

**REGION C WATER PLANNING GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF AN OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**  
June 24, 2019

The Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) met in an open public meeting on Monday, June 24, 2019, 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.

Chairman Kevin Ward called the Region C Regional Water Planning Group meeting to order at approximately 1:05 P.M. and welcomed guests.

I. ROLL CALL

Vice-Chairman Russell Laughlin conducted a roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present. The following members were in attendance:

David Bailey	Kyle Pritchett (Alt. for Connie Standridge)
Jay Barksdale (Alt. for Bill Ceverha)	Denis Qualls (Alt. for Richard Wagner)
Grace Darling	Bob Riley
Christopher Harder	Drew Satterwhite
Harold Latham	Rick Shaffer
Russell Laughlin	Gary Spicer
John Lingenfelder	Jack Stevens
Steve Mundt	Kevin Ward

Sarah Backhouse, TWDB, Kevin Smith, TWDB, Adam Whisenant, TPWD, Darrell Dean, Texas Department of Agriculture, David Nabors, Region D, and R. J. Muraski, North Texas Municipal Water District, were present. The registration lists signed by guests in attendance are attached.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 25, 2019

The minutes of the February 25, 2019, RCWPG meeting were approved by consensus upon a motion by Grace Darling and a second by Jack Stevens.

III. ACTION ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Contract Amendment

The RCWPG will consider authorizing Trinity River Authority to amend the Region C contract with Texas Water Development Board (Amendment No. 5) to increase COMMITTED FUNDS to the full contract Amount. Amendment No. 5 is expected to be provided by TWDB in September 2019.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion by Jack Stevens, and a second by Grace Darling, the RCWPG voted unanimously to authorize the Trinity River Authority to amend the Region C contract

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with Texas Water Development Board, Amendment No. 5, to increase committee funds to the full contract amount.

- B. Announcement of Vacancy for Bill Ceverha's position representing the Public and Tim Fisher's position representing Municipalities. Chairman Ward recognized Mr. Ceverha and Mr. Fisher for their service to Region C.

Upon a motion by Steve Mundt, and a second by Gary Spicer, the RCWPG accepted the resignations of Bill Ceverha and Tim Fisher.

Chairman Ward advised the planning group that Bill Ceverha's resignation is effective immediately. Mr. Ceverha recommended his current alternate, Jay Barksdale, as his replacement. Chairman Ward asked if there were any additional nominations from the planning group or the public. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Upon a motion by Denis Qualls, and a second by Gary Spicer, the RCWPG voted unanimously to approve Jay Barksdale to replace Bill Ceverha.

Chairman Ward stated that Tim Fisher submitted his resignation effective May 31, 2019, and recommended his current alternate, Dr. Kenneth Banks, General Manager of Water Utilities for City of Denton, as his replacement. Chairman Ward asked if there were any additional nominations from the planning group or the public. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Upon a motion by Russell Laughlin, and a second by Rick Shaffer, the RCWPG voted unanimously to approve Dr. Kenneth Banks to replace Tim Fisher.

There were no public comments on this action item.

- C. Consider Support of City of Springtown's requested Amendment to the *2016 Region C Water Plan*

Thomas Hoover, P.E., City Engineer, City of Springtown, and William Moriarty, P.E., Consulting Engineer, gave a presentation on Springtown's request for RCWPG support of its efforts to seek an amendment to the *2016 Region C Water Plan*.

The City of Springtown is requesting an Amendment to the 2016 Water Plan as follows:

- Add a Water Treatment Plant Expansion/Upgrade and Pump Station Improvements to their current Water Management Strategy titled;
  - "*Infrastructure Needs (Lake Intake Modifications for Lower Lake Levels).*"
- Increase cost of Strategy to reflect WTP costs (from \$280,000 to \$2.6M)

Mr. Hoover advised the planning group that the infrastructure is old, and the Raw Water Facility needs improvements. This amendment is needed to enable Springtown to apply for and receive SWIFT funding. Mr. Hoover gave illustrations from a Drinking Water System Evaluation conducted for the City of Springtown by Pacheco Koch.

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Items for RCWPG Consideration:

- Consider approval to support Springtown's Amendment to *2016 Region C Water Plan*.
- Consider authorization, contingent upon RCWPG support, for the Region C chair to submit a Minor Amendment Determination Request to the TWDB Executive Administrator for Springtown's proposed Amendment.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion by Drew Satterwhite, and a second by Rick Shaffer, the RCWPG voted unanimously to support the City of Springtown's request for an Amendment to the *2016 Region C Water Plan*; and to authorize the Region C Chair to submit a Minor Amendment Determination Request to the TWDB Executive Administrator for the City of Springtown's proposed Amendment.

### D. Consider Task 7 Subcommittee

The RCWPG will consider appointing a RCWPG subcommittee for the purpose of review and approval of the Task 7 "Existing and Potential Emergency Interconnects" to be submitted to TWDB separate from the regional plan.

Simone Kiel, FNI, gave the planning group a status report on Task 7. The consultants are currently:

- Reviewing Drought Contingency Plans
  - Drought Stage Triggers
  - Drought Response Measures by Stage
  - Received 60 plans from Region C WUGs/WWPs

Ms. Kiel advised that the next step on Task 7 is to gather a list of Emergency Interconnects and submit this list to TWDB separate from the Final Plan.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion by Jack Stevens, and a second by Grace Darling, the RCWPG voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to convene a meeting of the environmental entities and consultants to determine the list of emergency interconnects to submit to the TWDB separate from the final plan.

### E. Update on Hydrologic Variance request for Water Management Strategies

**Note:** This item was not an action item as listed on the agenda and should have been listed as a discussion item.

Simone Kiel led this discussion on the TWDB determination on Region C's request dated March 4, 2019, for Hydrologic Variances for Water Management Strategies. Ms. Kiel advised that the TWDB approved all variances except the Sulphur Basin

Environmental Flows calculations. In a letter dated May 9, 2019, from Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator, the TWDB approved the following assumptions:

1. Use of a one-year safe yield for the Lake Tehuacana water management strategy (WMS).
2. Utilization of a modified Trinity River Water Availability Model (WAM) that accounts for environmental flows, updated diversions, reasonable return flows, subordination agreements, system operations, and errors and omissions in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) WAM for the Trinity River, to assess the yield for the Lake Tehuacana WMS.
3. Use of the Sulphur River Basin Riverware model to assess yields for proposed projects in the Sulphur Basin.

The RCWPG also requested permission to evaluate environmental flows in the Sulphur Basin using the Lyons method. This assumption was determined to be unallowable under existing regional water planning rules.

Due to the absence of an updated WAM, the use of certain alternative models were authorized for this planning cycle; an unmodified WAM RUN3 will be utilized by the TCEQ for analyzing permit applications. The use of the modified conditions for WMS supply evaluations was authorized only if the yield produced is more conservative (less) for surface water appropriations than an unmodified WAM RUN3. The TWDB anticipates that an updated WAM for the Sulphur Basin will be available for use in evaluating WMSs during the next regional water planning cycle.

Region C requested use of firm yields reported by the TCEQ in the Water Availability Analysis memo for Bois d'Arc Lake and Lake Ralph Hall. These requests did not require a hydrologic variance approval and were allowed.

Mr. Walker advised in his letter that while the TWDB authorizes these modifications for the development of the Region C 2021 RWP, it is Region C's responsibility to ensure that the resulting estimates of existing surface water availabilities are reasonable for drought of record planning purposes and will reflect conditions expected in the event of an actual drought or record. Additionally, Mr. Walker stated that Region C should ensure and document coordination with neighboring regions on shared water sources, including Wright Patman Lake, and regarding anticipated reservoir sedimentation rates.

Grace Darling asked about the status of a WAM for Sulphur River Basin. Simone Kiel, FNI, advised that this WAM has not been updated and is not available for this round of planning. Ms. Darling asked if there is a time horizon for the update; and Chairman Ward added that the WAM will have to be completed and vetted by the TWDB. Sarah Backhouse, TWDB, added that there is no defined timeline for this update to be completed.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentation on Conservation Strategies – Brian McDonald, P.E., Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., briefed the Region C planning group on this item. Mr. McDonald advised that in the *2016 Region C Water Plan*, the following Water Conservation Package was recommended for each municipal WUG:

- Low flow plumbing fixture rules
- Efficient residential clothes washer standards
- Efficient residential dishwasher standards
- Enhanced public and school education
- Price elasticity/rate structure impacts
- Enhanced water loss control program
- Time-of-day irrigation restrictions
- Water waste prohibition

Mr. McDonald added that the first three conservation strategies are required by law and are passive. The next five are more active and will require WUGs taking action. Listed below are potential additions to conservation package.

- **Water Conservation Coordinator**
  - Duties
    - Manage conservation programs and implementation
    - Develop public outreach strategies
    - Participate in conservation and drought planning
  - Municipal BMP 2.1 in TWDB's "Best Management Practices for Municipal Water Users"
  - Required by H.B. 1648 (as of September 1, 2017) for all retail public water utilities with 3,300 service connections or more
- **Twice-Weekly Irrigation Restriction**
  - Limit irrigation to a maximum of two times per week on a permanent basis
  - Implemented by several Region C WWP's and customers since 2012
    - Preliminary information indicates long-term water savings of 2-4 percent of total water demand
    - Short-term implementation by one WWP during a drought stage indicates water savings of 8.5 percent of total water demand
    - Goals in water conservation plans are 1.5-2 percent of total water demand
    - Sierra Club/National Wildlife Federation report suggests 7-11 percent of total water demand
    - Plan to discuss potential water saving with WWP's at meetings in July and August

- **Status**

- Currently evaluating water savings and costs for the Water Conservation Package
- Reviewing Water Conservation Plans
  - Existing conservation in the region
  - Have received 64 plans from Region C WUGs/WWPs

Mr. McDonald added that considerable water demand has been reduced by the first three Legislative-required water conservation measures. This reduction does not change the amount of water used but reduces future water demand.

- B. Presentation on Water Management Strategies – Simone Kiel, FNI, gave this presentation on the major water management strategies. Ms. Kiel advised that there are seven new major reservoirs as follows:

- Bois d’Arc
- Lake Columbia (has water right permit but no 404 permit)
- George Parkhouse
- Tehuacana
- Marvin Nichols, elevation 313
- Marvin Nichols, elevation 328
- Ralph Hall

Two Joint Strategies:

- Sulphur Basin Supplies
- Toledo Bend

Analyses:

- Updated Reservoir Yields
  - New Droughts of Record for some Sulphur Basin Reservoirs
  - Changes to Modeling for Tehuacana
  - No Changes to Bois d’Arc Lake or Lake Columbia Modeling
- Updated Infrastructure and Costs
  - September 2018 Dollars
- Updated Technical Memoranda (draft)

Sulphur Basin Reservoirs:

- Three Potential New Reservoirs:
  - Parkhouse I (South)
  - Parkhouse II (North)
  - Marvin Nichols Reservoir (313.5 ft. and 328 ft.)
- Reservoir Yields
  - New Droughts of Record
  - Sensitive to Water Right Study
- Updated Data – Sulphur Basin Study
  - Assume 20% Yield Reserved for in-Basin Use

#### Joint Strategies for MWP

- Sulphur Basin Supplies
  - Marvin Nichols (328 ft.) and Wright Patman Reallocation (235 ft.)
  - USACE Study Recommendation – chosen based on White Oak Mitigation
  - Infrastructure – NTMWD, TRWD, UTRWD, DWU and Irving
- Toledo Bend Reservoir
  - Infrastructure – NTMWD, TRWD, UTRWD, DWU
  - Two Phases: Phase 2 after 2070 Region C Planning Cycle

Ms. Kiel advised that the next step in this planning process is to meet with the Major Water Providers (MWPs). The strategies mentioned are potential options. MWPs will also consider their own plans.

- C. Region C-D Coordination with consideration for subcommittee – Chairman Ward led this discussion and provided a brief summary of events to date. Below is a history of this coordination effort:

#### **Region C-D Coordination History**

- Conflict in 2016 Planning Cycle Regarding Sulphur Basin Supplies
- Conflict Resolved Sept 2015 by Subcommittees from Regions C & D
  - Region C delayed Marvin Nichols Reservoir until 2070 in 2016 Plan
  - Region C support Region D efforts to study Alternatives in 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle
  - Region C not to Submit new Water Rights Applications for new Reservoirs through end of 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle (2021 Plan)
  - Region D not to Challenge Marvin Nichols as Unique Reservoir Site through end of 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle

#### **Region C-D Coordination Update**

- TWDB sent 2 letters to Regions C&D Chairs (April & May 2019)
- TWDB Offer to Facilitate Coordination
- TWDB Asks Regions to:
  - Identify/Resolve Potential Issues that could impact IPP
  - Identify/Share Mutually Beneficial Information
  - Determine the most Effective Way to Coordinate
- TWDB to arrange Joint Meeting in July/August 2019

Chairman Ward advised the planning group that he had been in discussions with the TWDB; but that without the selection of management strategies, it is difficult to try to coordinate with Region D on these issues. Chairman Ward added that he had spoken with Walt Sears, Region D, and they agreed it would be better to wait to meet until after the Water Management Strategies have been defined. Chairman Ward appointed the following members to be on a Region C-D Coordination Subcommittee: Tom Kula, Russell Laughlin, Kevin Ward, Denis Qualls, Jay Barksdale, Steve Mundt, and Jack Stevens.

V. OTHER DISCUSSION

A. Updates from the Chair - None

B. Report from Regional Liaisons

- Region B – Jack Stevens advised that Region B will be having a meeting next week.
- Region D – David Nabors advised Region D will meet this Wednesday.
- Region G – Gary Spicer advised that the next Region G meeting is in July.
- Region H – Chairman Ward advised that Jim Sims attended the last Region H meeting in his place.
- Region I – None

C. Report from Texas Water Development Board – Sarah Backhouse, TWDB, introduced Kevin Smith as the new Region C Project Manager. Kevin Smith advised that the Legislature passed three bills directly related to flood planning and significant bills related to flood and project planning.

- **HB 807** – TWDB is required to appoint an interregional planning council (based on RWPG nominations) consisting of one member from each RWPG during each five-year planning cycle prior to the adoption of a new state water plan. This bill adds several new requirements to the development of RWPs. While this bill is effective immediately, the TWDB is working on the logistics for the planning council nomination process and will send more information as it becomes available. Rulemaking will be initiated to address HB 807 requirements. Mr. Smith advised that the TWDB anticipates issuing guidance on how to address the new requirements for inclusion in the 2021 RWPs. To the extent possible, guidance will describe how much information can be addressed through current data collection efforts.
- **HB 721** – Kevin Smith advised that this bill requires the TWDB to:
  1. Conduct studies of ASR (Aquifer Storage Recovery) and aquifer recharge projects in the SWP or identified by interested persons, and report on the results of those studies to RWPGs and interested persons.
  2. Conduct a statewide survey to identify the relative sustainability of various major and minor aquifers for use in the ASR projects or aquifer recharge projects and prepare a report of the survey.

Mr. Smith stated it is anticipated that the first feasibility study will be completed by September 2020. The statewide survey report will be due to state leadership by December 15, 2020.

- **HB 723** – This bill requires the TCEQ to obtain or develop updated WAMs for the Brazos, Neches, Red, and Rio Grande River Basins. TCEQ is to obtain or develop WAM updates by December 1, 2022.



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- **SB 7** – This bill relates to flood funding and is aimed at providing funding through multiple funds and accounts for:
  - Flood planning/protection/mitigation
  - Data collection and modeling
  - Hurricane Harvey Projects (through TDEM)
  
- **SB 8** – This bill relates to flood planning as follows:
  - Establishes a state and regional flood planning process administered by TWDB.
  - Flood planning regions will be by river basin.
  - First regional flood plans due January 10, 2023.
  - First state flood plan due September 1, 2024.
  - Requires the State Soil and Water Conservation Board to prepare a 10-year dam repair, rehabilitation, and maintenance plan for flood control dams under their jurisdiction.

Mr. Smith also advised that the TWDB is planning stakeholder meetings around the state to gather preliminary input on SB 7 and SB 8 implementation. These meetings will provide input for rulemaking.

- D. Report from Texas Department of Agriculture - None
- E. Report from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - None
- F. Report from Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board - None
- G. Other Reports - None
- H. Confirm Date and Location of Next Meeting: Oct 7, 2019, 1pm, NCTCOG, 616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint Two Building, First Floor Transportation Council Room, Arlington, Texas 76011
- I. Public Comments - None

VI. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Ward adjourned this meeting at 3:05 PM.

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KEVIN WARD, Chairman