quitman, and invasive species control. This chapter has been reviewed by the Policy Committee. ***Mr. Ray Prewett made a motion to approve Chapter 8 as presented. Mr. Jaime Flores seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

I. Chapter 9 – Infrastructure Financing Analysis

Ms. Eatman informed the Group that this section will be completed after the IPP is submitted and will include input from the TWDB. ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve Chapter 9 as a place holder in the final Plan pending final approval at a future meeting. Mr. Ray Prewett seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

J. Chapter 10 – Public Participation

This chapter describes the measures taken to involve stakeholders and the general public in the Regional Water Planning process. Ms. Eatman suggested offering to present the IPP to entities such as the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority, irrigation districts and/or public utilities. ***Mr. Robert Pena made a motion to approve Chapter 10 as presented. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

K. Chapter 11 – Comparison to Previous Plan and Implementation

Comparisons were made to chapters 1,2,3,5, 7, and 11 of the previous plan, and this chapter was reviewed by the Executive Committee. ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve Chapter 11 as presented. Mr. Dennis Goldsberry seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

7. Consider Certification and Adoption of 2016 Initially Prepared Plan (IPP)

Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to certify and adopt the 2016 IPP with the slight revisions noted at this meeting and to authorize the posting of the 30 day notice for the IPP Public Hearing for June 23, 2015. Mr. Robert Fulbright seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

8. Report from TWDB

Ms. Connie Townsend was recognized and informed the Group that the first round of applications for SWIFT, State Water Infrastructure Fund for Texas, is scheduled to be considered by the Board at their May 6, 2015 meeting. At that time it will be made known who will be eligible to submit a full application. Should that happen at the May 6 meeting, then in June the full applications are expected to be submitted. And because the SWIFT is attached to the State Water Plan, even though your 2016 Regional Water Plan will be completed, for the next round of SWIFT the next State Water Plan will not be completed until a year later. So the 2nd round of SWIFT funding will be attached to the same 2012 State Water Plan, which could potentially require additional amendments to the 2011 Regional Water Plan.

Ms. Townsend informed the Group that the Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 amendment request has been received by the TWDB and will be considered by the Board at their May 22 meeting.

9. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule

The Public Hearing is scheduled for June 23, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.; ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to schedule the next business meeting on September 30, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting to adopt the final plan was scheduled for November 4, 2015 at 9:30 p.m.*** It was noted that a vote of 2/3 of the Group is required to pass the final plan.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Group the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman

Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary