

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG)
REGIONAL WATER PLANNING REGION "M" MEETING
10:00 A.M. - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2005
PALMVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER - CELEBRATION ROOM
3401 JORDAN ROAD - MCALLEN, TEXAS

Prior to the regularly scheduled meeting, Mr. Randy Blankinship, TPWD, gave a DVD presentation on the TPWD Water Documentary "Texas - The State of Water - Finding a Balance."

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

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman, Law Offices	Other
Charles W. Browning, Jr., Vice-Chairman, NAWSC	Water Utilities
Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary, Sierra Club	Environmental
Roberto Gonzalez, Eagle Pass Waterworks	Municipalities
Judge Jose Aranda, Maverick County	Counties
John Bruciak, Brownsville PUB	Municipalities
Mayor James R. Matz, Palm Valley	Others
Donald K. McGhee, Hydro Systems, Inc.	Small Business
Adrian Montemayor, Laredo Water Utility Dept.	Municipalities
Xavier Villarreal, T&J Office Supply	Small Business
Gary Whittington, Unifirst Linen Service	Industries

Members not present: Robert Fulbright, Jim Hogg County; Jim Darling, Hidalgo County; Jaime Gomez, Webb County; Sonny Hinojosa, Hidalgo County; Sonia Kaniger, Cameron County; Ray Prewett, Hidalgo County; and Commissioner John Wood, Cameron County.

Chairman Jarvis then moved to agenda item 2. - Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2005, and called for a vote. Mayor James Matz made a motion to approve these minutes with the following amendments: Page 2, fifth line, add the segment to be designated as a unique stream segment "the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recommended

that segment from the upstream boundary of the Tulosa Ranch tract downstream to the confluence of the Gulf of Mexico).” Also, on page 2, third paragraph second sentence from end, change the phrase “The disadvantage would be would to “The disadvantage is “perceived to be that this designation could cause...”. Mr. Charles Browning seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman asked if there were any requests for public comment, and as there were none, he moved to agenda item 4.A. - Time Line Status Report, and recognized Mr. Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers. Mr. Norris distributed a timeline report to the Group, and informed them that there were basically two meetings left at which the Plan should be finalized. He stated that Chapter 3, Water Supply Issues, would be discussed today, and that Messrs. Dr. Bob Brandes, R.J. Brandes Co., and James Beach, LBG-Guyton, who would be presenting information on both Chapters 3 and 4. He added that Chapters, 3, 5 and 7 should be finalized and adoption of any policy issues by the Group’s May meeting. The plan must be submitted by the end of May. Discussion followed regarding appointing a committee to review Chapter 3 prior to the regular Region M April meeting; however, later during the meeting, it was decided that the April meeting should be scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and review of Chapter 3 be listed as the first item on the agenda.

Information on Chapter 3 was distributed, and surface and ground water aspects of water supply were discussed. Dr. Brandes presented water supply figures, explaining that the report contained current information. (Approximately 300,000 acre-feet from Amistad/Falcon available for domestic, municipal supply.) He stated that within the next 50 or 60 years, as urbanization takes in agricultural lands, there will be a conversion of irrigation rights to municipal use, and this conversion factor is not reflected in the report. Dr. Brandes added that this information was arrived at by use of the Water Availability Model (WAM).

At this time, due to time constraints for Mr. Carlos Rubinstein, TCEQ Regional Director, the Chairman asked for the report on agenda item 5.C. - TCEQ Watermaster. Mr. Rubinstein stated that the current U.S. Amistad/Falcon combined reservoir level was at 96.23% or 3,200,683 acre-feet, with Mexico’s portion at 64.39% or 1,596,285 acre-feet, and one of those figures were included in the agreement for transfers of water from Mexico. The following information was also offered:

- * Under the Treaty, it is permitted for one country to occupy the other country's space at Amistad to the extent that that country doesn't meet its percentage of water; and**
- * One interpretation of the Treaty is: If the U.S. reaches a 100% level of conservation capacity at each of the two reservoirs (Amistad and Falcon), the repayment cycle for Mexico closes, and the Treaty is satisfied. (Mexico doesn't have to be at 100% conservation capacity, only the U.S.)**

The U.S. is scheduled to receive by March 23rd, 56,758 acre-feet in Falcon Dam from Mexico. At the same time, 210,785 acre-feet will be transferred to Amistad, for a total of 276,543 feet, which will bring the water conservation level to 104%. He added that

water should continue to be transferred from Amistad for use by the U.S. to maintain the status

quo on these levels,. Between now and June, but no later than September of this year, we should receive an additional 145,928 acre-feet either at Amistad or Falcon.

At this time, Chairman Jarvis thanked Mr. Rubinstein for his report and recognized Mr. Jesse Hereford, Regional Director for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's office.

Then, at the conclusion of both Dr. Brandes' and Mr. Rubinstein's presentations and following discussion, Chairman Jarvis thanked them, and asked Mr. James Beach, LBG-Guyton, to address groundwater availability. Mr. Beach stated that the information in his presentation had been obtained through the use of the Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) as a tool. He added that the water supplies needed to be allocated categorically as a mandate from the TWDB. Without a groundwater district, there is little enforcement of policies. The object with groundwater pumping is not to cause more than 100 feet of water drawdown from existing aquifers over a 50-year period.

At the conclusion of Mr. Beach's presentation and following discussion, Chairman Jarvis thanked him, and then asked Mr. Norris to address agenda item 4.C. - Review of Chapter 4. Mr. Norris distributed information on water supply and demand analysis for review by the Group. He added that a revised version of this report would be provided to the Water User Groups (WUGs) for their comments. During discussion, it was suggested and agreed upon that an alternate list of recommended management strategies for WUG's be developed for the Plan in order to avoid an amendment to the Plan in the future.

Following discussion on water supply and demand analysis, the Chairman proceeded to agenda item 4.D. - Update on Brownsville Weir and Reservoir, and asked Mr. John Bruciak, Brownsville PUB, to report. Mr. Bruciak informed the Group that representatives from IBWC, CNA in Mexico and the Brownsville PUB had met on February 15 and 16 to review the technical aspects of the project. He added that another meeting is scheduled in early April, and to date, the project has received \$14,500,000 in funding.

Following Mr. Bruciak's presentation and discussion, the Chairman thanked him and moved to agenda item 4.E. - Report from Environmental Review Committee. Upon being recognized by Chairman Jarvis, Ms. Mary Lou Campbell, Committee Chair, stated that the committee had not met due to the presentation made by Mr. Randy Blankinship. At Ms. Campbell's request, Mr. Blankinship informed the Group that the presentation given prior to the meeting was available online, and stated that the contact to obtain the presentation would be provided to the Group. During discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Norris would respond to a letter from the National Wildlife Federation proposing working with Region M on studies on estuaries of the Rio Grande.

With reference to agenda item 5.A. - TWDB, Mr. Norris asked Ms. Carolyn Brittin, TWDB, if there was a draft of the legislation regarding alternate lists of water management strategies, and she agreed to research that item. She congratulated the

Group on their efforts, and Chairman Jarvis thanked her for attending this meeting.

Following the report from Ms. Brittin, Chairman Jarvis informed the Group that with regard to agenda item 5.B. - IBWC Report, this item had been covered during Mr. Carlos Rubenstein's report.

The Chairman then moved to agenda item 6. - Selection of Voting Member in "Public" Category, and recognized Mr. Richard Hinojosa, Deputy Executive Director, LRGVDC. Mr. Hinojosa informed the Group that Mr. Lackner, who had responded to the advertisement, did not meet the criteria for this category, and following discussion, it was agreed to include this item on the next meeting agenda.

Chairman Jarvis then asked Mr. Hinojosa to address agenda item 7.A. - Voting Member Categories. Mr. Hinojosa stated that with reference to this issue, the Group had agreed to keep it on the agenda. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Group to drop this item from the agenda, however to invite more non-voting members to attend meetings in the future.

There were no reports on agenda items 7.B. - Legislative Update, and 8.A. - Reports from Liaisons with Regions E, J, L, & N, and the Chairman proceeded to agenda item 9. - Discussion and Action RE: Meeting Schedule. Following discussion, Mr. Robert Gonzalez made a motion to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, April 20, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. Mayor James Matz seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Following this action, discussion followed regarding location of meetings, and Mr. Hinojosa informed the Group that after next month (April), staff should be able to book a room at Mission City Hall. In response, the Group agreed to this plan.

With regard to agenda item 10.A. - Discussion of Voting Members' Absences from Meetings, no action was taken; however, it was agreed to retain this item on the agenda. During discussion, it was agreed that the meeting notices should stress the importance of attending the next two meetings due to the input of Group members due to the finalization of the Draft Water Plan.

The Chairman then requested that Mr. Richard Hinojosa address agenda 10.B. - Consider Adoption of Resolution of Support RE: Lower Rio Grande Flood-Control Project - Levee Rehabilitation. Mr. Hinojosa requested the Group's adoption of this resolution for this flood control project, and Mayor James Matz made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Mr. Robert Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Then, after ascertaining that there was no further business to be conducted by the Group, Chairman Jarvis adjourned the meeting.

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman

Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary