

# Minutes of the November 12, 1998 Meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning for Region "N"

This meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group (Coastal Bend RWPG) was held in the auditorium at the TAMU Research and Extension Center, 10345 Agnes Street, Corpus Christi, Texas 78406. Co-Chair Jerry Kane called the meeting to order. Mr. James Dodson noted that RWPG members not present included voting members Yturria (excused) and Sandoval (alternate: Mr. Murray) and non-voting members Rowland and Mims.

Voting members in attendance were: Judge Miller, Mr. Kane, Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Garcia, Dr. Hubert, Mr. Paulson, Dr. McNichols, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. DeLaune, Dr. Prouty, Mr. Kunkel, Mr. Nedbalek, and Ms. Serrato. Non-voting members present included: Mr. Svetlik, Mr. Flores, Mr. Fulbright, and Mr. Tolan. Others present included: Frank Brogan, Greg Carter, Bill Kopecky, F.A. Wright, John Hartley, Billy Dick, Lee Maness, Alan Brown, E.B. Garcia, R.H. Bazan, Ricardo Guzman, Carlos Lerma, Stanley Fees, Don Roach, Randy Williams, Ken Choffel, Larry Land, and Ric Hay.

Minutes from the October 8, 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. The minutes were adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Kane and Mr. Dodson discussed Item III, "Recent Changes in Financial and Administrative Policies related to Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Programs." Mr. Dodson pointed out that the 25% local cost share requirement is being dropped and the state will now pay 100% of the planning cost while the local participants will pay 100% of the administrative costs. TWDB has approved \$1,161,753 as the maximum eligible amount of state funding available for the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning program. As a result of this change, local participation costs will decrease from \$357,000 (including in-kind services) to \$185,995 for the period from March, 1998 to August, 2000. These amounts are actual cash requirements, since in-kind services are no longer required to make up the previously established 25% local cost share.

Mr. Kane proposed that, unless there is any objection, the \$185,995 is to be allocated back out to local participants via the methodology already adopted by the Coastal Bend RWPG. It was noted that \$44,721 of that amount was spent prior to August 31, 1998. There was no objection.

Mr. Kane next introduced Item IV, a discussion of the Final Scope of Work for Developing a Regional Water Management Plan for the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Area. Mr. Dodson pointed out that after TWDB's review of the Scope of Work during the application process, changes had been made in the costs and levels of effort associated with certain tasks. As a result, there was \$60,000 in effort set aside during Phase 2A to identify and evaluate options and strategies for providing additional water supplies in the planning region. The Scope of Work did not, however, designate which of the options would be addressed, leaving it up to the RWPG to designate those options they considered most important to initiate early in the planning process. Mr. Dodson explained how the RWPG would select alternatives for consideration in Phase 2A using a ranking exercise. He then asked RWPG members to rank their top three choices of options. Options # 2, 6, 7 & 8 were selected, totaling \$58,000 in cost. Option #4 was the fifth ranked alternative and Mr. Kane requested that the consultants also address that option in Phase 2A. (see Attachment A).

Next was Item V, Consideration of a Contract between Nueces River Authority (on behalf of the Coastal Bend RWPG) and HDR/Simpson Engineering, Inc. for Professional Services to Develop a Regional Water Management Plan for the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Area. Mr. Dodson noted that HDR had

requested a new contract for professional services associated with the development of the Regional Water Management Plan because of changes that TWDB is making in the rules and guidelines for state financial assistance. Mr. Dodson handed out copies of the proposed contract and pointed out the sections that had been modified from the first contract. Ms. Serrato moved to accept the new contract. The motion was seconded by Dr. Prouty and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The next issue discussed was Item VI, Consideration of Appointment of New Voting members. Mr. Paulson reported that the Membership Subcommittee met just prior to the RWPG meeting and voted to recommend the following appointments: Mr. Billy Dick, as a voting member representing Municipal interests; Mr. Vincente Guerra, as a non-voting member representing Freer WCID; and a representative of the Texas Association of Nurserymen, as a non-voting member. Mr. Paulson moved to accept these appointments and his motion was seconded by Judge Miller. The motion was then approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Flores reported that TWDB was planning to require that each RWPG designate an independent group, outside the designated political subdivision, to review/audit the program monies and budget. The suggestion was made that a possible subcommittee be set up to undertake this action or review and audit. Mr. Kunkel proposed that an agenda item to that effect be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The floor was then opened for General Public comment. Mr. Bill Kopecky brought up the issue of building a pumping station on the Nueces River, approximately 1.5 miles from Choke Canyon Reservoir, to pump water into Choke Canyon when flows on the Nueces River would otherwise result in spills from Lake Corpus Christi. He believes this pumping facility would increase the reservoir system storage levels significantly. Mr. John Hartley also commented on the same issue, mentioning that this would also help to reduce flooding and would also reduce "dilution" of Nueces Bay.

The final item on the agenda was a presentation on Groundwater Planning Issues in the Coastal Bend Area, by Mr. Larry Land (HDR Engineering, Inc.), who was accompanied by Mr. Ken Choffel (HDR Engineering, Inc.), Mr. Rick Hay (Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi), and Mr. Randy Williams (TWDB). Copies of the presentation materials are attached (See Attachment B).

Minutes prepared by Mr. Todd Tisch, Ms. Barbara DuFrain, and Mr. James Dodson

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Minutes Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Patrick Hubert, Secretary Date

Coastal Bend RWPG

ATTACHMENT A

**Ranking Summary Table**  
**Options & Strategies Selected by the Coastal Bend RWPG**  
**November 12, 1998**

Option	Description	Cost	Points
6	<b>Reviewing and revising, as appropriate, the reservoir operating plans for Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir to meet demands</b>	\$15,000	40
7	<b>Increasing conservation storage in Lake Corpus Christi by removing some sedimentation in the reservoir.</b>	\$20,000	19
8	<b>Building water transmission facilities between Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir to improve efficiency and maintain quality</b>	\$15,000	12
2	Develop a 'water audit' worksheet specific to local conditions to help small communities reduce unaccounted water losses	\$8,000	11
4	Review the possibility of assisting industries in water conservation by providing them with an optimum blended quality of water considering the Lake Texana water	\$12,000	5
<b>Total Cost:</b>		\$70,000	

ATTACHMENT B

