

Minutes of the December 8, 2005 Meeting of the
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the
Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region “N”

The meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) was held at the Johnny Calderon County Building, 710 E. Main Street, Robstown, Texas 78380.

Agenda Item I – Call to Order: Ms. Carola Serrato, Co-Chair of the Coastal Bend RWPG, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Agenda Item II – Roll Call: A visual attendance was noted. Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included:

Mr. Tom Ballou
Mr. Chuck Burns
Ms. Teresa Carrillo
Mr. Billy Dick
Dr. Patrick Hubert
Mr. Pearson Knolle
Ms. Josephine Miller

Mr. Bobby Nedbalek
Mr. Bernard Paulson
Mr. Tom Reding
Mr. Mark Scott
Ms. Carola Serrato
Ms. Kimberly Stockseth

Mr. Bill Beck and Mr. Scotty Bledsoe had excused absences.

A quorum was determined to be present.

Additional non-voting members in attendance included:

Mr. Carolyn Brittin, TWDB

Dr. Tomas Dominguez, NRCS

Ms. Rocky Freund attended for the Nueces River Authority (NRA).
Ms. Kristi Shaw attended for HDR Engineering, Inc.

Guests included:

Mr. Max Castaneda, City of Corpus Christi
Mr. Sinoel Contreras, TCEQ

Mr. Johnny French
Mr. Andy Garza, TSSWCB

Agenda Item III – Approval of Minutes: Ms. Serrato asked for approval of the minutes of the October 27, 2005 meeting of the Coastal Bend RWPG for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region N. There was a motion by Mr. Ballou to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Ms. Miller. Ms. Freund explained that she had made a correction on page 6 to indicate that it was the Texas Legislature that cut the TWDB’s funds for the municipal water conservation program. There was no further discussion and the minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Item IV – Review Responses to Comments Received on the Draft 2006 Coastal Bend Regional Water Plan: Ms. Shaw explained that the significant comments and responses had been reviewed at the October meeting. Ms. Freund said that she had received a call from Dr. Jim Tolan. He was unable to make the meeting, but wanted the group to know that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) was happy with the responses. He said that TPWD would pursue the designation of unique stream segments and reservoir sites throughout the State.

Approval of Responses to Comments Received on the Draft 2006 Coastal Bend Regional Water Plan: Mr. Burns made a motion to accept the responses to the comments. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Minutes of the December 8, 2005 Meeting of the
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the
Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region “N”

Agenda Item V – Adopt Final 2006 Coastal Bend Regional Water Plan and Approve Submittal of 2006 Coastal Bend Regional Water Plan to TWDB: Ms. Miller made a motion to adopt the 2006 Coastal Bend Regional Water Plan and submit it to TWDB. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. Mr. Ballou asked if the plan could be amended in the event that a unique stream segment is identified that the group would like to see included in the plan. Ms. Brittin explained that the plan can be amended at any time but that public notice has to be given, a public meeting must be held, there must be a 30 day comment period, and the group would have to approve it at a regular meeting. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Item VI – Third Round of the Regional Planning Process – Ideas to Add Value and Justify Appropriations: Ms. Shaw passed out a survey to the meeting participants. The intent of the survey is to receive comments on the members likes and dislikes of the current planning process and for suggestions on issues that should be addressed in the next round. The responses would be used to help develop suggestions and input for the next round of planning at the TWDB stakeholder conference scheduled for February 14, 2006. Some of the future issues listed on the survey were based on comments made at the Texas Water Conservation Association conference. She added that HDR project managers for some of the other planning areas had expressed an interest in using this type of survey.

Ms. Miller asked if this would be the last chance to comment on the process. Ms. Shaw explained that it was just a tool to generate comments to take to TWDB and that it was not all inclusive. Ms. Miller expressed her concern that the group would continue to just plan but not implement projects. She is interested in learning about the major state-wide issues and the implementation issues that could affect everyone. She said that the message that projects need to implemented needs to be sent to Austin.

Appoint Subcommittee to Develop List of Recommendations for the Third Round of Planning: The group decided, by consensus, to form a subcommittee to develop input for the stakeholder meeting. Mr. Ballou, Mr. Burns, Ms. Carrillo, Mr. Dick, and Ms. Miller agreed to serve on the subcommittee. The subcommittee will report to the entire group at the next meeting for approval to submit their suggestions to TWDB. The next meeting was then scheduled for February 9, 2007. It was decided that the surveys should be sent to Ms. Freund by the end of December.

Agenda Item VII – Authorize Nueces River Authority to Disseminate Requests for Local Funding for Calendar Year 2006 Local Administration Activities: Dr. Hubert made a motion to authorize NRA to disseminate requests for local funding for calendar year 2006. Mr. Ballou seconded the motion. Ms. Miller commented that Aransas Pass is now in San Patricio County. Ms. Freund explained that the City of Corpus Christi paid for those entities coded with a “CC.”

Mr. Paulson asked if everyone had paid in 2005. Ms. Freund replied that Nueces County was the only entity that did not pay. Ms. Serrato reminded the group that we had made a presentation to the Nueces County Commissioner’s Court. Ms. Freund added that at the last meeting the group voted not to add a voting position for Nueces County and that she sent a letter to Commissioner Bañales explaining what had transpired at the meeting. She explained that NRA had to absorb any costs not covered by the local entities.

Agenda Item VIII – Set Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2006: Meeting dates were set for February 9, 2006, prior to the TWDB stakeholder meeting; July 13, 2006, after TWDB develops direction for the next round of planning; and October 12, 2006. There will not be a meeting during the second quarter of the year, but Ms. Brittin didn’t think that it would be a problem.

Minutes of the December 8, 2005 Meeting of the
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the
Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region "N"

Agenda Item IX – RWPG/TWDB Administrative and Other Issues:

Ms. Brittin congratulated the group for adopting the plan. She added that Mr. Matt Nelson would be the next TWDB coordinator for Region N.

With respect to Ms. Miller's earlier comment, Ms. Brittin said that TWDB could give a presentation to the group on the state-wide issues at the February meeting. Ms. Miller replied that a reality check on the plan and lobbyists for the plan were needed. She asked if TWDB looked at the impact of plans on and from other regions. Ms. Brittin replied that TWDB was responsible for checking for conflicts, and that no conflicts were found amongst the initially prepared plans. Ms. Serrato added that during the first round of planning the liaisons between the regions interacted more. Since most of the conflicts have been worked out, the liaisons do not interact as much. It was noted that Mr. Con Mims is an active liaison from Region L to Region N.

Ms. Carrillo asked if TWDB provides oversight between the regions, especially looking for negative impacts. Ms. Brittin replied that TWDB looks for conflict with regard to over allocation of resources. Ms. Carrillo expressed concern that Region L projects would change the amount of water and flows in the Nueces River which would impact Region N economically and environmentally. Ms. Brittin replied that the policy TWDB used to evaluate conflict could possibly change in the future. If any region identifies potential conflicts, TWDB will look into it.

Agenda Item X – General Public Comment: Mr. French asked about the status of the Nueces Basin Feasibility study. Ms. Freund replied that several smaller committee meetings to address some of the issues were being held. Public meetings should begin in the spring.

Mr. French asked that an article in the December 8, 2006 Victoria Advocate be distributed to the group. The article concerns an anti-regional organization being formed, primarily to address concerns about Regions L and N. Ms. Freund said that she would forward the article to the members.

Agenda Item XI – Confirm Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2006 at 1:30 pm.

Agenda Item X – Adjourn: Ms. Serrato adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Ms. Rocky Freund.

Minutes Submitted by: _____

Patrick Hubert, DVM
Secretary, Coastal Bend RWPG

Date