

Summary of Speaker Comments at the March 15, 2005 RCWPG Meeting

Comments Regarding Action Items

The following public comments were provided to the RCWPG regarding the following Action Items:

Action Item A: Available Supplies to WWP/WUGs

1. Beth Johnson

Ms. Johnson declined her opportunity to speak.

Action Item B: Additional Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategy

1. Beth Johnson

Ms. Johnson told the group that the proposed Lake Fastrill had only recently come her attention. The proposed reservoir would impede, if not block, the proposed refuge area in this location. According to Ms. Johnson, the proposed reservoir would drown most of 25,000 acres of high quality bottomland hardwoods. She told the group that the groups she represented would prefer to see a refuge in the area than a new reservoir. Ms. Johnson mentioned that the Big Thicket has concerns about alterations to the river flows. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has also considered reintroducing the black bear to Texas in this location. She also mentioned that the Lake Fastrill area is located in the area of a proposed Space Shuttle Columbia fallout memorial.

General Comments

The following public comments were provided during the general comment period of the meeting:

1. Sandy Cash, Upper Trinity Regional Water District Board Member

Mr. Cash told the planning group that he appreciated their planning efforts. He requested that the planning group offer continued support of the proposed Lake Ralph Hall in Fannin County. Mr. Cash strongly believes that Lake Ralph Hall will serve Upper Trinity Regional Water District and Region C well. Lake Ralph Hall will augment the Upper Trinity Regional Water District's supply from Dallas. Lake Ralph Hall is the most feasible source available to Upper Trinity Regional Water District. This project would diversify the District's water system. Mr. Cash requested that the proposed Lake Ralph Hall be included in the Region C plan.

2. Leon Hurse, Mayor of Ladonia

Mayor Hurse offered his support of the proposed Lake Ralph Hall project. He stated that the lake would supply water to meet a needed demand.

3. David Brune, Attorney for Upper Trinity Regional Water District

Mr. Brune stated his experience with water. In his opinion, Lake Ralph Hall is both visionary and practical. He stated that a plan must be visionary, even if "ruffling a few feathers." As for being practical, Lake Ralph Hall could be easily financed,

would improve the environment, serve water needs, and be implemented within a short period of time with little disruption. Mr. Brune strongly urged the planning group to include the proposed Lake Ralph Hall in the Region C plan.

4. Beth Johnson

Ms. Johnson stated that the environmental community formally requested the opportunity to make a 15-20 minute presentation to the Region C Water Planning Group at their next meeting, similar to what was allowed for the Mesa Water project. She also stated that the environmental community would like to meet one-on-one with Region C committee members.

Ms. Johnson stated that the groups she represents are opposed to all new reservoirs. In her opinion, the existing supplies can meet the projected demands. Thus, condemnation of land would not be needed. She presented letters from the House and Senate Chairs of the Natural Resources Committee that encouraged water conservation and full utilization of existing supplies.

Ms. Johnson stated that Region C is the least conserving region in Texas. She applauded the clothes washer savings. She questioned the goal for unaccounted water being 10-15% when the highest water user (Dallas) was already below 8%.

In response to Ms. Johnson's request to make a presentation at the next Region C meeting, Vice-Chairman Bob Johnson stated that he would take it to the executive committee to consider.

5. Vic Burgess, Mayor of Corinth

Mayor Burgess stated that he was the Denton County Judge when the Upper Trinity Regional Water District was established. He supports the proposed Lake Ralph Hall project. Mayor Burgess stated that the area would benefit from a regional water system to supply water from Lake Ralph Hall. He reminded the planning group that they must consider safety and reliability of water supplies.

6. David Nabors

Mr. Nabors commended the unique streams segment committee and said he thought that they ought to include even more stream segments. Mr. Nabors chastised the Region C Water Planning Group for adding Lake Fastrill to the list of strategies when they didn't even know where it was located.

Mr. Nabors told the planning group that they ought to research the "mud hole" that Tom Taylor was trying to pull off, referring to Lake Ralph Hall. He noted that there would be massive opposition to the proposed lake. Mr. Nabors stated that the planning group had paid its consultants almost \$3 million in the last year and have received no new answers to meeting the water shortages. He stated if the planning group was going to have to ruffle a few feathers that they ought to ruffle the feathers of the water hustlers here instead of his grandchildren.

7. Jack Stufflebaum, Resident of Flower Mound

Mr. Stufflebaum asked what actions must Region C take before Lake Ralph Hall would become a reality. When will the decisions be made?

Vice-Chairman Bob Johnson stated that the Region C Water Planning Group is not a Legislative board. The Region C Water Planning Group will vote in April or May on the recommended water management strategies to include in the draft plan that is due June 1.

8. Van James, Town Manager of Flower Mound and Upper Trinity Regional Water District Board Member

Mr. James stated that he understands that additional water supplies may be needed in the future. He encouraged the planning group to use existing supplies first. Flower Mound hired KBR to review the water supply options. As a result of this study, Mr. James offered the following reasons why Lake Ralph Hall was not needed:

- Lack of need (DWU could meet UTRWD's needs)
- Unreasonable high cost
- Low yield (only 12 MGD will go to UTRWD)
- Availability of other existing supplies

9. Jeff Tasket, Resident of Flower Mound

Mr. Tasket opposes the proposed Lake Ralph Hall. He requested that the Region C Water Planning Group analyze KBR's report fairly and suggested having an open discussion of the elements in the report. Such a course of action would allow the planning group to make an informed decision. He encouraged the planning group to keep their options open. However, Lake Ralph Hall should not be included in the plan simply to be on the conservative side.

10. Jim Cook, Resident of Flower Mound

Mr. Cook told the planning group that Lake Ralph Hall was being considered without full information. He encouraged the planning group to study KBR's report. Mr. Cook told the planning group that the Town of Flower Mound had invited Upper Trinity Regional Water District to a meeting on January 31 to discuss the KBR report. The District did not show for the meeting. Instead, the District started attacking political figures of Flower Mound. Upper Trinity also hired a PR firm to push the Lake Ralph Hall project. Why would the District need to hire a PR firm if the project could stand on its own? Mr. Cook told the planning group that the Upper Trinity Regional Water District will not allow citizens to speak to its board. He urged the planning group to use common sense. Mr. Cook encouraged the planning group to review the KBR report. In his opinion, Lake Ralph Hall is not needed.

11. Mary Horn, Denton County Judge

Judge Horn encouraged the group to keep their options open. The region needs supplies that are plentiful and safe. Judge Horn supports the proposed Lake Ralph Hall project.

12. Patsy Mizeur, Resident of Flower Mound

Ms. Mizeur stated that she had heard today that the Region C water planning was a bottom up process. She told the group that she was at the bottom, along with other Denton and Fannin County residents. Lake Ralph Hall is expensive. She encouraged the group to choose a more cost effective alternative. She noted that there are many

representatives on the Upper Trinity Regional Water District's board. However, not all of these representatives buy water. Some of the Board members are in the composting business. Flower Mound does not have an equal voice on the board, considering the amount of water they purchase from the District.

13. Laurie Long, City Council Representative of Flower Mound

Ms. Long told the planning group that the Lake Ralph Hall project was not just a Flower Mound issue. In her opinion, all of the communities will suffer great expense from Lake Ralph Hall. She asked what the urgency was for the proposed lake. Why couldn't the project be postponed for five years? Ms. Long noted that the residents of Flower Mound, Denton County, and Fannin County and the environmental community disagree with Lake Ralph Hall. She asked the planning group to remove Lake Ralph Hall from its plan.