

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
May, 3 2018**

Chair Suzanne Scott called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Customer Service Building, Room CR 145, 2800 US Highway 281 North, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

26 of the 30 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Tim Andruss	Kevin Patteson
Gene Camargo	Robert Puente
Patrick Garcia for Rey Chavez	Steve Ramsey
Will Conley	Weldon Riggs
Curt Campbell	David Roberts
Blair Fitzsimons	Roland Ruiz
Charlie Flatten	Suzanne Scott
Kenneth Ehler for Kevin Janak	Greg Sengelmann
Russell Labus	Heather Sumpter
Glenn Lord	Thomas Taggart
Doug McGooky	Dianne Wassenich
Dan Meyer	Adam Yablonski
Gary Middleton	
Con Mims	

Voting Members Absent

Pat Calhoun
Vic Hilderbran
Iliana Pena
Dianne Savage

Non-Voting Members Present:

Ron Ellis, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Marty Kelly, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife
Iliana Delgado, South Texas Water Master, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Jamie McCool, Texas Department of Agriculture
Joseph McDaniel, Region J

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Carl Crull, Region N Liaison
Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison

Beginning with the February 11, 2016, meeting of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group, all recordings are available for the public at www.regionltexas.org.

All PowerPoint presentations and meeting materials referenced in the minutes are available in the meeting Agenda Packet at www.regionaltexas.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Allen, General Manager at Green Valley Special Utility District and Chair of the Regional Water Alliance, provided brief comments regarding agenda item 12 on the day's agenda. Mr. Allen presented a letter from the Regional Water Alliance, requesting that the Planning Group consider balancing interest categories by adding representation of non-groundwater district water purveyors and municipalities on the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (SCTRWPG) in light of the impending expiration of terms for about half of its voting members.

Humberto Ramos, Canyon Regional Water Authority and Vice-Chair of the Regional Water Alliance, echoed some of Mr. Allen's thoughts on the balance of representation on SCTRWPG, and requested support for adding non-groundwater district water district member representation on the SCTRWPG.

Graham Moore, Executive Director at Alliance Regional Water Authority, reiterated the importance of adding representation of entities that implement water management strategies on the SCTRWPG. Mr. Moore noted his appreciation for the SCTRWPG's fair treatment of entities that do not have a voting seat on the group, and requested support for balancing the representation of interests on the Planning Group.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 15, 2018, MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG)

Chair Scott asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2018, meeting of the SCTRWPG. Dianne Wassenich moved to approve the minutes. Weldon Riggs seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: STATUS OF EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) – NATHAN PENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EAHCP

No update for the EAHCP was provided.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: STATUS OF GUADALUPE, SAN ANTONIO, MISSION, AND ARANSAS RIVERS AND MISSION, COPANO, ARANSAS, AND SAN ANTONIO BAYS BASIN AND BAY STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE (BBASC) AND EXPERT SCIENCE TEAM (BBEST)

Chair Scott reported to the Planning Group that Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) had provided a status update on the progression of contracts with regard to the studies seeking funding for the next biennium. Information on each study was provided in the agenda packet.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) COMMUNICATIONS

Ron Ellis, TWDB, informed the SCTRWPG that TWDB staff had received the adopted amendment (adopted at the February 2018 SCTRWPG meeting), which seeks to include capital costs for the

San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) AMI (advanced metering infrastructure) project in the 2016 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan. The amendment would be considered at a June 2018 TWDB meeting. Once adopted, the 2017 State Water Plan would be amended.

Additionally, the TWDB would be considering the City of Elmendorf's request to waive the consistency requirement (as discussed at the February 2018 SCTRWPG meeting). TWDB staff had received the SCTRWPG's letter of support, and the TWDB would consider granting the waiver at its May 3, 2018, meeting.

Mr. Ellis also provided an update on the most recent amendment to the Regional Water Planning contract between the Planning Group and TWDB, which included changes to the Scope of Work and Budget. The amendment had been drafted and issued to the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) for execution.

Mr. Ellis informed the SCTRWPG that the TWDB approved revision requests, and finalized the demand and population projections for all planning regions.

Additionally, the TWDB was in process of conducting a State Flood Assessment, the goals of which are to assess flood risk, estimate flood mitigation costs, and gather stakeholder input on how flood planning should proceed in the State.

Mr. Ellis also provided an update on State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) loan applications, which included the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority's (GBRA's) Mid-Basin project.

Governor Abbott appointed Peter Lake as the new Chair of the TWDB, and Brook Paup to fill the vacant seat on the TWDB.

Mr. Ellis also introduced Elizabeth McCoy, who would be transitioning over as TWDB's liaison to the SCTRWPG.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Scott did not have a report, but informed the SCTRWPG that a Chair's Meeting was scheduled for May 8, 2018.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CONSULTANT'S WORK AND SCHEDULE

Brian Perkins, Black and Veatch, provided an updated planning schedule, and reminded the Planning Group that the Technical Memorandum was due September 10, 2018. Mr. Perkins informed the group that existing supplies were being analyzed, and went over the remainder of the schedule.

Mr. Perkins informed the SCTRWPG that, despite the TWDB's recent finalization of water demand and population projections, several entities had since requested revisions. Since the revision requests are late, they would require an amendment. Mr. Perkins reviewed each revision request, which included requests from CPS Energy, Green Valley SUD, City of Cibola, Canyon Lake Water Service Company, and the City of Buda.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE SCTRWPG'S DEFINITION OF "WHOLESALE WATER PROVIDER"

Mr. Perkins, briefed the SCTRWPG on a recent TWDB rule change. Previously, the TWDB defined Wholesale Water Providers (WWP), for purposes of regional water planning, as those entities which sell or will be selling at least 1,000 acft/yr of water on a wholesale basis. The recent rule change allows regional water planning groups to define for themselves, what constitutes a WWP for regional water planning purposes. Mr. Ellis clarified that a WWP still must be an entity that provides or plans to provide wholesale water supplies over the planning cycle. The 1,000 acft/yr threshold has been removed. The Planning Group could develop their own threshold within the TWDB's definition of a WWP.

Mr. Perkins provided a list of WWPs from the 2016, plan, and offered to SCTRWPG the option of keeping the TWDB's original definition or developing a new definition of what constitutes a WWP.

Dianne Wassenich moved to adopt a list, provided by Mr. Perkins, of WWP for purposes regional water planning for the 2021 Regional Water Plan. Con Mims seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE DESIGNATION OF "MAJOR WATER PROVIDERS" IN THE 2021 REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Perkins explained the new TWDB rule, which allows planning groups to identify "Major Water Providers" in the regional water plan. The designation provides a mechanism to group larger water providers for easy visibility in the regional water plan. Water User Groups (WUGs) and WWPs are still designations required by the rules, and entities with those designation could be identified as Major Water Providers if a planning group wishes to designate them as such. The process requires very little extra work from the consultants, which would result in report that provides information related to the designated Major Water Providers.

Con Mims made a motion to adopt the list provided by Mr. Perkins, which included all WWPs within the Region L Planning Area, and WUGs with water demand projected to be greater than 20,000 acft/yr by 2070. Dianne Wassenich seconded the motion.

Patrick Garcia recommended that population be considered in determining Major Water Providers as well. Discussion ensued, but the Mr. Garcia's recommendation was not ultimately adopted.

Mr. Mim's original motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REQUIRING DESIGNATED ALTERNATES TO COMPLY WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT BY MAINTAINING A TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT CERTIFICATE ON FILE WITH THE DESIGNATED POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

Cole Ruiz reminded the planning group of the discussion from the February 2018, SCTRWPG meeting, which resulted in a request for a future agenda item to discuss and define whether voting member alternates were required to maintain an Open Meetings Act certificate. Mr. Ruiz provided

a copy of the relevant section of SCTRWPG Bylaws, which holds alternates to the same duties as voting members. Mr. Ruiz advised that group that no action was necessary, as the Regional Water Planning Rules already require alternates to maintain Open Meetings Act certificates by virtue of the adopted Bylaws. There was general agreement. No action was taken.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT DURING MEETINGS OF THE SCTRWPG AND ITS WORKGROUPS

Mr. Ruiz reminded the Planning Group of recently adopted rules, which subject meetings of the SCTRWPG to the Open Meetings Act. As a result, the TWDB issued a best management practices guide, which encourages planning groups to conform with the Open Meetings Act by incorporating certain practices. One such practice was a proscription on the use of conference calls during Planning Group meetings and sub-group meeting. The Planning Group has historically used conference calls as a means to make sub-group meetings widely available. Mr. Ruiz explained that the recent legislative changes, subjecting planning groups to the Open Meetings Act, affects the use of conference calls. Mr. Ruiz offered the following statement to be adopted by the Planning Group as a best practice.

Conference calls and other means of remotely participating in any meetings of the SCTRWPG, its committees and/or sub-groups, is strictly prohibited. For meetings of the full SCTRWPG membership, minutes will be prepared in accordance with the SCTRWPG Bylaws and the Texas Open Meetings Act. For meetings of any SCTRWPG committees and/or sub-groups, recordings will be taken and archived with the principal administrative office of the SCTRWPG. The minutes and recordings of all meetings of the SCTRWPG, its committees and/or sub-groups, are public records and shall be available for public inspection and copying on request to the principle administrative office of the SCTRWPG.

Dianne Wassenich moved to adopt the language as procedure statement. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING INTEREST CATEGORY REPRESENTATION ON THE SCTRWPG

Chair Scott referred the Planning Group members to materials in the agenda packet, which included a letter from the Regional Water Alliance. The specific issue for discussion related to the imbalance of interests represented on the Planning Group. Steve Raabe, San Antonio River Authority, explained to the Planning Group that the when the definition of “Water Districts” was adopted into the Rules (31 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 357.11), there was no other interest category available of representation of groundwater districts other than through the Water Districts category. Since that time, Groundwater Management Areas were added to the planning groups as permanent voting members.

Brian Perkins offered a list of those entities within the regional water planning area (Region L) that would qualify as Water Districts under the Rules, but that were not groundwater districts (list provided in agenda packet available at www.regionltexas.org). Currently, there are four slots on the Planning Group reserved for Water Districts. Each slot was occupied by a groundwater district.

Discussion ensued. Tom Taggart moved to create one additional Water District seat, to be

designated as a non-groundwater district seat, and to create one additional Municipality seat. Robert Puente seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY (SARA) TO SOLICIT NOMINATIONS TO FILL THE VACANT SCTRWPG SEATS EXPIRING AUGUST 2018, AND TO POST PUBLIC NOTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCTRWPG BYLAWS

Cole Ruiz requested authorization from SCTRWPG to solicit nomination to fill the vacant SCTRWPG seats set to expire in August 2018, and to post public notice in accordance with the SCTRWPG Bylaw. Mr. Ruiz referred the Planning Group members to language added to the nomination form requiring nominators to provide information regarding the nominee's current employer, and provide a description of the nominee's experience that qualifies the nominee for the position in the interest group being sought to represent. Additionally, Mr. Ruiz informed the Planning Group that nominations could be submitted by mail, email, or at www.regionltexas.org.

Dianne Wassenich moved to authorize SARA to solicit nomination to fill the vacant SCTRWPG seats set to expire in August 2018, and to post public notice in accordance with the SCTRWPG Bylaws. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: TWDB PRESENTATION ON RECENTLY ADOPTED RULES REVISIONS

Ron Ellis provided a presentation on the recent rule changes issued by the TWDB. The full presentation recording and PowerPoint slides are available at www.regionltexas.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGION L MEETING

Cole Ruiz reminded the Planning Group that notable agenda items for the next meeting include action regarding the Technical Memorandum and the selection of Planning Group members to fill expired terms.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

Chair Scott adjourned the meeting.

GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on August 2, 2018.

SUZANNE SCOTT, CHAIR