

**Minutes of the April 12, 2001 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 Miller called the meeting to order at 1:44 p.m

Judge Josephine Miller asked for a roll call. A visual attendance was noted. Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included Judge Josephine Miller, Mr. Billy Dick, Mr. Robert Kunkel, Mr. Bobby Nedbalek, Mr. Fausto Yturria, Dr. Jennifer Prouty, Dr. Patrick Hubert, Mr. Bernie DeLaune, Mr. Greg Carter, Mr. Scott Bledsoe, Ms. Carola Serrato, and Mr. Bernard Paulson. A quorum was determined to be present.

Non-Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included Mr. Robert Flores, Mr. Vincente Guerra, Mr. Dexter Svetlik, Mr. Jim Tolan and Mr. Robert Fulbright. Guests included Mr. Andy Garza, Mr. Jim Naismith, Mr. Ron Massey and Ms. Sandra Thaxton.

Minutes from the December 18, 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. Fausto Yturria made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bobby Nedbalek seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Judge Miller introduced Agenda Item IV: Discussion Item on Administrative Review Committee Processes. Mr. Greg Carter, Chair of the Administrative Review Committee, described the process that the committee has chosen to follow in soliciting comments and evaluations from RWPG members regarding the performance of the Designated Political Subdivision (Nueces River Authority) and the Contractor providing professional services (HDR Engineering, Inc.). Mr. Carter noted that members should have received an evaluation form for both NRA and HDR, and that the committee would appreciate the cooperation of the RWPG members in filling out and returning the form since the process would be continuing and that there were no results yet. The Administrative Review Committee will meet again just prior to the next RWPG meeting.

Judge Miller next asked Mr. Dodson to present Agenda Item IV: Discussion of the status of the application for interim funding for the revision and updating of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Plan. Mr. Dodson stated that, despite the fact that NRA had provided supplemental information to TWDB on several of the items in the originally proposed Scope of Work, TWDB staff were still only recommending funding for one activity, amounting to \$20,000. This one activity involves additional data collection on TDS levels and other water quality data in the Callalen Pool of the Lower Nueces River. Mr. Dodson asked the members of the RWPG as to whether he should further protest the level of funding being recommended or simply accept this amount on behalf of the RWPG and proceed with the work. Members generally agreed that the work should proceed with the available funds. Mr. Robert Flores provided additional comment on the process TWDB used in reviewing the applications for interim funding.

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Mr. Dodson assured the RWPG members that several of the items in the proposed interim Scope of Work that were not funded by TWDB would still be accomplished, perhaps in a limited way, by using local administrative funds to support the planning work done by the Nueces River Authority.

Mr. Dodson then discussed several other administrative issues facing the RWPG as the next round of regional water planning begins. These include the development of a Scope of Work for the next funding cycle (which begins in November 2001) and the planning rule changes TWDB is proposing. Regarding the development of the Scope of Work, Mr. Dodson noted that TWDB has issued a Request for Applications for funding to develop the next Scope of Work, but he recommended, unless the RWPG directed otherwise, the use of local administrative funds to cover this effort on behalf of the Coastal Bend RWPG. There was no opinion to the contrary.

Next, Mr. Dodson introduced the issue of how TWDB's new GAM (Groundwater Availability Modeling) program may ultimately impact the way regional water planning groups and ground water management districts establish water availability criteria for both regional planning and ground water management rules. Discussion among the RWPG members indicated similar concerns about this program and more general concerns regarding the direction that SB1 regional water planning may be going in the future.

Lastly, Mr. Dodson reported on the status of SB2 and several other water-related bills before the Texas Legislature.

Judge Miller asked for General Public comment. There was none.

Next meeting date was tentatively set for May 10, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mr. James Dodson

Minutes Submitted by:

Dr. Patrick Hubert, Secretary
Coastal Bend RWPG

Date