

Minutes of the January 20, 2000 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. Mr. Bernard Paulson called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Mr. Paulson called roll.

Members of the RWPG in attendance included Mr. Ariel Garcia, Mr. Robert Kunkel, Dr. David McNichols, Mr. Billy Dick, Mr. Bobby Nedbalek, Mr. Scott Bledsoe, Dr. Patrick Hubert, Mr. Bernie DeLaune, Dr. Jennifer Prouty, Ms. Carola Serrato, Mr. Vincent Guerra, Mr. JimTolan, and Mr. Jorge Arroyo from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Also in attendance were Mr. Greg Carter (for Mr. Scott Murray); Mr. Steven Ashley of the Coastal Bend Council of Government; Mr. Ed Garaña and Ms. Sandra Koenning from the City of Corpus Christi; and Mr. Mike Mahaffey and Mr. Frank Brogan from The Port of Corpus Christi Authority. Also in attendance was Mr. Allen Shifley.

Mr. Paulson noted the members who were absent: Judge Josephine Miller, Mr. Fausto Yturria, Mr. Jerry Kane, and Mr. Ben Figueroa.

Minutes from the November 11, 1999 meeting of the Regional Water Planning Group for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region "N" were reviewed. Mr. Bernard Paulson requested a modification of the minutes to include him in the roll call for the November 11, 1999 meeting. Mr. Paulson then approved the minutes.

Next, Mr. Paulson opened up discussion on Agenda Item IV: Appointment of a Voting Member to represent Electrical Generating Utilities, with an appeal to appoint Mr. Greg Carter as a member of Coastal Bend RWPG. After some discussion Dr. Hubert made a motion to appoint Mr. Greg Carter as the representative for Electrical Generating Utilities. Mr. Robert Kunkel and Mr. Scott Bledsoe seconded the motion followed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. James Dodson next introduced Agenda Item V: Regional Water Management Plan: Status and Schedule. Mr.

Dodson began by discussing aspects of the administrative budget. The total adopted budget spans from March 1998 to December 2000 (34-month period) and provides \$217,500 for that period. Mr. Dodson reported that as of November 1999, the expenditures totaled \$134,351, which is right on track. Mr. Dodson also handed out some information regarding administrative expenses and allocation of cost. Allocation of cost was done on a per capita basis (total administrative budget/total year 2000 population estimates) resulting in approximately \$0.39. Mr. Dodson explained that the City of Corpus Christi is providing the majority of the money (74%) and is billed quarterly for those expenses. He also stated that a \$26,000 balance exists that will be billed to the city. Other entities have been contacted to request that they remit the remaining allocations; some of which has already been collected. Mr. Blesdoe asked if everyone had been billed. Mr. Dodson replied by saying that almost everyone had been billed. Ms. Serrato questioned if traveling expenses would offset other categories. She was assured that those expenses would fit in the budget.

Mr. Dodson next discussed the planning budget. He reported that a grant from the TWDB totaling \$1,114,753 is being utilized for the planning process. The contract with HDR is \$1,039,922 and the remaining \$104,831 is for planning activities through the Nueces River Authority. While expenditures on planning to date were only 31% of the total, Mr. Dodson expects expenditures to increase soon due to engineering analysis expenses.

Mr. Dodson next discussed planning process issues, trying to get feedback on areas that might need to be changed. He asked the group whether they want to get more involved in the process, working with outside groups, advisory groups, and/or subcommittees. He stated that there is still the issue of whether or not to identify some unique reservoir sites or stream segments and which ones those would be. Mr. Dodson also commented on public participation and the level of involvement needed for the program.

Mr. Dodson's next discussed the possibility of incorporating existing water management plans, conservation plans, and drought contingency plans into the regional plan. Mr. Dodson then asked those representing large water districts and municipalities if they were ready to present plans for consideration by the group. Ms. Serrato then asked Mr. Dodson how many plans had been received. Mr. Dodson remarked that some plans have been received but there are some entities that may not have a plan adopted and might want to consider adopting one. Ms. Serrato suggested that the entities in the eleven counties should be contacted and adequate representation should be present at the Coastal Bend RWPG meetings. Mr. Dodson noted that the majority of the counties were represented adequately.

Mr. Dodson next discussed the issue of coordination with other regions. He noted that the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L) has expressed interest in a joint meeting. Mr. Dodson also asked the members for their input regarding activities during the interim period of next year. He asked the members to start considering when the next activity cycle should begin and whether there should be an interim budget. Mr. Bledsoe commented that some areas, due to new technology, are not complete and may require some attention during the interim period. Dr. David McNichols commented on the dynamics of submitting plans to the state. He is interested in having a mechanism in place once the planning document is submitted that will allow for the monitoring of what happens in the proceeding year. Mr. Ed Garaña had a question concerning who could be responsible for overseeing various aspects of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Plan before submission. Dr. McNichols questioned whether there had been any commitment from agencies about what type of funding would be available beyond submittal of the management plan. The appropriations made by the last legislature will carry us through the end of August 2001. The legislature will be meeting in January 2001 to approve appropriation

requests for the next period.

Mr. Dodson next introduced Mr. Kelly Payne of HDR Engineering, the project manager for the Coastal Bend RWPG. Mr. Payne was asked by Mr. Dodson to look at the planning process in terms of where the group is now and where it needs to go. Mr. Payne began by discussing aspects of the process that are known. This included what the region looks like with respect to the plan, established demand projections, and established best estimates of water supply. Mr. Payne stated that data on surface-water supplies is being merged with estimates of ground-water supplies. He noted that the figures used are supply and demand projections for 2050 and were developed by the TNRCC as part of their water rights modeling across the state. Surface-water estimates from Lake Corpus Christi, Choke Canyon, and the Mary Rhodes Pipeline total nearly 237,000 acre-feet/year for the Nueces Basin. The surface water in the coastal basins within the planning area has not been modeled in detail due to their limited size and ineffectiveness during periods of drought. Ground-water supplies from Gulf Coast Aquifer are estimated at nearly 73,000 acre-feet/year of sustainable water supplies and the Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, and Sparta Aquifers add another 12,000 acre-feet/year. The total supply for the Coastal Bend is estimated to be 322,000 acre-feet/year in 2050. Mr. Payne next began discussion on water supply demand for the region. Demand for municipal rights total 165,000 acre-feet/year, total industrial (manufacturing, steam and electric, and mining) demand total 128,000 acre-feet/year, and agricultural (livestock and irrigation) usage total 17,000 acre-feet/year. The total demand for the Coastal Bend is estimated to be just less than 310,000 acre-feet/year in 2050. Mr. Payne added that although the numbers indicate a surplus, some deficits on a localized scale do exist.

Mr. Payne next discussed on groundwater allocation. He stated that groundwater was allocated on a per county basis and based on 1997 usage. Mr. Payne next asked for comments concerning water allocation and water deficient localities. He asked the members whether there should be a "pecking order" concerning groundwater rights among municipalities, agriculture and industry. Mr. Kunkel noted the deliberations the Groundwater Advisory Panel had regarding the issue of groundwater allotment. He stated that there is no legal basis concerning groundwater allocation. Mr. Carter added that, under the current groundwater law, whoever owns the land above the water, has rights to the water. Dr. Hubert stated that, typically, a municipality has the ability to raise money to construct a well whereas the individual landowner may not. He also stressed the use of surface-water when possible, as it is easier to replenish than groundwater.

Mr. Dodson noted that the Coastal Bend RWPG could make policy decisions that drive some of the alternatives to be included in the draft plan. Ms. Serrato next discussed the problems of groundwater distribution between Kleberg and Duval County. She suggested that a county-by-county assessment of problems and evaluation of addressing those problems be created. Mr. Ashley questioned whether the use of treated or recycled water for agriculture was possible. Mr. Payne responded by saying that that is part of the possible management strategies. Ms. Serrato asked whether the City of Corpus Christi has made its own projections about water availability and allocation of that water. Mr. Dodson replied by saying those contracts between the City of Corpus Christi and the customer is a two-way deal; the city has an obligation to add additional water supplies as needed. Mr. Garana stated that all treated water contracts have a clause to increase the allotment of water as needed. Mr. Payne closed discussion stating that allocation of water will be based on 1997 use of groundwater and existing surface-water contracts.

Mr. Payne next introduced the next topic: Schedule. He stated that there are nine tasks in the current contract.

Mr. Payne noted that the water supply/demand analyses would be finished by the end of February. He also noted that evaluation of the management strategies and finalization of the draft plan should be completed in June/July.

Mr. James Dodson introduced Agenda Item VI: Reports. Mr. Dodson stated that the elections for officers of the Coastal Bend RWPG are scheduled for the March meeting. Next, Mr. Dodson introduced Mr. Jorge Arroyo to report any TWDB and South-Central RWPG news. . Mr. Arroyo stated that Region "L" has had approximately 30 public meetings in the past 3 months. He stated that their meeting on Jan. 6th dealt with re-election of officers and approving the Water Supply analysis. Mr. Arroyo next informed the members of the upcoming federal coordination meetings. He stated that three dates for "clearing-house" meetings have been set where federal agents are represented. He stated that the regions will have an opportunity to have water management strategies examined: Those dates are: February 8th and 9th in San Antonio, April 18th and 19th in Dallas/ Ft. Worth, and June 13th and 14th in Corpus Christi.

Mr. Dodson reported on the Region "L" meeting in Victoria. He noted that groundwater modeling of the region was completed but not discussed in the meeting. Mr. Dodson stated that Region "L" plans to incorporate the Nueces Basin model in their integration efforts for all groundwater and surface-water for the region. Mr. Dodson requested an update report from HDR regarding the status of their project with Region "L". Mr. Dodson reported on a possible joint development of water supplies. He explained that the concept involved diverting water out of the Guadalupe River (about 80,000 acre-feet/year) and sending it to Corpus Christi in exchange for taking water out of Choke Canyon and sending it to San Antonio. He adds that water from the San Antonio River would be transferred to Choke Canyon to improve yield there.

Mr. Paulson asked for General Public comment. There was none.

Next meeting date was set for March 9, 2000 at 1:30p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mr. Sam Sugarek and Mr. James Dodson

Minutes Submitted by:

Dr. Patrick Hubert, Secretary

Date

Coastal Bend

RWPG