

Minutes of the September 13, 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.

Dr. Hubert, serving as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:48 pm.

A visual attendance was noted. Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included Dr. Patrick Hubert, Mr. Bernard Paulson, Mr. Bernie DeLaune, Mr. Greg Carter, Mr. Bobby Nedbalek, Mr. Scott Bledsoe, and Ms. Carola Serrato. The Chair determined that there was not a quorum of voting members present. In order to obtain a quorum of eight voting members, Mr. Kane was contacted by speakerphone.

Non-Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included Mr. Ralph Boeker, Mr. Vincente Guerra and Dr. Jim Tolan. Guests included Mr. Mark Scott, Mr. Jim Naismith, Mr. Don Roach and Ms. Glenda Swierc.

In light of the quorum situation, Dr. Hubert called for consideration of Item V. Appointment of New Member Representing Municipal Interests. Mr. Paulson moved to appoint Mr. Mark Scott; Mr. Bledsoe seconded the motion. Dr. Hubert called for discussion and Mr. Kane noted his support for Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Scott thanked the group for their support.

At that point, Mr. Kane excused himself. With Mr. Scott's appointment, it was considered that there were still eight voting members present and that a quorum still existed.

Dr. Hubert went back to Item III., Approval of the Minutes from the July 19, 2001 meeting of the Regional Water Planning Group. There were no requested additions or modifications to the minutes. There was a motion by Ms. Serrato and a second by Mr. Nedbalek to approve the minutes as provided. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Hubert then introduced Agenda Item IV., Approval to Submit a Grant Application to the Texas Water Development Board for Funding the Development of the Infrastructure Finance Report and asked Mr. Dodson to present the background on the item. Mr. Dodson stated that the item of discussion is a result of Senate Bill 2 passed by the 77th Texas Legislature. SB2 requires that the RWPG's prepare for the Legislature's consideration information on how various water user groups planned to finance the water supply projects recommended in the regional plans to meet their long-term water needs, and what role, if any, the water user groups thought the State should play in providing financial assistance on these projects.

Mr. Dodson then described how TWDB planned to implement this legislative directive by funding the RWPG's to survey the water user groups, using a survey instrument prepared by TWDB, and to compile and report on the results. RWPG's are also to develop policy recommendations regarding what role they believe the State should play in infrastructure financing. These activities would comprise the preparation of an Infrastructure Financing Report (IFR) for each planning region.

Dr. Hubert asked Mr. Dodson if all the water supply entities in the region, including the smaller water supply corporations like Rivera WSC and Baffin Bay WSC would have an opportunity to participate in the IFR process. Mr. Dodson responded that TWDB's guidelines for the IFR

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process would require only that the Water User Groups with identified water demands in the first 30-year planning period be surveyed. However, Mr. Dodson also stated that he planned to use the IFR program surveys as an opportunity to have more outreach on the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning process by going out to the communities and meeting with the water user groups to discuss the survey, rather than simply mailing it out and waiting for the returns. Mr. Dodson then requested that RWPG members, if available, participate in these visits with the water suppliers.

Mr. Dodson noted that applications for IFR funding were due to be submitted to TWDB by October 21, 2001 and that notice of the application would have to be published and distributed per TWDB rules. Mr. Bledsoe moved that the Coastal Bend RWPG authorize the Nueces River Authority to submit the application to TWDB, asking for the \$15,000; Ms. Serrato seconded the motion. Dr. Hubert asks for any further discussion, but there was none. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Dr. Hubert called for Item VI. Defining Alternating Terms of Office for RWPG Members. Mr. Dodson noted that the Bylaws for the Coastal Bend RWPG provide that the original terms of all voting members expired on September 1, 2001, and that the original members were eligible for one additional term. However, the Bylaws also provide that the additional terms must be established so as to create alternating terms of office, such that only half of the members would leave office at any one time. The original voting members would serve an additional term of either two years or five years, to be determined by drawing lots.

Mr. Dodson had prepared sixteen slips of paper, eight with "Two Years" printed on them and eight with "Five Years" printed on them. Each member drew a slip of paper from a hat -- provided graciously by Dr. Hubert -- to determine their additional term of office. Dr. Hubert drew for those not present. Mr. Dodson recorded the results. Members drawing terms of two years include: Mr. Kane, Mr. Paulson, Mr. Carter, Mr. DeLaune, Mr. Dick, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Nedbalek and Mr. Yturria. Members drawing terms of five years include: Judge Miller, Dr. Hubert, Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Kunkel, Mr. Scott, Ms. Serrato and Dr. Smith-Engle.

Dr. Hubert then asked Mr. Dodson for any reports under Agenda Item 6: Reports/Discussion Items. Mr. Dodson provided an update on the September 7, 2001 meeting of a "working group" on Inter-Regional Planning, passing out copies of proposed schedules and tasks for the development of the scope of work for the proposed Inter-Regional Planning activities. Mr. Dodson stated that the working group had been offered, and accepted, the services of NRA to be the designated political subdivision for this Inter-Regional Planning process. He noted that there would be a meeting on September 19, 2001 between representatives of the working group and the Executive Administrator for TWDB and his staff regarding the funding of the proposed Inter-Regional Planning program.

Ms. Serrato asked if any discussion had taken place regarding an organizational structure for the Interregional Planning program and how the selection of consultants is going to take place. Mr. Dodson explained that the consultants for the development of the scope of work would be the same consultants that have prepared the regional water plans for each region, but that a selection process would have to be undertaken to procure professional services for the actual planning program.

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Dr. Hubert asked for any other comments. Mr. Dodson then introduced Mr. Ralph Boeker, who has been designated as the new TWDB liaison for the Coastal Bend RWPG. Mr. Boeker explained some details on his role and also mentioned the upcoming public hearings on the Draft State Water Plan. Mr. Dodson then commented on the All-Chairs Conference call that had just taken place and how many of the RWPG Chairs complained to the TWDB Executive Administrator about the process TWDB used to develop additional policy recommendations beyond those contained in the approved Regional Water Plans

Dr. Hubert asked if there was any general public comment. There was none.

The next Coastal Bend RWPG meeting was scheduled for October 11, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Hubert adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Hernandez and James Dodson

Minutes Submitted by: _____

Patrick Hubert, D.V.M.

_____ **Date**