

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
AUGUST 3, 2016
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TX 77304

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Turco, James Comin, Jimmie Schindewolf, Jace Houston, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Kathy Turner Jones, Art Henson, David Bailey, John Bartos, William Teer, Robert Bruner, Robert Istre, John Blount, Ruth Stultz, Marvin Marcell, Glenn Lord, Pudge Willcox, David Collinsworth, Gene Fisseler, and Ivan Langford.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Jim Sims for Kevin Ward, Mike O'Connell for Bob Hebert, and Ken Kramer for Carl Masterson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Howard and James Morrison.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Backhouse.

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans welcomed Director Peter Lake, Chief of Staff Tara Rejino, and Ms. Sarah Backhouse of the Texas Water Development Board. Mr. Evans asked that each member of the Water Planning Group introduce themselves to the visitors.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2016 MEETING

Mr. Bartos made a motion to approve the minutes of May 4, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henson and carried unanimously.

3. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 12.

There were no comments.

4. RECOGNIZE AND WELCOME MR. PETER LAKE, MEMBER OF THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Director Lake introduced himself and provided a brief summary of his experience. He explained the various types of financing programs relevant to State water planning as well as the cost savings of each plan. Director Lake announced that the Financial Assistance Workshop will be held at the San Jacinto River Authority in September, which will provide a more detailed explanation of the various financing options.

5. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN.

Mr. Philip Taucer provided an overview of the 2021 Regional Water Plan schedule, particularly providing information related to the rules and guidance revisions, the continued work regarding the identification of WUGs and the projection process, and the determination of water supplies.

6. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND POPULATION DEMANDS COMMITTEE REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL WUGS FOR THE 2021 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN.

Mr. Marvin Marcell stated that the Population Demands Committee met on July 26, 2016, and acknowledged and embraced the Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) rule change related to Water User Groups (WUGs). Mr. Taucer explained that the TWDB has proposed to take a more utility-based approach in terms of defining WUGs based upon retail service to an area. He explained the reasoning behind this change, namely that it allows more clarity and consistency to have a more specific definition, and it aligns more closely with how water is funded. Mr. Taucer stated that for Region H, this change would not be a drastic change, but a beneficial one, which will enable better "trackability" in terms of the existing alignment of water supply in the area. He discussed the process of the rule change and stated that the preliminary list of Municipal WUGs that was released was based upon the rule change. Mr. Taucer went on to explain the proposed definition of a municipal WUG, which, if approved, will be defined as serving a 100-acre tract on a retail basis. Mr. Taucer stated that currently Region H has 245 WUGs, however, with the proposed change, that number will be increased to 335.

7. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION REGARDING RECOMMENDATION OF ADDITION OF MUNICIPAL WUGS AND AUTHORIZING TRANSMITTAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. Taucer stated that the Populations Demand Committee met on July 26, 2016, and recommended the potential list of Municipal WUGs as identified by the Texas Water Development Board for inclusion in Region H, contingent upon those entities expressing interest. Following further discussion, Mr. Chang made a motion to recommend the addition of Municipal WUGs and authorize transmittal of recommendations to the Texas Water Development Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henson and carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Taucer stated that a presentation was made on May 25, 2016, to the Greater Houston Partnership Environmental Advisory Committee, and he mentioned the upcoming meeting on August 25, 2016, to the Gulf Coast Water Efficiency Network.

9. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

Ms. Sarah Backhouse with Texas Water Development Board ("TWDB") announced that the draft rules would be posted to the Texas Register and a link would be available on their website. She reviewed the timeline for the various stages of the proposed rule changes. Ms. Backhouse mentioned that the release of draft irrigation, manufacturing, and steam electric projections will be potentially

provided by next June. She stated that TWDB is working on revising the methodology of how these projections are estimated and will be providing the proposed methodologies by the end of the summer. Ms. Backhouse mentioned that the current regional water planning contract between SJRA and TWDB via Freese and Nichols will need to be amended in the fall to incorporate a full scope of work for the remaining tasks and estimate the total study cost for the remainder of the cycle and a request for applications will be submitted in October. Lastly, she provided information related to upcoming financial workshop as well as the Water for Texas conference. Mr. Kramer provided information regarding the Sierra Club's public education booklet related to Texas water.

10. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Ms. Jill Savory spoke in regards to regulations related to water production data.

11. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Evans announced that the next regular meeting will take place on November 2, 2016.

12. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.