

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, WR Baker, John Bartos, Brad Brunett, Jun Chang, Caleb Cooper, Mark Evans, Bob Hebert, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Byron Ryder, Michael Turco, Brandon Wade, and Kevin Ward.

ALTERNATES:

Tom Michel for Bill Teer and Veronica Osegueda for Yvonne Forrest.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Comin, Carl Burch, Glenn Lord, Marvin Marcell, James Morrison, and Ivan Langford.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Lann Bookout

CONSULTANT TEAM:

Philip Taucer, Jason Afinowicz, and Courtney Corso

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2021 MEETING

Mr. Chang made a motion to approve the minutes of November 3, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously with one correction to amend the name Mr. Hollingsworth related to item 8.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 8

There were no public comments.

5. PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

- a. Receive Nominating Committee report and consider taking action to approve members to fill vacancies on the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) and RHWPG Executive Committee**

Mr. Chang, Chair of Nominating Committee (Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, Mark Evans, Glenn Lord, and Michael Turco) explained that the committee met on January 18, 2022, to recommend individuals to fill the various vacancies within the Planning Group. Following are the nominations:

Danny Pierce representing Agriculture (Alternate-Toni Bruner); Loyd Smith representing Counties; and Ken Kramer representing General Public.

The Committee also nominated Yvonne Forrest to serve on the Executive Committee as a member representing Municipalities. Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the slate of individuals as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wade and carried unanimously.

- b. Discuss and elect officers and members of the Executive Committee of the RHWPG**

Mr. Evans explained that currently, there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee due to Mr. Pudge Willcox's resignation. Mr. Evans named the members of the Executive Committee: Mark Evans (Chair), John Bartos, Jace Houston, and Marvin Marcell. Mr. Chang made a motion to elect Mark Evans as Chair, Marvin Marcell as Vice President, Jace Houston as Secretary, John Bartos, and Yvonne Forrest as committee members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

- c. Review RHWPG bylaws and discuss potential revisions**

Mr. Taucer explained that the beginning of a new cycle is a good time to review the Region H Water Planning Group's Bylaws. He stated that various state laws have changed. Mr. Houston and Mr. Bartos volunteered to review the various changes and present and discuss any necessary revisions to the Bylaws.

6. SPECIAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. Discuss and consider taking action to ratify all formal actions taken by the RHWPG during meetings held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Mr. Taucer explained that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor's proclamations created an avenue for agencies to meet remotely while maintaining transparency, allowing for public input, and continued outreach. He stated that the Region H Water Planning Group went above and beyond to ensure public transparency and participation. Further,

Mr. Taucer stated that many agencies have ratified all formal actions taken during the pandemic as a precaution to avoid risk from challenges, validity, etc. (See attached Exhibit “A” for specific actions). Mr. Wade moved approval to ratify all formal actions taken by the Region H Water Planning Group during meetings held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried with all present voting aye.

7. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Receive report on revisions to State Water Planning Guidance Principles and Regional Water Planning rules

Mr. Taucer provided an update of the various revisions to the State Water Planning Guidance Principles and Regional Water Planning rules which can be found on the Texas Water Development Board’s website.

b. Discuss and consider taking action regarding certification of administrative expenses to be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for reimbursement for the sixth cycle of Regional Water Plan (RWP) development

Mr. Taucer explained that certain designated political subdivision expenses are now eligible for funding such as administrative expenses. Discussion ensued related to the continued use of the local contribution fund for various administrative expenses. It was suggested no action be taken at this time however, it could be considered at a later date, if necessary.

c. Receive report from Consultant Team and Non-Population Demands Committee regarding TWDB draft non-municipal demand projections for the 2026 Region H RWP

Mr. Taucer explained that the Texas Water Development Board recently release the draft projection along with methodology information relative to livestock, manufacturing, and steam electric power. He provided a high-level overview of comparing methodologies used in the last cycle and this cycle. Mr. Taucer stated that the Texas Water Development Board allows the planning groups, throughout the cycle, the flexibility to adjust the projections through data-based information.

d. Receive report from Consultant Team and Population Demands Committee regarding preliminary water user group data for the 2026 Region H RWP

Mr. Taucer stated that the information is not currently available, however he explained that the Texas Water Development Board will provide a draft list of the Water User Groups along with data on historical water use, connection counts, and recent population per capita. Further, Mr. Taucer stated that the planning groups would have the opportunity to request

changes to the list. He stated that once the list is available, the Population Demands Committee will meet to review and discuss.

e. Discuss and consider a course of action for interregional coordination with other Regional Water Planning Groups

Mr. Taucer explained the Texas Water Development Board and the Interregional Planning Council's recommendations related to the Interregional Coordination process. Discuss and document the process, identify cross-regional sources, determine which strategies may create coordination opportunities, standing agenda item for liaisons, coordination memoranda by consultant team, and formal meeting(s) of interregional representatives were a few that Mr. Taucer mentioned. Discussion ensued. Mr. Houston made a motion to receive updates from interregional planning council liaison on an as-needed basis. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

8. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH

a. Receive update regarding the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP

Mr. Taucer provided an overview related to the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan by providing dates of scheduled events/tasks.

b. Receive update from liaisons to other groups

Mr. Wade thanked Mr. Taucer for providing information to Region 8 related to allocation of reservoirs, etc.

c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG

Mr. Taucer expressed that the consultant team is willing to provide presentations to interests groups, etc.

d. Agency communications and general information

Mr. Bookout suggested that an agenda item be considered at the next Region H meeting to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to amend the contract by including additional scope and fees, a requirement of the Texas Water Development Board.

9. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was announced that the next meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group will take place on May 4, 2022.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.