

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Ken Kramer, Marvin Marcell, Alisa Max, Mike O’Connell, Byron Ryder, Loyd Smith, and Mike Turco.

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Aaron Abel for Brad Brunett, Ekaterina Fitos for Yvonne Forrest, Jason Garrard for Glenn Lord, Jake Hollingsworth for Brandon Wade, and Jim Sims for Kevin Ward.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Ashmore, W.R. Baker, Caleb Cooper, Ivan Langford, and Danny Pierce

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2023 MEETING.

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the minutes of May 3, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fitos and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 7.

There were no comments.

5. SPECIAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Receive presentation on and discuss a proposal to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP) related to the Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) Devers Pump Station Relocation

Mr. Taucer provided information relative to the proposed amendment related to the LNVA Devers Pump Station Relocation. He explained that the Texas Water Development Board (TWBD) determined the proposed amendment to be a minor amendment. He stated that the technical memorandum explained that this project would increase capacity by nearly 80 million gallons per day (MGD). Discussion ensued related to environmental impacts. It was

noted that additional language will be added to Section 6.1.1 to address environmental concerns. Mr. Taucer stated that no written comments had been received.

b. Consider taking action to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed LNVA Devers Pump Station Relocation

Mr. Sims made a motion to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan to incorporate the proposed LNVA Devers Pump Station Relocation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bredehoft and carried unanimously.

6. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Receive update from Consultant Team and Population Demands Committee regarding recommended revisions to draft TWDB projections from the 2026 Region H RWP and consider approving submittal to TWDB

Mr. Marcell provided an update from the Population Demands Committee stating that they met in July and reviewed per capita demands, WUG survey, WUG outreach, and revision requests. Mr. Taucer then presented a more detailed look related to the draft populations per-capita water demand projections. Discussion ensued. Mr. Chang made a motion to approve revisions to draft population and per-capita water demand projections and authorize the consultant team and Population Demand Committee to coordinate with the TWDB to finalize adjustments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

b. Receive update from the Brazos Alluvium Committee

Mr. Evans explained that the Brazos Alluvium Committee consists of Brandon Wade, Ken Kramer, Brad Burnett, and Mike Turco. He stated that the committee's responsibility includes coordination with the Region G Planning Group related to the Brazos Alluvium and facilitate effective communication of same between the Region H and the Region G Planning Groups during the 2026 Regional Planning Cycle. The committee reported on the July 14, 2023, meeting, stating that discussions took place related to a path forward.

c. Receive update from Consultant Team and Groundwater Supply Committee regarding Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) in Region H Water Planning Area

Mr. Taucer provided a brief overview of the MAGs since the previous cycle and reported on their overall stability.

d. Receive update from Consultant Team and Groundwater Supply Committee regarding evaluation of existing groundwater supplies in portions of aquifers deemed non-relevant by the Joint Planning Process

Mr. Taucer and the Groundwater Supply Committee provided information relative to non-relevant aquifers in Austin, Waller, Fort Bend, Trinity, and Walker counties.

e. Discuss upcoming Technical Committee activities

Mr. Taucer mentioned the upcoming meetings of the Groundwater Committee, the Brazos Alluvium Committee, the Surface Water Committee, and the Water Management Committee.

7. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH

a. Receive update regarding schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan

Mr. Taucer provided a recap of the schedule of events and upcoming tasks.

b. Receive update from liaisons to other Planning Groups

Mr. Evans provided an update of the Interregional Planning Council.

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

Mr. Taucer commented on an upcoming meeting taking place at the Bayou Preservation Association.

d. Agency communications and general information.

Ms. Rose provided an update on various resources available on TWDB's website, TWDB's sunset bill, and other various bills from the 88th Legislative Session.

8. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS.

There were no public comments.

9. NEXT MEETING:

It was announced that the next Region H Water Planning meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2023.

10. ADJOURN.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.