

Minutes of the June 22, 2000 Meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program 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. Judge Josephine Miller called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included Judge Josephine Miller, Dr. David McNichols, Mr. Billy Dick, Mr. Bobby Nedbalek, Dr. Jennifer Prouty, Dr. Patrick Hubert, Mr. Bernie DeLaune, Mr. Greg Carter, Mr. Ariel Garcia, Mr. Scott Bledsoe, Ms. Carola Serrato and Mr. Bernard Paulson. Mr. Jerry Kane and Mr. Fausto Yturria had excused absences.

Non-Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included Mr. Robert Flores, Mr. Vincente Guerra, Mr. Jim Tolan, and Mr. Cole Rowland.

Also in attendance were Mr. Kelly Payne, Mr. Bryan Black, Mrs. Angela Rodriguez, and Mr. Larry Land of HDR Engineering. Mr. Joe Bowar of Naismith Engineering, Mr. Mark Lowry of Turner, Colin, & Braden, Mr. Jack Nelson of the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority (LNRA) and Mr. Jim Jensen of PB Water attended.

Judge Miller called the workshop into session for the Coastal Bend RWPG at 10:18 a.m.. She began by stating that the staff of HDR Engineering will be giving a presentation and expressed the need to develop policy recommendations.

Mr. Kelly Payne began by introducing the water supply options to be discussed by the Coastal Bend RWPG and scheduling information. He noted that the evaluation of water supply options and strategies would be delayed but the development of the water management plan would be completed by the end of July. He also noted that a draft report would have to be prepared by the end of August followed by a series of comment periods ending in January.

Mr. Payne noted that there are 19 unique water supply options, 9 of which were presented in May and March. He stated that six options would be presented in the current meeting including Municipal, Manufacturing, and Irrigation Conservation, Aquifer Storage & Recovery, Bank Storage & Recovery, and Desalination of seawater. With regards to Municipal Conservation, Mr. Payne stated that demand projections were based on a 50%

participation in advanced conservation practices.

Mr. Payne next introduced Ms. Angela Rodriguez to discuss Manufacturing Conservation and the results of surface/groundwater sampling along the Lower Nueces River. Ms. Rodriguez began her discussion by noting the location of the seven sampling sites along the Lower Nueces River. She stated that there was significant stratification along the channel as well as high chloride levels and total dissolved solids (TDS). Ms. Rodriguez stressed that lower TDS levels would allow industry to reuse water in cooling processes, which would conserve water. Finally, Ms. Rodriguez presented possible corrective measures for the high dissolved minerals concentration in the Lower Nueces.

Mrs. Rodriguez introduced Mr. Joe Bowar of Naismith Engineering to discuss Irrigation Conservation. Mr. Bowar discussed the different types of irrigation techniques and their relative efficiencies.

Following Mr. Bowar, Mr. Larry Land discussed the water supply options of Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) and recovery of bank storage. Mr. Land stressed that, both economically and physically, ASR was a much more of a feasible option than recovery of bank storage.

Finally, Judge Miller postponed the Policy Recommendations Discussion Item until the afternoon Coastal Bend RWPG meeting. At 12:22 p.m., Judge Miller adjourned the workshop for lunch.

The Coastal Bend RWPG meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m..

Judge Josephine Miller asked for a roll call. A visual attendance was noted.

Minutes from the May 11, 2000 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. Frank Brogan made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. David McNichols seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Judge Miller introduced Mr. Mark Graves to discuss aspects of desalination for the Coastal Bend Region. Mr. Graves stated that a feasibility study was conducted to compare the Texas coast to the Tampa, Florida site as a possible location for a desalination plant. Mr. Graves stated that cost issues for desalination are site specific and depend on a number of variables.

Next, Mr. Dodson introduced Mr. Jack Nelson and Mr. Mark Lowry to discuss another site-specific study of the feasibility of a regional desalination plant. Mr. Nelson discussed the need to preserve groundwater supplies through alternatives such as desalination. Mr. Lowry discussed the technical aspects of a possible desalination plant in Point Comfort, Texas. He discussed issues such as waste solids and reject water that result from

desalination. Mr. Lowry estimated that the Point Comfort desalination plant could be operating in 3 to 5 years.

Mr. Dodson introduced Mr. Jim Jenson to discuss aspects of desalination. Mr. Jenson noted that as technology progressed the cost associated with desalination has decreased.

Judge Miller introduced the next item of discussion: Developing Policy Recommendations for the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Committee and selecting Water Management Strategies. Mr. Dodson stated that legislative, regulatory, and administrative policy recommendations need to be addressed. He asked for volunteers for a subcommittee to discuss and develop Policy Recommendations for items such as interbasin transfers, desalination, groundwater monitoring, irrigation data, and underground water districts. Volunteers for the subcommittee included: Mr. Carter, Mr. Bledsoe, Dr. Hubert, Ms. Serrato, Dr. McNichols, Mr. DeLaune, and Mr. Kunkel.

Finally, Mr. Payne discussed Water Management Strategies/Water Supply options. Mr. Payne noted areas, within the Coastal Bend Region, that will have water supply shortages in the future. Some members expressed concern about water quality in the Coastal Bend Region. Mr. Payne noted a potential problem with arsenic and radon in addition to total dissolved solids. Mr. Payne also noted several counties that will have shortages of groundwater supply in the short term.

Dr. Hubert asked for Public Comment. There was none.

Next meeting date was set for July 20, 2000 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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

Minutes Submitted by:

Dr. Patrick Hubert, Secretary

Date

Coastal Bend

RWPG