

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 7, 2021**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Bailey, John Bartos, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, James Comin, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Bob Hebert, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, Carl Masterson, Mike Turco, and Brandon Wade.

**DESIGNATED ALTERNATES:** Lloyd Smith for John Blount and Tom Michel for William Teer.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gary Ashmore, W.R. Baker, Caleb Cooper, Marvin Marcell, James Morrison, and Kevin Ward.

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2021 MEETING**

Mr. Houston made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

**4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 13**

There were no comments related to this item.

**5. DISCUSS VACANCIES ON THE RHWPG FOR VOTING MEMBERS REPRESENTING AGRICULTURE AND COUNTIES AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO APPROVE MEMBERS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE RHWPG**

Mr. Evans announced the vacant position representing Agriculture and the vacant position representing Counties. He explained that Judge Henson resigned his position representing Counties and recommended Judge Byron Ryder be appointed. Mr. Bailey made a motion to appoint Judge Byron Ryder as a voting member of the Region H Water Planning Group representing Counties. The motion was seconded by Mr. Masterson and carried unanimously.

**6. RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE 87<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the various bills of the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session impacting Water Planning Groups, including HB 1905, SB 905, SB 600, and SB 669.

**7. REVIEW AND DISCUSS RHWPG RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2021 RWP REGARDING UNIQUE STREAM SEGMENTS, UNIQUE RESERVOIR SITES, AND OTHER REGULATORY, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Taucer provided a review of the various recommendations from the 2021 Regional Water Plan regarding unique stream segments, unique reservoir sites, and other regulatory, administrative, and legislative recommendations.

**8. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING SUBMITTALS OF STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS RELATED TO CONSULTANTS FOR THE 2026 ROUND OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO SELECT A QUALIFIED CONSULTANT**

Ms. Amber Batson stated that the San Jacinto River Authority issued a Request for Qualifications to solicit information that will enable the Region H Water Planning Group to select one or more consultants to provide professional services to prepare the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan. She explained Freese and Nichols, Inc., was the only respondent out of approximately four hundred bid invitations sent out. Mr. Lord made a motion to select Freese and Nichols, Inc., as the qualified consultant to provide professional services to prepare the Region H Water Plan for the Region H Water Planning Group. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

**9. RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2026 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN (RWP)**

Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan stating they are currently in the administrative mode of the cycle. He stated the team will be transitioning to a technical mode in the next six months.

**10. RECEIVE UPDATE ON RECENT AND POTENTIAL UPCOMING CHANGES TO RWP RULES AND GUIDANCE**

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to the Texas Water Development Board's procedural changes mostly aimed at streamlining processes. He reviewed the changes related to the grant application process, funding, general public outreach, regular meeting notices, and plan adoption process. He explained that there were no changes to the major notice events.

**11. DISCUSS POTENTIAL TIMING AND OPTIONS FOR RESUMING IN-PERSON RHWPG MEETINGS**

This item was not discussed due to resuming the Texas Open Meetings Act requirements enacted by the Governor on June 30, 2021. It was stated that the Governor announced all pre-pandemic requirements related to the Open Meetings Act will resume September 1, 2021.

**12. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE RHWPG**

Mr. Taucer stated the consultant team would visit the West Houston Association in mid-September.

**13. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mr. Bookout provided information related to the Mining Water Use Study website, TWDB Member Survey, rulemaking changes due to stakeholder input or legislative changes, the approval of the 2022 State Water Plan by TWDB, due dates for contract execution, and guidance principles and Water

Supply Planning Rules review. He provided a brief overview of various legislative bills, the Sixth Cycle of the Regional Water Plan, and related pre-planning meetings.

**14. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**15. NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 6, 2021**

It was announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2021.

**16. ADJOURN**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

