

Minutes of the September 10, 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 1:40 p.m. Mr. James Dodson noted the RWPG members not present.

Members of the RWPG in attendance were: Judge Miller, Dr. McNichols, Mr. Kunkel, Mr. Kane, Mr. Nedbalek, Dr. Prouty, Dr. Hubert, Mr. DeLaune, Mr. Sandoval, Mr. Bledsoe, Ms. Serrato, Mr. Paulson, Mr. Flores, Mr. Svetlik and Mr. Fulbright. Members absent included: Mr. Figueroa, Mayor Cantu, Mr. Yturria, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Tolan, Mr. Mims and Mr. Rowland. Mr. Vince Guerra (City of Freer) served as an alternate for Mayor Cantu.

Others attending the meeting included: Mr. Chris Anzaldúa (Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board), Mr. Eduardo Garaña (City of Corpus Christi), Mr. James Dodson (NRA Coastal Bend Division), Ms. Meli Sugarek (NRA Coastal Bend Division), Mr. Bill Green (City of Corpus Christi), Mr. Jim Naismith (San Patricio Municipal Water District), Mr. Don Roach (San Patricio Municipal Water District), Mr. Jack Hunt (Texas Water Development Board) and Mr. Frank Brogan (Port of Corpus Christi).

Minutes from the July 30, 1998 meeting of the Regional Water Planning Group for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region "N" were reviewed. There were no requested additions or modifications to the minutes. Mr. Paulson moved that the minutes be approved, and Dr. Prouty seconded it; there was a unanimous voice vote approving the motion.

Mr. Kane discussed Item III, the approval of amendments to the Coastal Bend RWPG bylaws to allow the Executive Committee to approve amendments to the scope of work and the budget for the development of the regional water management plan. He requested this amendment in the last phrase of Article 15 of the bylaws. Mr. Kane proposed that the Executive Committee meet, evaluate and approve what will be brought to the RWPG for final ratification any changes in the scope of work and the budget for the development of the regional water management plan. Dr. Prouty moved that these amendments to the bylaws be made and it was seconded. There was no more discussion. The motion was approved.

Mr. Kane continued with agenda Item IV. Judge Miller moved that the RWPG approve the publication and dissemination of a "Notice of Application for State Financial Assistance for the Development of the Regional Water Management Plan." Dr. Hubert seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved.

At this point Mr. Kane passed the meeting on to Judge Miller. She asked Mr. Dodson to begin the discussion of the proposed amendments to the Coastal Bend RWPG bylaws. He pointed out and discussed the proposal for each amendment.

Dr. Prouty discussed the changes and expressed the need for continuity in having regularly scheduled meetings to keep the members informed. She proposed that the RWPG should not go 60 or 90 days without having a meeting. Dr. Prouty also discussed the time frame of the distribution of the minutes and suggested 5 calendar days would be sufficient.

There was more discussion on the regularly scheduled meetings and Mr. Kane moved that the bylaws should be changed to read "no less than one in a two month period". Dr. Hubert seconded the motion and all approved the amendment.

Mr. Kunkel moved that the time frame on the distribution of the minutes be amended to five calendar days instead of the ten calendar days. Dr. Hubert seconded it; the motion was unanimously passed.

Judge Miller began the discussion on the RWPG attendance and agreed with Dr. Prouty that some wording in the bylaws need clarification. Is it three consecutive regular meetings or just three meetings? Dr. Prouty also pointed out that the bylaws wording on "at least one half of the sum of all meetings in the period of twelve months". This means you have to wait twelve months before you rotate a member off. Dr. Prouty felt this line should be left out of the bylaws. Mr. Bledose disagreed and pointed out that if this phrase were not in the bylaws, then a member would have the flexibility of missing every other meeting.

Mr. Kane and Dr. McNichols also pointed out that there might be other reasons besides illnesses that can keep a member from attending a meeting but which may be allowed as an excused absence. There was discussion that the Co-Chairs should be the ones to decide on whether an absence is excused or not.

Dr. Prouty moved that the bylaws be amended to read "three consecutive regular meetings" and add "for other reasons at the discretion of the Chairs". Dr. Hubert seconded the motion. There was more discussion on the clarity of what was being voted on. The motion was then voted on and passed.

Mr. Sandoval felt that the excused absences need to be noted in the minutes. Mr. Dodson agreed and ensured him that the excused absences will be noted.

Judge Miller introduced Mr. Frank Brogan of the Port of Corpus Christi. He passed out a report on the Lake Texana Pipeline Project and talked about what is currently happening on the project. Mr. Kane praised Mr. Brogan for a job well done.

Mr. Robert Flores gave an update from Austin and reported that the Scope of Work is being reviewed at this time. The initial technical review aspects have already been looked at and the Coastal Bend RWPG had the highest ratings, with only two minor deficiencies. There was a minor question on the overlap of the Trans Texas Report. Mr. Flores also presented a bar graph on the cost per region on the various issues of the Scope of Work. This region has one of the higher costs on public participation. September 18th is the date for a revised scope of work.

Mr. Dodson explained that a Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled for next week to discuss revision items in the Scope of Work.

Judge Miller informed the RWPG of the conference call with all Chairs from the different regions. Public participation and percentages of administrative costs were discussed. The TWDB were only going to allow 5% for administrative costs, but this was greatly opposed. There will be a meeting on October 15th for all the Chairs.

Mr. Dodson talked about the various meetings he had attended on behalf of the RWPG to discuss the forming of informational subareas. Region L would like to proceed with defining an informational subarea. Lavaca would like an informational subarea on an as needed basis. The Lower Colorado RWPG replied in a letter that they were not interested in forming an informational subarea. We have not been able to follow up with the Rio Grande RWPG for further discussions this issue.

The TWDB has provided each region a data book and data CD with information on population projections, water demand and water availability. Copies are available for the RWPG members.

The local cost share funding from the City of Corpus Christi city council has been approved. This is about 75% of the \$150,000 of the local cost share for this fiscal year, which is in the amount of \$115,000. This leaves \$35,000 from the other entities to be collected.

The TWDB has approved a \$50,000 grant for a Desalination Membrane Technology study. This study is being sponsored locally through the Nueces River Authority, the City of Corpus Christi, Central Power and Light Company and the San Patricio Municipal Water District. The study will be contracted to HDR Engineering in association with Malcolm Pirnie.

Judge Miller opened the floor for any public comment.

Two newcomers, Chris Anzaldúa and Vince Guerra, introduced themselves.

Mr. Jack Hunt mentioned how proud he is of this group and their hard work.

Dr. McNichols spoke briefly on the current water release issue and the background on that situation. Mr. Jim Naismith also mentioned the releases and the present tropical storm and how this could cause saltwater to be present in the Calallen Pool if there are not any releases. Mr. Bill Green with the City of Corpus Christi also joined in on this discussion about the releases and saltwater issues.

Ms. Serrato asked about the Garwood issue and when the permit approval on this issue will take place? The TNRCC permit approval has been scheduled for September 23rd.

The next Coastal Bend RWPG scheduled meeting will be on October 8th. Craig Pedersen will be present at this next meeting and members of the region's state legislative delegation will also be invited to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ms. Meli Sugarek and Mr. James Dodson.

Minutes Submitted by: _____

Dr. Patrick Hubert, Secretary Date

Coastal Bend RWPG