

REGION C WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF AN OPEN PUBLIC MEETING
December 5, 2016

The Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) met in an open public meeting on Monday, December 5, 2016, 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.

Acting Chair Ward 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:

David Bailey	Bob Riley
John Carman	Drew Satterwhite
Bill Ceverha	Craig Schkade (Alt. for Russell Laughlin)
Tim Fisher (Alt. for Howard Martin)	Rick Shaffer (Alt. for James Hotopp)
Harold Latham	Gary Spicer
John Lingenfelder	Connie Standridge
Steve Mundt	Jack Stevens
Denis Qualls (Alt. for Jody Puckett)	Kevin Ward
Mike Rickman (Alt. for Tom Kula)	

Connie Townsend of the TWDB, and Darrell Dean, TDA, were present. The registration lists signed by guests in attendance are attached.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 9, 2015

The minutes of the November 9, 2015, 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 Vacancy for Robert Scott's Position Representing Environmental Interests; Call for Nominations to Fill Vacancy, and Vote to Fill Vacancy.

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 public comments on this action item.

Acting Chair Ward asked if there were any nominations from the floor but there were none. Upon a motion from Bill Ceverha, and a second from Steve Mundt, the Board voted unanimously to take this item up at the next meeting.

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- B. Announcement of Vacancies for thirteen (13) Expiring Terms Representing Municipalities, Water Districts, Public, Water Utilities, Small Business, Environment, and Agriculture Interests as well as GMA8, GMA11, and GMA12. Call for Nominations to Fill Vacancies, and Vote to Fill Vacancies.

Terms of thirteen RCWPG members expired November 1, 2016. There are nine members with expiring terms who have expressed interest in being considered for re-election, and one member is not seeking re-election. Per the By-laws, rules regarding selection of members do not apply to the three members representing Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs). Each GMA appoints representatives to the group and has chosen to continue the appointment of the current representatives to Region C.

The RCWPG will accept nominations from the planning group and the public and take action to fill the positions. Each position is a five-year commitment. The open positions are as follows:

Currently Held by	Interest	Seeking Re-Election
John Carman	Municipalities	Yes
James Hotopp	Municipalities	Yes
Tom Kula	Water Districts	Yes
John Lingenfelder	Public	Yes
Jim McCarter	Water Utilities	No
Steve Mundt	Small Business	Yes
Jody Puckett	Municipalities	Yes
Bob Riley	Environment	Yes
Drew Satterwhite	Water Districts	Yes
Tom Woodward	Agriculture	Yes
Harold Latham	GMA8	N/A
Gary Douglas	GMA11	N/A
David Bailey	GMA12	N/A

There were no public comments on this action item.

Acting Chair Ward asked if there were any nominations from the floor but there were none. Upon a motion from Denis Qualls, and a second from Connie Standridge, the RCWPG voted unanimously to reappoint the members seeking re-election.

C. Consider Appointing Nominating Committee for Slate of Officers for 2017.

The RCWPG may appoint a Nominating Committee to develop a recommendation for the 2017 slate of officers.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion by Mike Rickman and a second by Steve Mundt, the RCWPG voted unanimously to appoint Jody Puckett, Russell Laughlin, Kevin Ward, Tom Kula and Harold Latham to the Nominating Committee for a slate of officers for 2017 that will be presented to the RCWPG at its next meeting for confirmation.

D. Consider Authorizing Trinity River Authority to Provide Public Notices and Submit a Grant Application to the TWDB on Behalf of Region C for Funding to Complete the Fifth Round of Regional Water Planning, and to Negotiate and Execute the Amendment to the TWDB Contract, and to take All Other Actions Necessary to Secure Said Contract Amendment and to Continue Planning for the Fifth Cycle Region C Water Planning.

The tasks included in this authorization are post public notices of TRA's grant application in response to the TWDB's Request for Application on behalf of Region C for funding to complete the fifth round of regional water planning; submit the grant application to TWDB; negotiate and execute the associated amendment to the TWDB contract; amend the associated Consultants subcontract to include this additional Scope of Work and funding; and, authorization for TRA to take all other actions necessary to secure the required contract amendment and to continue planning for the fifth-cycle Region C Water Plan.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion by Denis Qualls and a second by Rick Shaffer, the RCWPG voted unanimously to authorize the Trinity River Authority to perform tasks related to posting and submitting the TWDB's Request for Application on behalf of Region C for funding to complete the fifth round of regional water planning due by February 21, 2017 and to negotiate and execute the Amendment to the TWDB and consultant's contracts.

E. Consider Ratifying changes to the draft Water User Group (WUG) list submitted to Texas Water Development Board by the September 30, 2016, deadline.

On June 20, 2016, TWDB provided a draft list of WUGs for the 2021 Regional Planning cycle. This list was based on the updated definition of WUG. Planning groups were asked to submit comments on the draft list by September 30, 2016.

Jeremy Rice, Freese & Nichols, discussed the following TWDB revised definition of Water User Groups (WUGs) as below:

- No longer cities > 500
- Water Providers > 100 acre-feet/year

Jeremy Rice added that the TWDB provided the draft list that Freese & Nichols reviewed and suggested changes. The RCWPG reviewed the draft list via email. Freese & Nichols submitted the draft list to TWDB by the September 30, 2016, deadline.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion by Jack Stevens and a second by Rick Shaffer, the RCWPG voted unanimously to ratify changes to the draft Water User Group list submitted to the TWDB.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Schedule Overview for the 2021 Planning Cycle

Jeremy Rice, Freese & Nichols, outlined the key dates for the 2021 Planning Cycle as follows:

- January 2018 – Population/Demand Projections due
- March 2, 2020 – Initially Prepared Plan due
- September 2, 2020 – Final Plan Due

Rice added there will be approximately 12 RCWPG meetings over next 4 years.

B. TWDB Presentation – Regional Planning 101

Connie Townsend, TWDB, gave a presentation on the background of regional and state water planning. Ms. Townsend explained that the water planning groups are non-regulatory. She also stated that there are 2-year Legislative appropriations for the 5-year contract. The last year of the contract involves amendments to obtain monies. The RWPGs scope is a 50-year planning horizon. Ms. Townsend also advised there is a new Public Notice Planning quick reference available on the TWDB website.

C. TWDB Presentation – Recent Rule Changes

Connie Townsend, TWDB, discussed the TWDB's recent rule changes posted in the December 2, 2016, edition of the Texas Register. The TWDB adopted the rules on November 17, 2016, and these rules are effective December 8, 2016. The purpose of the amendments is to implement legislative changes from SB 1101, 84th L.S.,

HB 4, 83rd L.S., and HB 3357 and HB 30, 84th L.S.; improve the planning process and increase flexibility in planning; reduce certain unessential reporting requirements; address stakeholder concerns raised during the previous planning cycle; standardize language; and clarify rules and refine definitions to make them more understandable and user-friendly. Some of the rules Ms. Townsend addressed are identified below:

- The definition of Water User Group (WUG) is revised to be more consistent across all municipal water users and to reflect a utility-based approach. The revision creates a standard, volume-based criterion of 100 acre-feet per year for municipal retail public utilities and water systems serving institutions or facilities owned by the state or federal government. This definition removes the disparity between incorporated and unincorporated areas.
- The definition of County-Other is revised to accommodate the revised definition of Water User Group under the approach of utility-based planning as delineated by water provider service areas.
- The definition of Major Water Provider (MWP) is added to define this category of water supplier. A MWP is a significant public or private WUG or wholesale water provider (WWP) whose significance is determined by the RWPG, and provides water for any water use category in a regional water planning area (RWPA). Major water provider is defined because it is a category of water provider that is adopted to be used for reporting purposes in regional and state water planning instead of previous WWP-based reporting requirements. This definition eliminates the annual 1,000 acre-feet per year threshold delivery requirement.
- The definition of Water Management Strategy Project (WMSP) is added to distinguish between a Water Management Strategy Project and a Water Management Strategy (WMS). A WMS is a plan to meet a water need; however, a WMSP is an infrastructure project that may be required to implement a WMS. The adopted definition clarifies that one water management strategy project may be associated with multiple water management strategies.
- Section 357.21 is revised to implement changes consistent with HB 3357, 84th L.S. HB 3357 amended Texas Government Code, §551.053(a) and (c), allowing a political subdivision or district to post notice of its meetings on its website as an alternate to providing notice to the county clerk of the county in which its administrative offices are located, which was the previous statutory requirement.

V. OTHER DISCUSSION

- A. Updates from the Chair – Acting Chair Kevin Ward gave an update on the meeting on November 17, 2016, in Austin the TWDB held in advance of the 85th Texas Legislative Session with the chairs or designees of the RWPGs. Mr. Ward attended at the request of Chair Puckett. The meeting was intended to receive input on the Structure and Operation of the State’s Regional Water Planning Groups.

The Work Session included a discussion and summary of public comments on this topic from TWDB staff; a briefing by C. E. Williams regarding a request for more

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information on RWPGs from Senator Perry during the June 20, 2016, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs hearing; and a roundtable discussion with Board Members and planning group chairs/designees. Kevin Ward stated that there was a comparison of Bylaws and Rules, along with a discussion and exchange. Mr. Ward approached the TWDB Executive Committee about allowing the use of budgeted monies for the newsletter production which is normally paid for by administrative funds. The TWDB is taking this request under advisement.

- B. Report from Regional Liaisons – Kevin Ward stated that he attended the Region H meeting on November 2, 2016, where primarily housekeeping chores were conducted.
- C. Report from Texas Water Development Board – Connie Townsend stated that events, milestones and dates will be provided in emails. Townsend advised that Region B had four meetings last year and pushed to get Drought of Record and Brackish Groundwater definitions changed. Curtis Campbell was involved in this effort.

Townsend also advised that TWDB is working on methodologies. Gary Spicer stated that he does not agree with Steam Electric Methodology and encouraged the members to submit comments by Friday, December 9th. Acting Chair Ward also encouraged the Board to participate and said that is the only basis for planning.

- 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 – TBD. Acting Chair Ward added that the Board needs to meet next spring when the TWDB projections are out, either May, June or July.
- H. Public Comments - None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the RCWPG adjourned at approximately 2:57 P.M.

KEVIN WARD, Acting Chair