

Minutes of the November 8, 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.

A visual attendance count noted that there was not a quorum of the voting members present. Judge Miller therefore determined that the meeting would take place only as a "Committee of the Whole" and called such meeting to order.

Judge Miller asked Mr. Dodson to present Discussion Item V regarding the status of income and expenses for 2001 and the proposed budget and allocations for 2002. Mr. Dodson referred to copies of the budget for the local administrative expenses associated with the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning program for calendar year 2001, which was included in the agenda packet. It includes the budgets originally adopted in December 2000, and a revised budget (changes in subcategories of expenses only -- monthly total remaining the same) based on changes in staffing and salaries for the Nueces River Authority effective September 2001. Mr. Dodson then discussed the allocations of administrative expenses and the payments-to-date by the various political subdivisions. He discussed methods to collect those payments not yet received.

Mr. Dodson then noted that a draft of the local administrative budget for calendar year 2002 was included in the agenda packet and that the allocation of these expenses to the political subdivisions in the planning region was open for discussion. Mr. Dodson also referred to the table in the agenda packet comparing the TWDB estimates of 2000 population to the new 2000 census data. Mr. Dodson stated that the local administrative budget for calendar year 2002 should be adopted in December 2001, and asked the group whether the expense allocations should be developed using the newly available 2000 census data. Judge Miller felt that the allocations should use the most currently available data.

Next, in discussing Item IV Scope of Work and Budget for the next cycle of regional water planning, Mr. Dodson noted that TWDB's deadline for the submittal of the scope and budget documents, originally set for February 1, 2002, has been extended to March 1, 2002. This is due to the fact that SB2 created new requirements in the planning process and TWDB is still adopting new rules to reflect these changes. Preliminary guidance on the development of the scope of work and budget should be available in November, but until that information is finalized in December, the RWPG will not start drafting a scope of work. There will be a requirement for a public meeting on the scope of work, which probably will need to be scheduled for February 2002.

Mr. Dodson then went on to discuss Item VI Inter-Regional Coordination (IRC) project status and schedule. He noted that there was one comment received in response to the notice published regarding the submission of the application for state funding. Mr. John Burke, Chair for Region K (Lower Colorado River) wrote a letter to Mr. Craig Pedersen, Executive Administrator for TWDB, stating that Region K would like participate formally in this interregional coordination process. Response from other regions indicated that Region K was welcome to participate, even though Region K was not included in the funding application process.

Mr. Dodson explained that the Inter-Regional Work Group (IRWG) would meet three times in November to consider potential inter-regional water management strategies and to determine which ones will be brought back to each region for their consideration.

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Mr. Paulson stated that he had been appointed to serve as a representative of the Coastal Bend RWPG on the Inter-Regional Work Group, but he anticipated conflicts that would prevent him from attending most of the three scheduled meetings. Judge Miller asked if anyone else would like to volunteer to take Mr. Paulson's place. There were no volunteers, so Mr. Paulson was not replaced as a representative for the Coastal Bend RWPG.

Mr. Dodson then concluded with Discussion Item VII Infrastructure Financing Report (IFR) – project status and schedule. He explained that the purpose of the IFR study, required under SB2, is to determine the views of water providers and water user groups in each planning region with respect to how they are going to pay for the implementation of water management strategies recommended to meet their water needs. TWDB has developed a survey instrument to be used in all the planning regions. The RWPG is to administer the survey to each water user group in their region with an identified water need. There are 22 or 24 water user groups to be surveyed in our region. Mr. Dodson then provided copies of the funding contract issued by TWDB, which contains the survey forms to be used by the RWPG. The contract provides for up to \$15,000 in funding for the Coastal Bend RWPG to both administer the survey and summarize the results for the this region, as well as to develop regional policy positions with respect to the role of the state in financing water infrastructure to meet some of the future water needs.

Judge Miller next asked for public comment. There was none.

It was decided to poll all the RWPG voting members to determine the best date to schedule the next Coastal Bend RWPG meeting, with the preferred date being the regular meeting date of December 13, 2001.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Hernandez
Mr. James Dodson

Minutes Submitted by: _____ Date _____
Patrick Hubert, DVM
Secretary, Coastal Bend RWPG