

Minutes of the March 11, 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 1:24 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. Scott Bledsoe III, Ms. Carola Serrato, Mr. Bernard Paulson, Mr. Billy Dick, Mr. Robert Flores, Mr. Jim Tolan, Mr. Dexter Svetlik, Mr. Robert Fulbright, and Mr. Vincente Guerra.

Also in attendance were Mr. Scott Murray (for Mr. Gonzalo Sandoval), Mr. Ken Choffel, Mr. Sam Vaughn, and Mr. Mike Mahaffey.

Minutes from the January 14, 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, Dr. Prouty seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion was opened on Item V, Resolution requesting the Texas Water Development Board to review and revise population projections for the cities of Portland, Orange Grove, Rockport, and Falfurrias, and to make associated adjustments to the county population projections for San Patricio, Jim Wells, Aransas, and Brooks counties. Judge Miller asked that any other areas not included in this particular resolution should confirm their area's population projections to ensure that they are accurate. Ms. Serrato expressed concern over the population projections for Nueces County. Mr. Yturria moved for approval of the resolution, it was seconded by Dr. Hubert, and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Dodson and Ms. Serrato presented a proposed format in which the administrative costs incurred by the Coastal Bend Division of the Nueces River Authority, in support of the Coastal Bend RWPG, would be reported to the RWPG. Ms. Serrato asked if the format was acceptable and then defined the reporting period as once a quarter. Ms. Serrato stated that the RWPG would be responsible for paying the administrative costs. She then introduced the reporting format that would be used to track the costs of the Nueces River Authority. Ms. Serrato also stated that the dollar amount for the quarter would be presented as well as total to date and percentage of fiscal year compared to the budgeted amount. She commented that currently, actual expenditures compared favorably to the budgeted amount were good. Once again, Ms. Serrato asked for any suggestions or comments on the two financial forms.

Mr. Dodson confirmed that these forms were only for the RWPG portion of the Nueces River Authority's budget. He commented that the Nueces River Authority personnel's time has been allocated to the RWPG

via a tracking process for activities related to RWPG administrative matters. Mr. Dodson then commented that currently the administrative costs are in line with budgeted amounts. Mr. Dodson finally stated that the Nueces River Authority has also received 20% of this year's appropriated amount from the Texas Water Development Board. Judge Miller asked if there was any comment on the financial status and financial forms.

The Meeting was then opened for public comment. Judge Miller introduced Mr. Jack Hunt, member of the Board of the Texas Water Development Board. He commented on a press conference that he had just attended where Governor Bush declared 3/4 of the state in a drought and declared the need for drought relief. Mr. Hunt presented Judge Miller with a letter of commendation from the Board members to the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group, citing the RWPG's excellence in leadership. The meeting attendees thanked the Texas Water Development Board for their recognition.

Judge Miller submitted a letter from Ms. Patsy Light to the RWPG. This letter stated that Ms. Light was opposed to the construction of a reservoir (Goliad Reservoir) on the San Antonio River. She also pointed out that in 1996 the San Antonio River Valley was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and any consideration of a reservoir construction would require a great deal of money and time.

Judge Miller commented on a recent Council of Governments meeting, where a constituent stated that he relies solely on rainwater for water supply. Judge Miller reiterated the need for regional water planning and she pointed out that water planning is an everyday effort for the citizens in the region, particularly those in rural areas.

Dr. McNichols then commented that the issue of removing the junior rights provisions in Senate Bill 1 under proposed Senate Bill 143 and House Bill 1645 should be placed on the next meeting's agenda for discussion. Mr. Ken Choffel suggested that the item be addressed sooner due to the rapid movement of this Legislature. Ms. Serrato asked about House Bill 1645. She expressed her concern that the RWPG would be endorsing a bill that was not fully understood. The item was then referred to the RWPG Executive Committee. Dr. McNichols agreed to the referral of the item to the Executive Committee.

Judge Miller stated that RWPG member Mr. Gonzalo Sandoval of the Central Power and Light Company had submitted his resignation and she is currently looking for a replacement. She also stated that the Texas Department of Agriculture has asked to become a non-voting member. The rules requiring a voting member from Agriculture may be amended. Mr. Dodson stated that the membership subcommittee should recommend a non-voting representative from the Texas Department of Agriculture as well as a replacement for the voting member representing Electrical Generating Utilities.

Mr. Kenneth Martin, manager of Falfurrias Public Utilities, thanked the RWPG for their recognition of the population projection issues. However, he expressed that they were more concerned with the method used to develop the population projections. Judge Miller commented that the Texas Water Development Board is responsible for developing population projections. He stated that per capita use within Brooks County is rising due to people traveling through the area. Mr. Flores commented that the Texas Water Development Board accounts for such activity within an area. Mr. Martin then asked when the new projections would be available. Mr. Flores stated that the deadline for new population projections is August 30, 1999. Mr. Dodson commented that there is a procedure for the Texas Water Development Board in adopting revised population projections. He also commented that the RWPG would be helping the areas within the region to address these concerns.

Mr. Dodson then stated that he would be attending the Region "M" RWPG Meeting on March 18, 1999 and if anyone has any questions regarding that meeting they could contact him.

Mr. Bledsoe commented on a survey he had received from Moorhouse & Associates. He asked if it was a part of this RWPG. Mr. Dodson stated that it was a part of the South Central RWPG and that Moorhouse & Associates was the public participation consultant for that region.

Judge Miller set the date for the next meeting for April 8, 1999.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ms. Gabrielle Grunkemeyer and Mr. James Dodson

Minutes Submitted by: _____

Dr. Patrick Hubert, Secretary

Date

Coastal Bend RWPG