

Minutes of the July 16, 1998 Meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region "N"

This meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group (Coastal Bend RWPG) was held in the "TTVN" Classroom at the TAMU Research and Extension Center, 10345 Agnes Street, Corpus Christi, Texas 78406. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jerry Kane at 1:37 p.m. Mr. Kane asked every RWPG member to introduce themselves.

Members of the RWPG in attendance were: Judge Miller, Mr. Kane, Dr. McNichols, Mr. Kunkel, Mr. Nedbalek, Mr. Yturria, Dr. Prouty, Dr. Hubert, Mr. Sandoval, Mr. Bledsoe, Ms. Serrato, Mr. Paulson, Mr. Flores, Mr. Tolan, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Mims, and Mr. Fulbright. Members absent included: Mr. Figueroa and Mayor Cantu. Mr. Mark DeLaune attended in Mr. Bernie DeLaune's absence.

Others attending the meeting included: Mr. Byron Wooldridge, Mr. Carl Crull (City of Corpus Christi), Mr. John Freeman (USDA-NRCS), Mr. Rex Rossi, Mr. Clifford R. McTee (McMullen County), Mr. James Dodson (NRA Coastal Bend Division), Ms. Meli Sugarek (NRA Coastal Bend Division), Mr. Andy Garza (Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board), Ms. Paulette Shaw (SPCEDC), Mr. Greg Carter (CPL), Mr. Ken Choffel (HDR Engineering), Mr. Frank Brogan (Port of Corpus Christi), Mr. Bill Green (City of Corpus Christi), Mr. Mike Mahaffey (Port of Corpus Christi), and Mr. Ed Garaña (City of Corpus Christi).

Minutes from the June 11, 1998 meeting of the Regional Water Planning Group for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region "N" were reviewed. Mr. Yturria moved that the minutes be approved as written and Judge Miller seconded; there was a unanimous voice vote approving the motion.

Mr. Bernard Paulson began the discussion on the approval/appointment of non-voting members. He spoke on the Subcommittee meeting that was held on June 22nd. The Subcommittee decided not to add any additional voting members to the RWPG. They felt the group had adequate representation from various interest groups. The Subcommittee also recommends the appointment of Mr. Dexter Svetlik, of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, as a non-voting member of the RWPG and Mr. Cole Rowland as the liaison of the Lower Colorado RWPG. There was a motion from Mr. Yturria to approve these recommendations and Mr. Nedbalek seconded it. The motion was approved.

The Scope of Work discussion began with Mr. James Dodson and Mr. Ken Choffel. The various contributions and the budget for the Scope of Work were discussed. Mr. Choffel pointed out that the TWDB framework and ideas from the Subcommittee for Procuring Professional Services were implemented in this scope of work.

Mr. Choffel then went over the entire Scope of Work. Each task was discussed briefly. There were some concerns pointed out. One such concern was that of the TWDB's estimates of the population growth and future water demands in some areas. It was stressed that these numbers may not be accurate at this level of analysis and the members would like these figures to be looked at again and corrected before anything

is agreed upon or before these numbers are used for this plan.

Another concern was the funding of desalinization studies for this region. At this point Mr. Dodson talked about a NRA application for a grant from TWDB to begin a membrane technology study for desalinization in brackish water and seawater. If this funding were not accepted then HDR Engineering would apply these costs in the Scope of Work budget. A motion to approve the Scope of Work was made by Ms. Serrato and Mr. Yturria seconded it. The motion was approved.

At this point Mr. Kane handed the meeting over to Judge Miller. She began with Item V and she briefly discussed the outcome of the joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the NRA and the Coastal Bend RWPG which was held on June 19th. An updated agreement was submitted and Ms. Serrato suggested one change in the wording. The amendment was acknowledged. Mr. Yturria motioned to pass this agreement with the amendment and Dr. Hubert seconded it. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was also a motion on the floor by Mr. Yturria to approve Item VI. This item involved the contract for state financial assistance on the Development of the Scope of Work for the Regional Water Management Plan. Dr. Hubert seconded the motion. Judge Miller asked for discussion on this subject, there was none. The motion was voted on and approved by the RWPG.

Under Item VII Mr. Mims mentioned that the NRA lawyer will review the contract and would apply any changes necessary for approval by the NRA Board on their July 23rd meeting. Mr. Garcia moved that the contract between the NRA, on behalf of the Coastal Bend RWPG, and HDR/Simpson for Regional Water Management Plan be approved pending review from the NRA lawyer. Mr. Kunkel seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mr. Dodson began the discussion on the methodology to allocate the required 25% local cost share for the funding of the Regional Water Management Plan. He proposed and broke up the local cost share of the \$150,000 budget and explained each expense.

Mr. Dodson went on to explain how the different regions will contribute to the costs of the SB1 Regional Water Planning Project.

A motion to approve this proposal was made by Dr. McNichols and Mr. Kunkel seconded it. The motion was approved.

Discussion on requests from other regional planning groups to establish informational subareas began. Mr. Dodson suggested that the group send a "general response" to the surrounding subareas, until the TWDB decides exactly what the definition and actions of an "informational subarea" will be.

Mr. Garcia motioned to approve and begin the suggested "general response" to the surrounding areas. Also, the motion included requesting that the TWDB explore ways to have meetings for all the regions to attend together, as opposed to having regions spend time and resources on numerous meetings to coordinate between regions. Dr. Prouty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Flores mentioned the ongoing discussions, in Austin, on the liability of the RWPG members. Liability insurance coverage for the Coastal Bend RWPG members will be an action item for the next meeting.

Judge Miller opened the floor for any public comment.

Mr. Byron Wooldridge expressed his objection to the NRA as to having HDR Engineering a partner in the TWDB Desalinization Study.

Ken Choffel, of HDR Engineering, responded by noting that HDR does have experience in desalinization. HDR Engineering has designed two out of twelve operating desalt plants in the state of Texas.

Mr. Dodson pointed out that this proposal was submitted on behalf of the NRA, not the Coastal Bend RWPG.

The next meeting will be held on July 30th. The RWPG will go back to their regularly scheduled meetings on August 13th.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ms. Melida (Meli) Sugarek and Mr. James Dodson.

Minutes Submitted by: _____

Dr. Patrick Hubert, Secretary Date

Coastal Bend RWPG