

Minutes of the August 12, 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 Co-Chair Judge Josephine Miller at 1:40 p.m.

Members of the RWPG in attendance included: Judge Josephine Miller, Mr. Jerry Kane, Dr. David McNichols, Mr. Bobby Nedbalek, Dr. Jennifer Prouty, Dr. Patrick Hubert, Mr. Bernie DeLaune, Mr. Billy Dick, Mr. Robert Kunkel, Mr. Fausto Yturria, Ms. Carola Serrato, Mr. Ben Figueroa, Mr. Scott Bledsoe, Mr. Robert Flores, Mr. Vincente Guerra, Mr. Jim Tolan, and Mr. Robert Fulbright.

Also in attendance were Mr. Greg Carter (for Mr. Scott Murray), Mr. Vivian Garcia (for Mr. Dexter Svetlik), Mr. Ed Garana, Mr. Jay Reining, Ms. Sandra Koenning, and Mr. Mike Mahaffey.

Judge Josephine Miller began the meeting by sharing a comment that was made at a meeting held in the Rio Grande Valley. Judge Miller stated that this particular meeting was held by Ruben Hinojosa and focused on informing people about how federal funds can be used, especially for education. She commented that Mr. Bruce Babbitt, the head of the U.S. Department of Interior, was present at the meeting. Judge Miller stated that Mr. Babbitt explained to the people that the Rio Grande Valley was out of water and that the Mexican government was utilizing what water is left in the Rio Grande River. Therefore, Judge Miller stated that the Coastal Bend Region would be the next area just north to suffer the consequences of running out of water. She stressed the importance of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group and the Group's effort to conserve water.

Minutes from the July 8, 1999 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. Fausto Yturria made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Jennifer Prouty seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Judge Miller introduced the next item on the Agenda, Item IV: Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Scope of Work and Planning Budget. Judge Miller asked Mr. James Dodson to comment or explain the proposed amendments. Mr. Dodson stated that the changes reflect some of the experiences and issues that have materialized since the development of the first Scope of Work. Mr. Dodson highlighted changes in the Scope of Work, particularly to Phase 2B. He stated that these changes included: additional work on sediment quality issues related to the alternative of increasing the storage capacity of Lake Corpus Christi (including sampling sediment from Lake Corpus Christi to determine feasible uses); additional water quality studies on the Nueces River below Wesley Seale Dam; refining the concept of a two-way pipeline between Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi; coordination with surrounding regions on such projects as the development of Stage II of Palmetto Bend; and, finally, the addition of a siting study for a seawater desalinization facility. Next, Mr. Dodson gave attention to

subtask 5 of the Scope of Work. Mr. Dodson commented that Mr. Ed Garana brought to his attention that the sum of tasks in subtask 5 was greater than the \$162,000.00 budgeted for that subtask. Mr. Dodson suggested that some costs and budget amounts be reduced.

Dr. David McNichols asked Mr. Dodson if there was any new information from the Tampa Desalinization Monitoring study that should affect the Coastal Bend RWPG's siting study. Mr. Dodson stressed that the major issues concerning the siting study for the Coastal Bend region are the feed water and location factors. Mr. Dodson then confirmed Dr. McNichols assumption that the Coastal Bend RWPG is responsible for investigative expenses. Mr. Jerry Kane emphasized that the siting of the desalinization facility is what is important. Mr. Scotty Bledsoe asked who would apply for additional funding for this study. Mr. Dodson stated that the Nueces River Authority would do the application for additional funds concerning the siting study because they currently hold the contract with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the membrane technologies study. Next, Dr. Patrick Hubert asked if the Valley is considering desalinization and if they would be interested in coordination with the Coastal Bend RWPG. Mr. Dodson explained that the Research and Planning Grants are designed for statewide needs, therefore funds are available to coordinate with the Valley because desalinization can be used up and down the Texas coast.

Judge Miller asked if there were any questions or comments concerning Item IV (a). Ms. Carola Serrato asked about the budget increases on subtask 8A and 9A. Mr. Dodson explained that NRA has been more efficient in regard to spending in other subtasks, therefore lowering costs and allowing increases of budget amounts to other subtasks such as 8A and 9A. Mr. Dodson stressed that costs are becoming more realistic thus permitting a shift in the budget to occur.

Judge Miller asked where to cut costs concerning subtask 5 and what the importance was of creating those cuts immediately. Mr. Dodson suggested that the budget cuts to subtask 5 be resolved immediately but in an informal fashion. Mr. Dodson then suggested the following budgeted cost cuts to subtask 5: reduce monies budgeted for improving irrigation practices or cut task completely (\$15,000.00), reduce monies for water conservation and estimation of potential water savings (a total of \$10,000.00), reduce monies for drought management (\$10,000.00), and cut monies budgeted for expansion or trading of the City of Corpus Christi's Campbellton Carrizo-Wilcox wells (\$10,000.00). Mr. Dodson also mentioned that costs dedicated to interbasin transfers and brush control could possibly be reduced.

Mr. Bledsoe asked if these possible deletions from the Scope of Work needed to be cleared formally or if the tasks would remain in the Scope of Work and simply disregarded. Mr. Kane explained that the tasks should be kept in the Scope in case there is a need for them to be considered at a later time. However, Mr. Kane did indicate that if those tasks were to be deleted there would need to be a formal deletion process.

Mr. Dodson then asked the Coastal Bend RWPG to approve the amendments to the Scope of Work, including the suggested budgeted cost cuts. Mr. Fausto Yturria asked if Mr. Dodson thought the Coastal Bend RWPG would be able to return to the actual budgeted amount for subtask 5 of \$162,000.00. Mr. Dodson stated that he felt as though with the proposed reductions the \$162,000.00 could be met. Ms. Serrato asked Mr. Dodson if he could suggest an amount for the reduction in brush control costs. Mr. Dodson stated that the new budgeted amount would likely be \$5,000. Mr. Bledsoe asked if only money was being reduced not the actual tasks. Mr. Dodson confirmed. He stated that the tasks would be addressed, especially if the task is a TWDB requirement, however the cost may not be as much as once

thought.

Judge Miller asked how the motion should be stated. Mr. Dodson asked that there be an approval of the proposed amendments with the understanding that some costs in subtask 5 would be reduced. Dr. McNichols made a motion for approval and Mr. Yturria seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Next, Mr. Dodson asked for an approval on the resolution requesting the Nueces River Authority (NRA) Board of Directors to amend the contract between the TWDB, NRA, and HDR Engineering, Inc. Judge Miller asked for a motion concerning Item IV (b), Resolution Requesting the Nueces River Authority to Amend Contracts with the Texas Water Development Board and HDR Engineering, Inc. to Reflect the Amended Scope of Work and Planning Budget. Mr. Robert Kunkel made a motion for approval and Dr. Hubert seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Next, Judge Miller introduced Item V, Consideration of Proposed Revisions to Administrative Budget. Mr. Dodson explained that because the planning period has been extended four months, the administrative budget needed to be increased by \$27, 750.00 to cover costs for those extra months.

Next, Mr. Dodson introduced the allocation of administrative costs. He reminded the Coastal Bend RWPG that the allocation of costs would be on a per capita basis, then the costs would be aggregated to the entity responsible for providing water to the population. Mr. Dodson stated that the per capita basis was first developed from the TWDB's year 1996 population numbers, then changes were made using the year 2000 population numbers. The year 2000 population numbers calculated a \$0.39 per capita cost over a period of almost three years. Mr. Dodson stated political subdivisions, such as municipalities, and counties are responsible for those costs. Mr. Dodson informed the Coastal Bend RWPG that the City of Corpus Christi is responsible for much of the administrative costs due to their extensive supply range. However, there is the remaining \$60,000.00 of the administrative cost which must be paid by surrounding municipalities and counties. Mr. Dodson finally stressed that the allocation presented may not be correct nor will it be the final allocation bill. Mr. Bledsoe asked how the Coastal Bend RWPG will collect the monies. Mr. Fulbright stated that the Rio Grande RWPG sent letters to the responsible entities and the result was fairly positive.

Mr. Yturria made a motion to approve Item V, with the provision that year 2000 population numbers are used. Mr. Dodson agreed that using year 2000 population numbers would create a more accurate allocation. Mr. Bledsoe seconded the motion. Judge Miller stated that most of the entities have been told about these costs at the Coastal Bend Council of Governments (COG) meetings, however she suggested that letters be sent out immediately so they are aware of their obligation. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Next, Judge Miller introduced Mr. Ed Garana and Mr. Jim Naismith. Mr. Garana used a power-point presentation to introduce the City of Corpus Christi's Water Conservation Plan to the Coastal Bend RWPG. In accordance with TNRCC 288 rule, which requires water suppliers to submit a water conservation and drought contingency plan by September 1, 1999, the City of Corpus Christi has developed a program that will help insure the area's water supply.

Mr. Garana began by defining a water conservation plan and a drought contingency plan. Next, Mr. Garana outlined minimum requirements of the TNRCC 288 rule and the City's efforts to meet those requirements. Mr. Garana also stressed the City's use of effective measures such as universal metering.

He explained the difference between water conservation plans: supply-side and demand-side. He also mentioned the importance of education and he stated that children are the keys to changing adult attitudes towards water use. Mr. Garana stated that the plan reflects the efforts of the Coastal Bend RWPG. Mr. Garana commented that the City is studying the modification of reservoir operation due to the addition of Mary Rhodes Pipeline. Finally, Mr. Garana discussed the water conservation goals of the City of Corpus Christi. He also complimented the customers of the City of Corpus Christi on their water use efficiency. He ended by informing the Coastal Bend RWPG that the plan has been given a first reading by the Water Conservation Advisory Committee and the City Council.

Next, Mr. Jim Naismith presented the San Patricio Municipal Water District (SPMWD) Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan. Mr. Naismith simply stated the water conservation goals and informed the Coastal Bend RWPG that there have been Board approved revisions to the drought contingency plan. He assured the members that the plan was in compliance with TNRCC 288 rule. Mr. Naismith also stressed that the SPMWD makes an effort to work with the Coastal Bend RWPG and the City of Corpus Christi. He finished by stating that the SPMWD is focusing on the use of good records, uniform rates, and reuse and recycle of water.

Next, Judge Miller introduced Mr. Robert Flores. Mr. Flores informed the members that the TWDB is anxious to read drafts of the RWPGs' plans. Mr. Dodson stated that Mr. Flores would be able to take a draft copy of Sections 1 and 2 of the report for review. Mr. Flores also reminded the members that any questions or concerns could be addressed to either him or the Co-Chairs. He stated that there have been some efforts to coordinate a meeting with members of other regions. He then introduced Mr. Jorge Arroyo from Region "L". Mr. Dodson asked Mr. Arroyo to comment on the progress of Region "L".

Mr. Arroyo stated that, although, the Research and Planning funding has been approved, the funding is limited to applicants only. He encouraged the members to voice their concerns and comments. He defined his role as liaison for the TWDB to the South-Central RWPG (Region "L") and informed the Coastal Bend RWPG members of the advancement of that region. Mr. Arroyo stated that Region "L" had submitted their Sections 1 and 2 for approval as well. He invited the Coastal Bend RWPG members to a workshop in September which will focus on helping Region "L" pick a plan. Mr. Arroyo finished by expressing the South-Central RWPG's interest in working with the Coastal Bend RWPG.

Mr. Dodson informed the members that they could pick up a draft of Sections 1 and 2 as they leave the meeting.

Under General Public Comment, Judge Miller introduced Mr. Jon Sunday. She stated that Mr. Sunday is the new liaison from the Texas Department of Agriculture to the Coastal Bend RWPG. Mr. Sunday acknowledged Judge Miller's welcome. Judge Miller asked for any other general comments. No other public comments were made.

Mr. Dodson recommended the next meeting date for September 9, 1999.

Judge Miller asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Hubert made the motion and Mr. Nedabelek seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. Judge Miller adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

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

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Minutes Submitted by: _____

Dr. Patrick Hubert, Secretary Date

Coastal Bend RWPG