

REGION C WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF AN OPEN PUBLIC MEETING
May 22, 2017

The Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) met in an open public meeting on Monday, May 22, 2017, at 1:00 P.M. The meeting was held at the North Central Texas Council of Governments located at 616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint Two Building, First Floor Transportation Council Room, Arlington, Texas. Notice of the meeting was legally posted.

Chair Jody Puckett called the Region C Regional Water Planning Group meeting to order at approximately 1:00 P.M. and welcomed guests.

I. ROLL CALL

Kevin Ward conducted a roll call. The following members were in attendance:

Fiona Allen (Alt. for Kevin Ward)	John Lingenfelder
David Bailey	Steve Mundt
John Carman	Jody Puckett
Bill Ceverha	Bob Riley
Tim Fisher (Alt. for Howard Martin)	Drew Satterwhite
Tom Kula	Gary Spicer
Harold Latham	Connie Standridge
Russell Laughlin	Jack Stevens

Connie Townsend, TWDB, Darrell Dean, TDA, Adam Whisenant, TPWD, and David Nabors, Region D, were present. The registration lists signed by guests in attendance are attached.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 5, 2016

The minutes of the December 5, 2016, RCWPG meeting were approved by consensus upon a motion by Jack Stevens and a second by Connie Standridge.

III. ACTION ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. Announcement of Three Vacancies: Robert Scott Representing Environmental Interests, Jim McCarter Representing Water Utilities, and Howard Martin Representing Municipalities, and Vote to Fill Vacancies.

Mr. Scott submitted his resignation effective the end of 2015. Mr. Scott recommended Grace Darling, member of the Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness, as his replacement. There were no additional nominations from the planning group or the public.

Mr. McCarter submitted his resignation. Lara Zent, Executive Director and General Counsel, Texas Rural Water Association, submitted a letter recommending Chris Boyd to fill this vacancy. There were no additional nominations from the planning group or the public.

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Mr. Martin submitted his resignation effective March 31, 2017, and recommended Tim Fisher, General Manager of Water Utilities at the City of Denton, as his replacement. There were no additional nominations from the planning group or the public.

Amy Kaarlela added that she will offer new board member training and initiation.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Chair Puckett asked if there were any nominations from the floor but there were none. Upon a motion from Steve Mundt, and a second from John Carman, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of Grace Darling, Chris Boyd and Tim Fisher to fill these three vacancies.

- B. Receive Report from Nominating Committee for Slate of Officers for 2017; Consider Election of 2017 RCWPG Officers.

The Region C WPG nominating committee is comprised of the current officers plus two at-large members. Russell Laughlin, Vice-Chairman, reported that the Nominating Committee held a conference call on May 11, 2017. The Nominating Committee recommended the current officers serve for the calendar year 2017.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion from Gary Spicer and a second from Steve Mundt, the RCWPG voted unanimously to elect Jody Puckett as Chair, Russell Laughlin as Vice-Chair, and Kevin Ward as Secretary of the RCWPG for the calendar year 2017.

- C. Consider Appointing Nominating Committee for Slate of Officers for 2018.

The RCWPG may appoint a Nominating Committee to develop a recommendation for the 2018 slate of officers. Election of 2018 Slate of Officers will occur at the next RCWPG meeting (Fall 2017).

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion by Connie Standridge and a second by Rick Shaffer, the RCWPG voted unanimously to appoint Jody Puckett, Russell Laughlin, Kevin Ward, Tom Kula and Gary Spicer to the Nominating Committee for a slate of officers for 2018 that will be presented to the RCWPG at its next meeting for confirmation.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Review of Region C Water Planning Group roster of members and alternates.

Chair Puckett discussed the importance of each Region C WPG board member and alternate to provide updates on their contact information. The members were requested to send their updated information to Amy Kaarlela.

Currently, there are four vacancies for alternate member positions. According to the Bylaws... "Each member shall designate an alternate to represent them when the member is unable to attend a meeting. Alternate should be designated in writing to the Chairman prior to the first meeting the designated alternate will appear on behalf of the member."

B. Schedule

Amy Kaarlela, FNI, discussed upcoming key dates as follows:

- Nov. 30, 2017 - Population/Demand Projections due (*Note: this date has now been updated by TWDB to be January 2018*)
- March 2, 2020 - Initially Prepared Plan due
- Oct. 14, 2020 - Final Plan due
- Oct. 30, 2017 - RCWPG Fall 2017 meeting

Ms. Kaarlela added that there will be 12 RCWPG meetings over the next 4 years.

C. Status of Contracts with TWDB, TRA and Consultants.

Amy Kaarlela discussed the status of the following contracts:

- TWDB/TRA
- TRA/FNI
- FNI/subs

Connie Townsend, TWDB, advised that August 31, 2017, is the deadline for executing Amendment #1 to the current contract between TWDB and TRA. Ms. Townsend noted that this amendment includes an increase in committed funds as the biennium progresses. Ms. Kaarlela asked Howard Slobodin if the TRA/FNI contract had been executed; Mr. Slobodin stated that it had. Ms. Kaarlela advised that FNI will proceed to execute subcontracts with APAI, CP&Y, and Cooksey Communications. Ms. Kaarlela introduced the following consultants: Ellen McDonald and Brian McDonald, APAI; Chris Schmid, CP&Y; and Colby Walton, Cooksey Communications.

D. Proposed Region Specific Scope for Task 5A – Water Management Strategy Evaluation (Note: This task was incorrectly listed on the agenda as Task 4D)

- Task 5A (WMS Evaluation) is the bulk of work and funding
- A Portion of scope developed by TWDB, applies to all regions
- Remainder of scope is developed by each region, and is region-specific
- FNI will develop draft scope, using previous scope as starting point
- Scope will be presented to the RCWPG for approval at the next RCWPG meeting
- This scope does not have to be fully developed prior to executing contract amendments.

- TWDB must provide notice-to-proceed prior to consultants performing this task

E. Water Management Strategies – Review proposed criteria for evaluating WMSs.

Connie Townsend, TWDB, pointed out that according to the Regional Planning Rules, the process for identifying Water Management Strategies (WMSs) must be presented before voting on and approving proposed criteria for evaluating WMSs. Chair Puckett asked Ms. Townsend if this item could be presented for information purposes only. Ms. Townsend agreed with the condition that the discussion could only be conducted in generic terms, nothing specific. Chair Puckett said that the discussion would not supersede WMSs criteria for identifying WMSs, which will be placed on the next meeting's agenda. Chair Puckett also confirmed the group can take action on both the criteria for identifying and the criteria for evaluating WMSs at the next RCWPG meeting.

Amy Kaarlela's discussion was informative and generated several questions from the RCWPG. Ms. Kaarlela defined WMS as projects or things to meet identified water needs. Categories of WMSs are:

- Water Conservation
- Drought Management Measures
- Wastewater Reuse
- Interbasin Transfers (IBT)
- Expanded Use of Existing Supplies
- New Supply Development

Bill Ceverha asked Ms. Kaarlela to explain Precipitation Enhancement (a category of New Supply Development). Tom Gooch, FNI, replied that it involves cloud seeding to induce rain. Tom Kula asked if a front moves from west to east, would any water rights be impacted. Tom Gooch responded that there are uncertainties with legal issues of precipitation enhancement.

John Lingenfelder wanted to know the meaning of a Water Right Cancellation. Tom Gooch explained that long-term non-use of a water right can lead to its cancellation by the TCEQ and result in voluntary reassignment.

Ms. Kaarlela added that the TWDB has identified specific WMSs that each RWPG must address. Chair Puckett asked Connie Townsend if there had been any changes in the Rules, and she replied there were none. Chair Puckett concluded the discussion by stating there will be an action item on the next RCWPG agenda on the process for identifying WMSs.

F. 2021 Texas Water Development Board Draft Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections

Amy Kaarlela led this discussion on draft population projections. Ms. Kaarlela advised that this information is posted on the Region C website under "Planning Info".

She also informed the planning group that a region is not allowed to change the total population of the region; if one county is increased then another county must be decreased.

In TWDB's draft projections, there were no changes from 2016 Region C Water Plan to:

- County Population totals
- Regional Population total
- Gpcd (but may be revised)

Changes from the 2016 Region C Water Plan:

- WUG boundaries – now based on utility service areas, not city limits
- Municipal water demands are slightly different because of change to WUG boundary delineations

Ms. Kaarlela advised that steps have been and will be taken to revise draft population projections as follows:

- First revision of projections based on:
 - Meetings with the 5 Major WWPs
 - WUG Water/Wastewater Master Plan
 - Collin County Mobility Study
 - Denton County Thoroughfare Plan
- Additional Revisions will be made after the following activities:
 - Meetings with other large WWPs
 - Calling/surveying remaining WWPs
 - Surveying all municipal WUGs via email.

Tim Fisher asked why the 2016 plan population projections for Collin County increased but Parker and Fannin Counties decreased. Ms. Kaarlela explained that the increased projections for Collin County came from the Mobility Plan. The Plan had low, medium, and high projection scenarios. The medium scenario was utilized, which added about 500,000 people to Collin County. This population had to be taken from other counties since the regional total is required to stay the same. Kaarlela also said this is the first cut in the process of adjusting numbers. Surveys will be emailed to WUGs in June. Also in June, new gpcd data will be received from the TWDB and GPCD values will be revised, if warranted. Kaarlela advised that she will provide information to the planning group on the population revision process. It was noted that the projections are particularly important in the 404 permitting process.

Kaarlela has met with the big 5 WWP – North Texas MWD, Dallas Water Utilities, Tarrant Regional WD, Upper Trinity Regional WD, and the Trinity River Authority. Kaarlela added that she will be reaching out in the coming weeks to smaller wholesale water providers. The 2021 population projections will be finalized and approved at the Region C WPG's next meeting.

Tom Gooch added that the spreadsheet presentation is posted on the Region C website and open for comments.

G. Texas Water Development Board Draft Mining Demand Projections

Brian McDonald, APAI, led the discussion on this agenda topic. McDonald advised that the draft mining demand numbers are the same as the current State Water Plan. Additional data provided by the TWDB and the Bureau of Economic Geology has been considered, and no reason was found for any significant changes.

Steve Mundt asked why Wise County was the only county that increased. McDonald replied that their numbers for aggregate mining from the Bureau of Economic Geology increased water use long term.

H. Schedule for Approving Population and Water Demand Projections

Amy Kaarlela outlined the planning group schedule for approving population and water demand projections as follows:

- June - Email surveys to WUGs; revised gpcd
- June to October - Continued contact with water providers
- October - Post Projections for public comments (14 days prior to public meeting)
- October - RCWPG consider approval of projections at public meeting
- November - Continue posting (14 days after meeting)
- End of Nov. - Submit projections to TWDB
- Connie noted that the 14-day posting before and after the next meeting does not apply in this case. It only applies when a RWPG is revising projections that have previously been approved.

I. Potential additional Sub-consultants to Region C Team

Amy Kaarlela identified several reasons for adding sub-consultants to the Region C WPG team as follows:

- Would involve key outlying counties – Rockwall, Collin, Ellis, Kaufman, others
- Local consultants already work for many of the smaller water providers
- Helpful in developing water strategies
- Would potentially add 1 to 2 small engineering firms to Region C team

Kaarlela added that the TWDB requires a selection process including a Certification of Procurement form. Connie Townsend corrected this, saying only the Certificate of Procurement was needed. However, Howard Slobodin clarified that TRA would require a competitive selection process. Also, the sub-consultants would have to be approved by the RCWPG.

Steve Mundt asked if the funding for sub-consultants has to be budgeted. Ms. Kaarlela replied that each RWPG has a specific budget allocated by TWDB. Region C has approximately \$2.4 M allocated, and funding for sub-consultants would come out of the consultant's budget.

J. Newsletter articles

Colby Walton, Cooksey Communications, gave the presentation on the newsletter. The current funding of the newsletter is unsure. Originally, the newsletter was funded by the large water providers and was sent to approximately 1600 recipients quarterly, and then later, semi-annually. These funds have been depleted. The question was raised concerning Kevin Ward's attempt to obtain allocation of funding for the newsletter in the TWDB contract amendment. Connie Townsend, TWDB, said the Water Board has approved up to \$5,000 per 5-year period for the newsletter labor and printing costs.

Walton advised that each newsletter costs around \$8,000 to produce. Bill Ceverha asked whether the Region C website has the same information as in the newsletter. Walton responded that the website forces a person to sift through an abundance of technical data. Russell Laughlin asked what is trending on the Region C website and whether someone could convert the technical data to layman's terms. Walton countered that the newsletter is a better mechanism to push information to the public.

Chair Puckett suggested discussing the newsletter's future at the next officer's meeting and reporting the results back to the planning group at the next RCWPG meeting. Chair Puckett also mentioned the possibility of finding sponsors for the newsletter.

K. Legislative Updates

Lissa Gregg, FNI, briefly discussed legislation of interest to the RCWPG currently being considered by the Texas Legislature. The following bills were passed and will become effective September 1, 2017:

SB 347 – (Watson) Relating to the applicability of open meetings and public information laws to regional water planning groups and their committees.

SB 1511 – (Perry) Relating to the state and regional water planning process and the funding of projects included in the state water plan. This bill:

- Removes infeasible strategies
- Assess barriers to high priority strategies
- Optional simplified regional planning process every other 5 years

Also discussed were HB2948 (Larson) and HB2240 (Lucio III).

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Chair Puckett added that because of SB347, future RCWPG meetings to discuss officer nominations or prioritization will need to be labeled other than committee or subcommittee meetings to avoid falling under open meeting posting requirements.

V. OTHER DISCUSSION

A. Updates from the Chair – Chair Puckett had no further comments.

B. Report from Regional Liaisons

- Region B - Jack Stevens reported they are trying to get Drought of Record changed; have held 5 meetings this year.
- Region D - David Nabors reported they have been conducting regular housekeeping duties; next meeting is July 26, 2017, to approve 8 new members. Nabors added that what RCWPG does as a group is very important to future generations and the long-range planning process.
- Region G - Bill Ceverha noted this planning group met in April to confirm new members; also discussed the mining projections.
- Region H - no comment

C. Report from Texas Water Development Board – Connie Townsend stated that the TWDB projections on GPCD and mining reuse water will be forthcoming. Townsend advised that the TWDB will hold a finance workshop in Ft. Worth on May 9, 2017. Ms. Townsend also introduced Sarah Backhouse who has replaced Temple McKinnon at the TWDB.

D. Report from Texas Department of Agriculture - None

E. Report from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - None

F. Other Reports - None

G. Confirm Date and Location of Next Meeting - Chair Puckett confirmed that the next meeting of the RCWPG will be on October 30, 2017, but is subject to change as needed.

H. Public Comments - None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the RCWPG adjourned at approximately 3:35 P.M.

JODY PUCKETT, Chair