

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group was held at 10:00 a.m., November 1, 2017, at the San Jacinto River Authority General and Administration Building, a notice of said meeting was posted as required by law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, Mark Evans, Bob Hebert, Art Henson, Jace Houston, Kathy Jones, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, Marvin Marcell (joined meeting at 10:23 a.m.), Michael Turco, and Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Tom Michel for William Teer, Alisa Max for John Blount, Brad Burnett for David Collinworth, Jun Chang for Jimmie Schindewolf, Jim Sims for Kevin Ward, Ken Kramer for Carl Masterson, and Robert Thompson for Marvin Marcell (Mr. Marcell joined the meeting at 10:23 a.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Comin, Robert Istre, James Morrison, and Ruth Stultz,

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2017 MEETING

Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the minutes of June 7, 2017, Region H Water Planning Group meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

3. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 14

There were no public comments.

4. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF YVONNE FORREST AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP REPRESENTING MUNICIPALITIES.

Mr. Bartos made a motion to appoint Yvonne Forrest to represent municipalities for the Region H Water Planning Group. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hebert and carried unanimously. Ms. Forrest was welcomed by the group and provided a brief overview of her duties and responsibilities at the City of Houston.

5. ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF GENE FISSELER AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP REPRESENTING ELECTRIC GENERATING UTILITIES.

Mr. Evans reported that Mr. Gene Fisseler submitted his resignation as a member of the Region H Water Planning Group effective August 23, 2017. Mr. Chang made a motion to accept Mr. Gene Fisseler's resignation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Turco and carried unanimously. Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Fisseler recommended Mr. Craig Eckberg, NRG's regional environmental director, be appointed to the Region H Water Planning Group as the voting member representing electric generating utilities. Mr. Evans stated appointments due to this vacancy would be considered at a future meeting.

6. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON RECENT LEGISLATION IMPACTING THE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING PROCESS.

Mr. Lann Bookout, Texas Water Development Board, presented an overview of the 85th Legislative Session, in particular, legislation relative to regional water planning. He discussed details related to Senate Bill 347, House Bill 2215, and Senate Bill 1511.

7. DISCUSS REQUIREMENTS REGARDING TEXAS OPEN MEETING ACT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT TRAINING FOR REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP MEMEBERS.

Mr. Evans explained that Senate Bill 347 stipulates that each regional water planning group (RWPG), committee, and subcommittee of the RWPG are subject to the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act. Mr. Houston explained that RWPG members must complete the Open Meetings Act training required by Texas Government Code, Section 551.005 and the Public Information Act training required by Government Code, Section 552.012. Further, he explained, the Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act both state that completing the training in one capacity satisfies the requirement in all capacities, so RWPG members who have completed these trainings as part of their outside employment would not need to complete them again as RWPG members. Discussion ensued and a consensus was had that alternate voting members would also complete the training. Mr. Houston suggested that all completed certificates be provided to the Region H Water Planning Group Secretary's designee for official filing to comply with the bill prior to December 1, 2017. Discussion ensued related to the requirement for members to take the Public Information Act training. Mr. Houston along with Mr. Bookout explained that the interpretation of the Act is that the RWPG could designate a person to complete the Public Information Act training which would satisfy the requirement of the Act. Mr. Langford made a motion to designate Jace Houston, Secretary, as the designated official Public Information Act training certificate holder of the Region H Water Planning Group. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

8. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H WATER PLAN.

Mr. Afinowicz provided an update related to the 2021 Regional Water Plan schedule referencing upcoming meetings, events, and tasks.

9. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND NON-POPULATION DEMANDS COMMITTEE REGARDING DRAFT NON-MUNICIPAL DEMAND PROJECTIONS FOR THE 2021 REGION H WATER PLAN.

Mr. Afinowicz provided an update regarding the draft non-municipal demand projections for the 2021 Region H Water Plan. He stated that the Non-Population Demands Committee met on September 22, 2017, to review and make recommendations related to irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, and steam electric power. He stated that the committee recommended gathering a maximum historical use from 2010 to 2015 in order to view a longer range of data. Mr. Afinowicz stated that the final recommendation will be considered at the December meeting in order to meet the Texas Water Development Board's January 12, 2018, deadline.

10. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND POPULATION DEMANDS COMMITTEE REGARDING DRAFT MUNICIPAL POPULATION AND WATER DEMAND PROJECTIONS FOR THE 2021 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN.

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to the draft municipal population and water demands projections for the 2021 Region H Water Plan. He stated that committee convened in June and reviewed projections to confirm the overall approach. It was stated that the consensus of the committee is that no out-of-line growth will be experienced compared to what was previously planned. He stated that coordination will continue with the Texas Water Development Board with due date being January 12, 2018.

11. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR WATER PROVIDERS FOR REGION H AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION DIRECTING THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO SUBMIT A LIST OF RECOMMENDED MAJOR WATER PROVIDERS TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to Major Water Providers (MWP), stating that the MWP's largely replace Wholesale Water Providers (WWP). He stated that the Population and Non-Population Committees reviewed a methodology to identify MWPs relative to volumetric breakpoints. It was suggested by the Population Committee that anything below 25,000 acre feet would not be considered a MWP. Mr. Taucer then explained that using this methodology would comprise a new list of MWPs. Mr. Langford made a motion to accept the recommendation of designating 25,000 acre feet and above as MWPs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bruner and carried unanimously.

12. DISCUSS MEETING SITES AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO DESIGNATE A LIST OF APPROVED SITES FOR REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Mr. Evans discussed the possibility of designating specific sites for committee meetings to be held. It was decided that this item be postponed to a later meeting for further discussion.

13. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP.

There were no recent or upcoming activities to report.

14. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Bookout discussed the upcoming public comment period related to changes in the rules.

15. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Jones commented on youth water conservation efforts and programs.

16. MEETING: DECEMBER 6, 2017

Mr. Evans announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting will take place on December 6, 2017.

17. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.