

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6, 2019**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, Brad Brunett, James Comin, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Art Henson, Jace Houston, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, Marvin Marcell, Carl Masterson, William Teer, Michael Turco, and Pudge Willcox.

**DESIGNATED ALTERNATES:** Alisa Max for John Blount, Mike O'Connell for Bob Hebert, Jun Chang for Jimmie Schindewolf, and Bill Coulter for Kevin Ward.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** W.R. Baker, Robert Istre, and James Morrison.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lann Bookout, Scott Hall, and Rusty Ray.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions, however Mr. Houston announced the recent passing of Mr. Reed Eichelberger, former General Manager of the San Jacinto River Authority.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 MEETING**

Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the minutes of September 4, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

**4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 14**

There were no public comments.

**5. DISCUSS VACANCIES ON THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO APPROVE MEMBERS TO FILL VACANCIES ON THE PLANNING GROUP**

Mr. Evans announced the vacancies for Electric Generating Utilities and Small Business. Mr. Langford spoke in favor of Mr. Carl Burch of NRG becoming the designated member of the Region H Planning Group representing Electric Generating Utilities. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve Mr. Carl Burch as a member of the Planning Group to represent Electric Generating Utilities. The motion was seconded by Mr. Masterson and carried unanimously.

**6. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H RWP**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the milestones for the development of the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan by reviewing upcoming deadlines related to Water Management Strategies, Infrastructure Finance Report, and Project Prioritization. He provided upcoming due dates for scheduled events and tasks.

**7. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE AND CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE STATUS OF INVESTIGATION OF WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE 2021 REGION H RWP**

Mr. Taucer provided an update regarding the status of investigation of water supply alternatives for the 2021 Region H RWP stating that there are 52 water management strategies, over 700 projects, and 327 WUGS. He stated that the projected capital costs for these projects exceed \$10.1 billion and will rise as additional strategies are analyzed. He then explained the various needs met by water management strategies versus the remaining need that has no strategy because it cannot be sustained at an economically supportable level. He stated that agriculture is the only category identified with an unmet need. Mr. Taucer then reviewed the different sources of management strategies for the western and eastern regions, supply redundancy, and applied water management strategies. He provided an overview of the various new projects related to demand management, groundwater development, direct and indirect reuse, water treatment, major transmission and distribution, and reservoir development and other surface water. He then provided an overview of ongoing projects such as ASR and brackish groundwater, additional data related to cost estimation, strategy documentation, overall draft IPP, and major water provider identification.

**8. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE AND CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AS A POTENTIAL WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to drought management as a potential water management strategy. He explained that the analysis took into account the regional data from the 2011 drought, a comparison of that data to the demands, measures, and anticipated savings, as well as the removal of the overlap with conservation. He explained the various challenges versus the benefits to including drought management as a strategy. He stated that the Water Management Strategy Committee recommended the need to formalize it as a considered but not recommended strategy, document the analysis and results in the WMS technical memorandum, and re-emphasize advocacy of drought planning in Chapter 7. Discussion ensued. Mr. Houston made a motion to approve and accept the recommendations of the Water Management Strategy Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lord and carried with 20 ayes, and one abstention (Mr. Masterson).

**9. RECEIVE REPORT FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE REGARDING OPTIONS FOR REMAINING TASK 5 FUNDS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO APPROVE A NOTICE-TO-PROCEED REQUEST AND AUTHORIZING THE CONSULTANT TEAM AND SAN JACINTO RIVER**

## **AUTHORITY TO COORDINATE WITH TWDB AND EXECUTE THE SUBSEQUENT CONTRACT AMENDMENT ISSUED**

Mr. Taucer provided an overview related to the remaining task 5 funds in the amount of \$118,385. He stated that the Water Management Strategy Committee discussed and recommended to submit a notice-to-proceed to utilize the remaining funds for post IPP adjustments. Mr. Langford made a motion to approve the notice-to-proceed request and authorize the Consultant Team and the San Jacinto River Authority to submit the request to TWDB, coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information, and execute the subsequent contract amendment issued. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried unanimously.

### **10. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM ON NEW LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONAL PLANNING AND DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING REQUIREMENTS IN THE 2021 REGION H RWP**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to new legislative requirements, relative to House Bill 807, and discussed the processes to address same. He explained the new requirements for defining a threshold for significant identified needs that trigger an ASR. He stated that one approach is to align the threshold with the Major Water Provider (MWP) definition of 25,000 acre-feet. He explained the requirement of quantified GPCD goals, stating that Region H discussed taking a three-tiered approach, starting with a base level of the State goals, with further recommendations that the water system strive to achieve any additional savings, and strongly encourage systems to try to reach the per capita demands compatible with the management strategy. He went on to discuss the requirements for unnecessary or counterproductive variations in drought response strategies to be documented in Chapter 7, as well as an assessment of the progress of RWPA in cooperation and regionalization to be documented in Chapter 11.

### **11. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM THE REGION H LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSULTANT TEAM AND DISCUSS POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021 REGION H RWP**

Mr. Taucer provided a brief overview of certain legislative and policy recommendations for quantitative environmental analysis, access to current Water Availability Models for surface water, availability of groundwater within jurisdictions of groundwater-regulating entities, and promoting OneWater approaches in regional planning. He also reviewed legislative recommendations related to interbasin transfers, funding for Texas Bays and Estuaries Program, Rule of Capture, Groundwater Conservation Districts, funding for Groundwater Availability Modeling, water supply project financing mechanisms, agricultural conservation funding, water conservation, water conservation research funding, flood liability of water supply reservoirs, technology advancements in projections, and ongoing RWPG activities. Mr. Taucer also provided information related to infrastructure finance.

### **12. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE REGION H LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE STATUS OF ECOLOGICALLY UNIQUE STREAM SEGMENTS AND UNIQUE RESERVOIR SITES AND DISCUSS POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021 REGION H RWP**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to unique stream segments and stated that the recommendation is to retain the 2016 recommendations. He provided information related to unique reservoir sites stating that Allen's Creek was designated in 2016 RWP and the recommendation is to re-designate Allen's Creek for this cycle.

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

Mr. Taucer reported that an upcoming presentation on the Region H Water Plan to AIChE South Texas Section will take place in May, 2020.

**14. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mr. Bookout provided an update related to the emergency interconnect letter authorized to be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board's Executive Administrator.

**15. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**16. NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 8, 2020**

Mr. Evans announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting would be January 8, 2020.

**17. ADJOURN**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.