

# **Minutes of the January 14, 1999 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. The meeting was called to order by Judge Miller at 1:32 p.m. Mr. James Dodson noted the RWPG members not present.

Members of the RWPG in attendance included: Judge Josephine Miller, Mr. Ben Figueroa, Dr. David McNichols, Mr. Robert Kunkel, Mr. Bobby Nedbalek, Mr. Fausto Yturria, Dr. Jennifer Prouty, Dr. Patrick Hubert, Mr. Bernie DeLaune, Mr. Ariel Garcia, Mr. Scott Bledsoe III, Ms. Carola Serrato, Mr. Bernard Paulson, Mr. Robert Flores, Mr. Jim Tolan, Mr. Con Mims, and Mr. Vincente Guerra.

Also in attendance were: Mr. Scott Murray (for Mr. Gonzalo Sandoval), Mike Black (for Mr. Dexter Svetlik), Mr. Bill Kopecky, Mr. Andy Garza, Bee County Judge Jose Aliseda, Ms. Pat Suter and Mr. Mike Mahaffey.

Minutes from the November 12, 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. Yturria moved for the minutes to be approved, Mr. Kunkel seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion was opened on Item III, Consideration of a Contract Between the Nueces River Authority (on behalf of the Coastal Bend RWPG) and the Texas Water Development Board for State Financial Assistance to Develop a Regional Water Management Plan for the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Area. Dr. Hubert asked Robert Flores for comments on the contract. Mr. Flores responded with a brief description of the significant provisions of the contract. Judge Miller then commented on reporting requirements by the TWDB, and questioned the new requirement for a standardized form for reporting. She also questioned the leniency of TWDB on shifting budgeted funds from one task to another. Mr. Flores responded that these items would be discussed via phone conference on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month.

Mr. Mike Mahaffey made a few comments on his review of the contract on behalf of the Coastal Bend RWPG. Mr. Kunkel asked if the contractor was aware of recent changes that had been made. Mr. Dodson and Mr. Flores responded on this matter. Mr. Yturria moved for approval of the contract; it was seconded by Mr. Bledsoe. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Serrato inquired as to whether the contract would have to be approved by the Nueces River Authority (NRA) Board of Directors. Mr. Mims responded that it had been approved previously and that he was authorized to sign on behalf of NRA. Mr. Mims then signed the contract, making it the first one to be executed in the State.

Next was Item IV, Regional Water Planning Updates. Mr. James Dodson commented on the workshop on the TWDB population projections that was held recently, stating that the packets not distributed

during that workshop were sent to the cities and entities to see if any revisions were requested. He mentioned that there were several cities that had requested changes and that the issue would be discussed at the next RWPG meeting. Ms. Carola Serrato brought up questions on the population projections for Nueces County.

Mr. Dodson pointed out that TWDB was now requiring that an individual or an entity not associated with the NRA is to be appointed by the RWPG to review the finances of the Coastal Bend RWPG and to report to the RWPG on a regular basis. Judge Miller appointed Ms. Carola Serrato to this position.

Mr. Robert Flores then made a few comments on the issues and activities in Austin.

There was a brief discussion of recent events related to surface and ground water development in Texas, including the fact that the Texas Legislature is in session and may amend some of the SB 1 provisions related to interbasin transfers and regional water planning. Ms. Serrato asked Mr. Robert Flores if he could present information on the Texas Supreme Court case involving ground water in Henderson County at the next meeting.

Judge Miller set the date for the next meeting for February 11, 1999.

The Meeting was then opened to public comment. Mr. Kopecky commented on his year-end accounting of water coming into the Lower Nueces River Basin as well as the amount of water "released" from the reservoirs during this time period. He proposed several water projects intended to capture more water coming into the Lower Nueces River Basin. Mr. Kopecky also passed out copies of his article from The Coastal Bend Sun (newspaper). Mr. Dodson replied by stating that during most of this period, Wesley Seale dam had been operating at an interim maximum level of 91 feet msl, which meant that a large quantity of what was being reported as being "released" was in fact "spilled" from a full reservoir.

Dr. McNichols then commented on how it was determined to spend money on studies for management and distribution and asked why it was necessary to go and confirm previous studies. Mr. Paulson made the comment that at this point in time it was not practical to be doing this.

Mr. James Dodson acknowledged Ms. Barbara DuFrain for her work with the Nueces River Authority and the Coastal Bend RWPG, congratulating her on her recent graduation from TAMU-CC (M.S. in Computer Science) and wished her luck with her new job in Austin.

Mr. Paulson moved for the meeting to be adjourned; Mr. Yturria seconded the motion. All agreed to the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:15p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mr. Todd Tisch, Ms. Meli Sugarek, and Mr. James Dodson

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

Dr. Patrick Hubert, Secretary Date

Coastal Bend RWPG