

**RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG) (REGION "M")  
 MEETING @ 10:00 A.M. - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2005  
 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, 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:

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, Environmental Defense	Environmental Interests
Jim Darling, McAllen City Attorney	River Authorities
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

The following members were not in attendance:

Roberto Gonzalez, Eagle Pass Waterworks	Municipalities
Judge Jose Aranda, Maverick County	Counties
Kathleen Garrett	Electric Generating Utilities
Adrian Montemayor, Laredo Water Utility Dept.	Municipalities

The Chairman then moved to agenda item 2. - Consider Approval of November 16, 2005 Meeting Minutes. Following discussion, **Mr. James Matz made a motion to approve these minutes. Mr. Chuck Browning seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

The Chairman then asked for any public input requests. As there were none, he moved to agenda item 4.A. - Review and Consider Approval to Submit Regional Water Plan to TWDB, and asked Mr. Bill Norris, NRS Consulting Engineers, to address this item. Copies of the amended Regional Water Plan and a Summary of Amendments were distributed, and Mr. Norris briefly explained the changes. (A copy of *Significant Changes to the Initially Prepared Plan Reflected in the Final Draft Plan* is attached to and made a part of these minutes.)

Some changes discussed were:

- 1) Groundwater and other water sources;
- 2) Clarification of water management strategies and why certain ones were not included;
- 3) Revised figures, specifically for the City of Laredo;
- 4) Breakdown of population in County Other category
- 5) Irrigation acres lost by the year 2060;
- 6) Net water flow;
- 7) How the Conversion Factor could be evaluated by the WAM;
- 8) Quantitative environmental analysis;
- 9) Increased fresh water inflows;
- 10) Infrastructure Financing Report was not yet included, but should be finished within a few days and will be emailed to Region M members; and
- 11) Public participation comments were included in this latest draft.

Other recommended changes were:

Mr. Randy Blankinship, TPWD, suggested adding a paragraph in the section dealing with quantitative environmental analysis that the Group took strides in this planning round to acquire or encourage the development of tools in addition to the WAM that would facilitate a more complete and effective quantitative environmental analysis in the next planning round. These tools are the National Wildlife Federation's Bays in Peril analysis to include the Lower Laguna Madre and the request to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Texas Water Development Board for the completion of the Rio Grande Minor Estuary Inflow Needs Study.

1. Mr. Blankinship also stated regarding unique stream segments, that the wording in Chapter 8.1.2, the last paragraph on page 8-3, "from downstream of the proposed Brownsville Weir to the mouth of the Rio Grande," should read "from the confluence of the Gulf of Mexico upstream to the upstream boundary of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Tulosa Tract."

Mr. Ray Prewett asked that in Chapter 10, verbage regarding water rights issues, the status of the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority, and that Region M supports the water conservation endeavors of that entity be included in the Plan. It was agreed to add other statements regarding cooperative work among entities to improve and resolve various water issues.

Mr. Norris then advised the Group that the following needed to be added to and/or included in the Regional Water Plan: Updating and translation of the Plan to Spanish; addition of footnotes and bibliography to chapters yet incomplete; and insertion of, the Executive Summary, Chapter 9, and Mr. Norman John's Report (National Wildlife Federation Study). Following discussion, **Mr. Robert Fulbright moved to approve the changes presented and discussed today, and to authorize the Executive Committee to approve the following: further agreed-upon changes, and insertion of the Executive Summary, Chapter 9, and Mr. Norman Johns' Report as part of the Plan before submission to the TWDB. Mr. Xavier Villarreal seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Norris also advised the Group of the following: the Final Plan is anticipated to go to printers by December 30, 2005; is due at TWDB by January 6, 2006; and the irrigation district surveys will be included on computer disk, but not in the printed Plan. He added that, although the data base is not a part of the Plan, it would continue to be updated.

It was agreed that if there were questions about these documents from any of the Executive Committee members, a conference call would be scheduled. If not, the documents and changes would be approved.

Chairman Jarvis then asked Mr. Robert Flores, TWDB, to address agenda item 5.A. - TWDB. Mr. Robert Flores, TWDB, stated that scopes of work should be developed during the first quarter of next year, and the Chairman then moved to agenda item 5.B. - IBWC. Upon being asked to report, Mr. Rick Reyes, IBWC, informed the Group that Carlos Marin, Acting IBWC Commissioner had prepared the following report:

As of December 3, 2005, Mexico's shortfall from 2004 and 2005 cycle year is 55,817 acre-feet. If Mexico continues to deliver water at Anzalduas Dam at the present rate or better, this shortfall shall be completed by the end of January, 2006.

The U.S. Section has requested that monthly meetings be held in order to review water conditions in the basin in order to assure that we are working together to properly manage the available water to meet the treaty requirements.

The USIBWC has performed an analysis to show that even in a wet scenario, that next year 350,000 acre-feet will not be reached without additional releases from the Mexican reservoirs.  
5.C. - TCEQ Watermaster, Carlos Rubinstein, Regional Director, TCEQ

Mr. Reyes added that Mr. Marin would keep the Group advised of any developments of prospects of future water deliveries.

Chairman Jarvis thanked Mr. Reyes for his report, and moved to agenda item 5.D. - TPWD. After being recognized, Mr. Randy Blankinship, TPWD, reported that there was no report from the TPWD at this time.

The Chairman then asked Mr. Ray Prewett to report on agenda item 6.A. - Legislative Update. Mr. Prewett said there was no new information on legislation at present, but that the Texas Water Conservation Association is anticipating scheduling a Texas Water Day next year in Washington, however no date had been selected.

Referencing agenda item 7.A. - Reports from Liaisons with Regions E, J, L, & N, there were no reports, and the Chairman proceeded to the next agenda item.

With regard to agenda item 8. - Discussion and Action RE: Meeting Schedule, Ken Jones advised the Group that once the Regional Water Plan was completed and furnished to the TWDB, the Group might consider not having monthly meetings. There was no action taken on this item; however, *it was the consensus of the Group that meetings possibly be scheduled on a quarterly basis in 2006, and that LRGVDC staff would keep the Group advised when it was necessary to schedule meetings.* Otherwise, the next meeting would be scheduled for March at this same location.

When the Chairman asked for any further new business, there was none requested by the Group; therefore, ***Mr. Robert Fulbright made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Xavier Villarreal seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

**Glenn Jarvis, Chairman**

**Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary**