

Minutes of the January 17, 2002 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.

Mr. Bernard Paulson of the Coastal Bend RWPG, called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m.

Mr. Paulson asked for a roll call. A visual attendance was noted. Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included Mr. Scotty Bledsoe, Mr. Greg Carter, Mr. Bernie DeLaune, Mr. Billy Dick, Dr. Patrick Hubert, Mr. Bobby Nedbalek, Mr. Bernard Paulson, Ms. Carola Serrato, and Mr. Fausto Yturria. A quorum of the voting members was present.

Non-Voting members in attendance included Mr. Vincente Guerra, Mr. Ralph Boeker, and Mr. Robert Fulbright. Guests included Ms. Maggie Moorhouse, Mr. Ed Garana, Mr. Don Roach, Mr. Jim Nasmith, Mr. Ken Choffel, Dr. Herb Grubb, Mr. John Folk-Williams, Mr. Ron Massey, Mr. Bo Spooantz, Mr. Max Castaneda, and Mr. Bill Kopecky.

Rather than taking up the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, Mr. Paulson asked Mr. Dodson to first address Agenda Item #VI: Scope of Work and Budget for next cycle of Regional Water Planning. Mr. Dodson first expressed condolences to Dr. Hubert, whose mother had recently passed away.

Mr. Dodson introduced Mr. Ken Choffel, HDR Engineering, Inc., to cover the item. Mr. Choffel provided a handout of the Scope of Work and budget. He gave a brief review of the last Scope of Work and pointed out some changes. He noted that the region might be eligible for as much as \$633,000 in TWDB funding for the next cycle of regional water planning. TWDB has indicated that they expect to have approximately \$17.8M for the sixteen regional water planning groups throughout the state, assuming the Texas Legislature appropriates funds at the anticipated level in the next biennium. There were discussions concerning several of the items.

Mr. Boeker clarified that the due date for the Scope of Work and Budget for the next planning cycle is now April 1, 2002. Mr. Choffel said that in terms of developing the next regional water plan, the process could be divided into several phases: Phase I (April 2002 -- July 2002: development of supply and demand projections); Phase II (August 2003 -- July 2004: evaluation of new water management strategies); Phase III (August 2004 -- April 2005: development of draft regional water plan) and Phase IV (May -- December 2005: revision of draft plan and production of final regional water plan).

Mr. Dodson then discussed changes in estimated water use and demand projections; Dr. Grubb then discussed the use of new population projections. Mr. Dodson stated that the Coastal Bend RWPG may want to ask the Coastal Bend Council of Governments staff or staff with the City of Corpus Christi Planning Department for assistance developing the population projections for this region. In terms of new information on water availability, TWDB has stated that by January 2003, the new Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) for the Central Gulf Coast Aquifer should be done. The new planning guidelines require the use of the GAM data for estimating groundwater supply, unless more site specific data is available.

Minutes of the January 17, 2002 Meeting of the  
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the  
Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region "N"

Noting that a quorum of members was present, Mr. Paulson suspended the discussion of Item VI and called for consideration of Item III: Approval of the minutes of the December 13, 2001 meeting. Mr. Yturria moved for approval and it was seconded by Mr. Nedbalek; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Paulson then resumed discussion of Item VI.

Dr. Hubert commented on the groundwater for Kenedy and Kleberg County, asking how much water is going to be available for smaller cities? Mr. Vincent Guerra suggested that someone should be hired to look at this if it is necessary.

Mr. Dodson noted that the planning rules require that the RWPG hold a "public meeting" to solicit public comment on the Scope of Work and Budget for the next cycle of regional water planning. Notice of the public meeting must be published 30 days in advance, so February 21, 2002 would be the earliest meeting date, which could be in conjunction with the next RWPG meeting if desired. It was decided to set the next RWPG meeting for 3pm on February 21, 2002 and to hold the public meeting at 5pm on that date, following the RWPG meeting.

Discussion on elements of the Scope of Work continued. Mr. Naismith commented that in considering wastewater reuse projects, it is important to work with the end users at beginning of the planning process in order to identify their specific needs, then to think about the "plumbing" arrangements. Mr. Paulson discussed the use of wastewater discharges for meeting freshwater inflow requirements and the status of the projects designed to demonstrate the effective reuse of these freshwater sources in lieu of "releases" of water from the Choke Canyon/Lake Corpus Christi Reservoir System.

Mr. Garana then discussed the status of the North Padre/Mustang Island brackish groundwater desalination project for the City of Corpus Christi. He noted that the City has received proposals from several engineering groups and is in the process of selecting a consultant to perform the preliminary engineering/feasibility analysis.

At 3:06 pm, Mr. Paulson called for a short break before taking up the next item. He called the meeting back to order at 3:20 pm. Mr. Dodson then introduced Dr. Herb Grubb, HDR Engineering, Inc. to present the discussion on item IV; Mr. Dodson also noted that the next meeting of the Inter-Regional Work Group (IRWG) is set for February 15, 2002.

Dr. Grubb presented the Water Management Strategies for Potential Inter-Regional Cooperation. Dr. Grubb provided a handout that reviewed all of the inter-regional water management strategies.

While discussing IRC-1 Gulf Coast Aquifer Strategy, Dr. Grubb noted that a groundwater district has been formed in the Refugio County area and that landowners in the county had expressed interest in making water available for purchase.

Dr. Grubb noted a correction to the IRC-2: Lower Colorado River Strategy, groundwater from Jackson County in Region P would not be used to enhance surface water supplies, but rather, groundwater in the Region K area, Wharton and Matagorda counties, would be used to supplement irrigation water supplies within the region, thus making some surface water available for export. This strategy would also include off-channel ring-dike storage facilities.

Minutes of the January 17, 2002 Meeting of the  
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the  
Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region "N"

During the discussion of the IRC-5: Optimization of the Nueces Basin Yield, Dr. Grubb asked Mr. Massey for any comments that he might have. Mr. Massey's comments expressed the City's desire to make the most out of Choke Canyon Reservoir's capacity by reevaluating all the water rights on the Nueces River before plans are made to start moving water around. There were comments from several members concerning the ownership of the water, consequences of the Cotulla reservoir, water releases, and recharge dams. The overall consensus was that only the strategies that provided win-win situations could be implemented.

Mr. Naismith noted that in the past, the City of Corpus Christi made good decisions which have put the region in a good position now. Mr. Massey and Mr. Garana remarked about the interruptible water the City can get from Lake Texana. Approximately 4,500 acre feet of interruptible water from Lake Texana were transferred last year, and the City is negotiating an additional 7,500 acre feet per year, which helps keep the reservoir levels up in the CCR/LCC system. Mr. Paulson noted that San Antonio had the option to buy part of the Lake Texana water when Corpus Christi did, but didn't.

Mr. Massey also noted that the City's overall water supply is less vulnerable to terrorist activities since it is composed of two sources, either one which could be turned off if necessary.

Mr. Dodson discussed how any further evaluation of these strategies might be funded. He noted that the current allocations for the next cycle of regional water planning will not allow for much more than the bare minimum. However, the regions who choose to participate in any of the interregional strategies could jointly apply for funding. He also noted that it will be in addition to the money already allocated to the regions for their individual needs. Mr. Dodson presented a budget estimate for the strategies just discussed.

Mr. Dodson asked that any concerns be addressed, or if any members felt that any of the strategies needed to be pulled completely.

Mr. Paulson stated that the pipeline from the Colorado River to the Mary Rhodes Pipeline and the diversion from the Nueces River near Cotulla to Choke Canyon Reservoir have appeal.

Mr. Bledsoe was concerned about water from the Cotulla Reservoir going to Laredo. Mr. Dodson stated that this implementation could be a joint venture between the Nueces River Authority and the City of Corpus Christi.

There was further discussion about the various issues of some of the strategies. The primary consensus was that the strategies need to be prioritized and that the group should continue looking at all the options, keeping in mind that the interests of Region N need to be protected. Mr. Grubb stated that the schedule for the next planning cycle is such that strategies selected by two or more regions should be evaluated by June 2003 so the information can be available to the regional planning groups at the beginning of Phase II of their planning process.

Mr. Dodson indicated he will ask HDR reevaluate the budget after the TWD comes out with a new formula for funding allocations.

Minutes of the January 17, 2002 Meeting of the  
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the  
Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region "N"

Mr. Dodson then went to item # VIII: Reports and addressed several administrative issues: The Nueces River Authority concluded the continued monitoring of Nueces River/Calallen Pool and submitted a report to TWDB. He reviewed some of the details of the study and the results of the monitoring.

Infrastructure Financing Report (IFR) Project status and schedule: Mr. Dodson has been waiting on sending out the surveys, hoping that this process will also provide opportunities to meet with some of the communities regarding the new population data as they are available.

Administrative Budget: Mr. Dodson stated that \$4,500 has not been collected for the year 2001 budget. Mr. Billy Dick and Judge Miller are contacting these entities. The region is in the process of sending out the allocations for 2002.

Mr. Dodson noted that election of officers would be scheduled for the next meeting. Mr. Paulson indicated that the Nominations Committee should meet prior to the next meeting to consider candidates for office. Mr. Dodson affirmed that a meeting of the Nominations Committee would be scheduled and noticed.

Mr. Carter expressed concern about the problem of obtaining quorums at these meetings.

Mr. Paulson asked for any public comments. Mr. Bill Kopecky provided a handout and discussed his calculations of the quantity of water that would have been available from the "Simmons Diversion" project had it been in place during recent "flooding" events on the Nueces River.

Mr. Paulson adjourned the meeting at 4:25 pm.

---

Minutes prepared by: Ms. Rocky Freund and Mr. James Dodson

**Minutes Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Hubert, DVM  
Secretary, Coastal Bend RWPG

\_\_\_\_\_ Date