

Minutes of the April 18, 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.

Ms. Carola Serrato of the Coastal Bend RWPG called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

**Agenda Item II:** A visual attendance was noted. Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included Mr. Greg Carter, Mr. Bernie DeLaune, Mr. Billy Dick, Dr. Patrick Hubert, Mr. Jerry Kane, Mr. Robert Kunkel, Judge Josephine Miller, Ms. Carola Serrato, Dr. Jennifer Smith-Engle, and Mr. Fausto Yturria. Mr. Bernard Paulson supplied a proxy for Mr. Frank Brogan to be his designated alternate. Mr. Bobby Nedbalek had an excused absence. A quorum was determined to be present.

Non-voting members in attendance included Mr. Robert Barry, Mr. Ralph Boeker, Mr. Vincente Guerra, Mr. Con Mims, and Mr. Jon Sunday. Ms. Rocky Freund attended for the Nueces River Authority (NRA). Guests included Mr. Gary Bushell, Mr. Brogan, Mr. Max Castaneda, Mr. James Dodson, Mr. Thomas Hays, Mr. Ron Massey, Mr. Jim Naismith, and Mr. Bob Warren.

**Agenda Item III:** Ms. Serrato asked for approval of the minutes of the March 28, 2002 meeting of the Coastal Bend RWPG for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region N. There was a motion by Mr. Yturria, providing there were no additions or corrections. It was seconded by Mr. Carter. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Agenda Items IV and V:** Ms. Serrato explained that the draft Infrastructure Financing Report (IFR) is due to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) by May 1, 2002. The final report is due by June 1, 2002. In order to meet the May 1, 2002 deadline, Ms. Serrato suggested that the survey results and the draft policy recommendations, as supplied by Mr. Mims of NRA, be submitted as is. A subcommittee would be formed to create the final report, which would be brought to the entire group for approval at the next meeting. Another possibility would be to use this document and edit it for the Coastal Bend RWPG at the meeting today.

Judge Miller made a motion to adopt the draft report. Ms. Serrato pointed out that a subcommittee would still be needed to revise the document for the final report, and she offered to be a part of the subcommittee. Judge Miller wondered if the cost of the strategies were discussed with the individual water user groups. Mr. Dodson explained that the water user groups were just sent the questionnaires. Ms. Serrato will be talking to the Benevidas Water District Board in early May about their needs and the Senate Bill 1 process.

Mr. Mims reminded the group that the IFR consists of two parts, the cost of the water management strategies and the policy statement. He suggested that the group not accept the document as the group's final policy statement. He suggests that the group adopt the IFR strictly as a draft, and adopt a final policy statement and final report at the next meeting after the subcommittee meets.

In order to comply with TWDB requirements, Ms. Serrato asked for public comment on the report. Mr. Dodson commented that one goal of Senate Bill 2 is to put into place methods to

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generate revenue for projects. He suggested that the group consider recommending a sales tax on bottled water dedicated to funding water infrastructure projects.

Ms. Serrato asked for a second on Judge Miller's previous motion, which was made by Mr. Brogan. There was no discussion and the motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

A subcommittee consisting of Ms. Serrato, Mr. Carter, Mr. Dick, and Dr. Hubert was formed to review the draft report and develop policy recommendations for the group's approval.

**Agenda Item VI:** Ms. Serrato explained that the approval of the extension of the contracts with TWDB and HDR Engineering, Inc. was strictly because of the time issue for completing the final report on the Interregional Coordination Contract. Mr. Yturria made a motion to approve the contract extensions and Mr. Kane seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Agenda Item VII:** Ms. Serrato explained that the allocation of administrative cost among the water user groups is a yearly task and that the Nueces River Authority would be sending out the letters. Dr. Hubert made the motion to authorize the NRA to disseminate the letters of cost allocation for 2002. Judge Miller seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Judge Miller commented that the numbers for Nueces County "Other" were lower than they had been. Mr. Dodson explained that the first method was for a 2 ½ year period and that the past two years were based on the 2000 Census.

**Agenda Item VIII:** Ms. Serrato explained that the letter that had been sent to the members regarding possible resignation was not meant as an attempt to try and oust anyone. She explained that since the group was beginning a new planning period of the program, and because of the recent difficulty in obtaining quorums at the meetings, that the letter was intended to ask the members if they could devote the necessary time. Ms. Serrato received a letter of resignation from Dr. Smith-Engle.

Judge Miller asked about removing people because of failure to attend. Ms. Serrato said that there were two other people who have not attended in a while, and that it was the job of the Executive Committee to recommend their removal. Ms. Freund stated that one of the members had indicated that he needed to resign, but that she had not received anything in writing. Mr. Kane explained that there are some members of the group that have been absent due to extenuating circumstances. The group expressed their understanding of those type of circumstances and felt that those persons' contributions were important and therefore had honored the absences as excused.

Judge Miller questioned Mr. Ben Figueroa absences. Ms. Serrato suggested that she call a meeting of the Executive Committee to address this. Judge Miller noted that the group needed to advertise for all replacements at one time to save money. Dr. Hubert made the point that if people weren't going to show, that they needed to be removed. Mr. Kane reminded the group that an alternative would be to send a representative or proxy in your place, just not all the time.

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Ms Serrato suggested that the Executive Committee make personal contact the members who have not shown up prior to sending them letters stating that they are no longer members of the group.

**Agenda Item IX:** Ms. Serrato stated that she would work with staff to make sure the notices for solicitations of nominations for new members where in accordance with the bylaws. She noted that the notices would not go out until after the Executive Committee had met. Mr. Yturria moved to publish the notice and Dr. Hubert seconded the motion. Ms. Serrato asked for any discussion. Mr. Carter stated that this needed to be done, and now was the time to do it. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Agenda Item X:** Ms. Serrato asked for approval for the Executive Committee to review nominations and make recommendations for voting member replacements, although this would not be done until after the next meeting. Mr. Yturria made the motion, and Dr. Hubert seconded it. There was no discussion and the motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Agenda Item XI:** Ms. Serrato discussed the All Chairs Conference Call. She said that the chairs discussed the Open Meetings Act and associated problems due to the size of some of the regions and how some of the subcommittees work. She feels that this group does not have that problem. Judge Miller agreed.

Ms. Serrato asked Ms. Freund to review the discussion of the supplemental funds. In the submitted work plans, the request for the supplemental funds was almost twice the amount of the allocated money, and that there was a possibility that some of the dollars that would be available in January be used now. Mr. Boeker added that some of the groups were concerned that there would not be enough time to properly evaluate additional needs with respect to the money that would be available in January. It will be discussed again at the next all chairs conference call.

Judge Miller asked about Craig Pederson replacement. Ms. Serrato informed the group that Kevin Ward was selected as the Executive Administrator of TWDB.

Ms. Serrato discussed the 2001 Local Administrative Expense Budget. She is contacting the entities who have still not paid.

Mr. Boeker stated that the IFR reports for all the regions will be summarized by TWDB and supplied to the legislature in October. He also said that he had the latest TWDB newsletter and the additional water user groups that will be looked at in the next planning phase.

**Agenda Item XII:** Ms. Serrato asked for any public comment. Judge Miller asked about the availability of funding for the TWDB's EDAP project. Mr. Boeker replied that he would look into the matter and would provide more information at the next meeting.

Ms. Serrato discussed an email that was received from Tom Ballou regarding total dissolved solids in Choke Canyon Reservoir. Ms. Serrato said that it would be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Dodson explained additional sampling and analysis to address this problem is in the scope of work. He indicated that the problem is a result of evaporation and minimal inflows.

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**Agenda Item XIII:** The next meeting date was set for 1:30 pm on May 16, 2002 at the same location provided the facilities are available.

**Agenda Item XIV:** Mr. Yturria made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Hubert seconded the motion. Ms. Serrato adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.

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Minutes prepared by: Ms. Rocky Freund and Ms. Carola Serrato

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

Patrick Hubert, DVM  
Secretary, Coastal Bend RWPG

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Date