

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning
Group**

January 23, 2020

Chair 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.

25 of the 31 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Tim Andruss	Blaine Shorpe for Weldon Riggs
John Byrum	Roland Ruiz
Curt Campbell	Dianne Savage
Rey Chavez	Suzanne Scott
Alan Cockerell	Greg Senglemann
	Mitchell Sowards
Charlie Flatten	Heather Sumpter
Kevin Janak	Thomas Taggart
Russel Labus	
Glenn Lord	Dianne Wassenich
Dan Meyer	Adam Yablonski
Gary Middleton	
Tommy Hill for Kevin Patteson	
Robert Puente	
Humberto Ramos	
Steve Ramsey	

Voting Members Absent:

Pat Calhoun
Will Conley
Vic Hilderbran
Tom Jungman
Iliana Pena
Ian Taylor

Non-Voting Members Present:

Elizabeth McCoy, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Jami McCool, TX Dept. of Agriculture

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Ronal Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Iliana Delgado, TCEQ
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Marty Kelly, TX Department of Parks and Wildlife
Joseph McDaniel, Region J Liaison
Carl Crull, Region N Liaison

Rusty Ray, Texas Soil & Water Cons. Board

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.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: (9:30 AM) ROLL CALL

Hillary Lilly, San Antonio River Authority, called the role, and confirmed a quorum

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 7, 2019, MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG)

Ms. Wassenich moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Andruss seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Scott asked for nominations or interest in a change in officer positions for the upcoming year. Ms. Wassenich suggested that the planning group continuing with the current officers through the duration of the plan for continuity. She then moved for the officers to remain the same and the motion was seconded by Ms. Savage. The planning group then approved the officers to continue in their roles.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: STATUS OF EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (EAHCP), SCOTT STORMENT

Mr. Storment informed the group that the EAHCP is starting a process of rollover option analysis, which is a managerial tool to provide guidance to stakeholder committees. This rollover is a concept that will be used as their permit is coming to an end and move to a second permit. Mr. Storment told the group he would provide updates on the progress of the rollover options analysis in the following Region L meetings.

Ms. Wassenich informed the group that the EAHCP has a newsletter that would be very informational to the planning group members. She recommended that the group sign up to receive it. She mentioned that there would be an HCP conference in Austin, Texas in the Fall of 2020 that would be beneficial to attend. Ms. Scott recommended that the EAA add the planning group members to the list. Mr. Ruiz will work with Mr. Storment to make that happen.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: 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)

Ms. Scott reviewed updates to the BBASC project review and scoring. The final selection of projects is working towards getting final approval from TWDB. Ms. Scott will share the projects that receive funding with the group in future meetings.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. McCoy updated the group that the socioeconomic status report is complete and will be reviewed at the February meeting. She also mentioned that the Region L Interregional Planning Council Member is Ms. Scott. She proceeded to highlight the rulemaking comment period for the State Flood Plan which is currently open. Ms. McCoy also informed that group that the SWIFT application period for FY2020 is open with a deadline of February 19, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Scott mentioned her appointment to the Interregional Planning Council and told the group that she would keep them informed on the Council's work. She reviewed the January 27, 2020 Regional Water Planning Groups Chair's call. She received a comprehensive list from the TWDB of all the components required to make the plan administratively complete and is working to meet all of those requirements. Ms. McCoy explained the process of the IPP review for completeness. Ms. Scott mentioned the Senate Water and Rural Affairs meeting. There is an interim charge to look at future water supply and groundwater management areas. Highlights from that meeting were the future of ASR. She recommended that those interested stay involved through the web.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: CONSULTANT'S WORK AND SCHEDULE

Ms. Gonzalez first reviewed the Black and Veatch project list and then moved on to the schedule. The B&V team is still working on Chapter 6 and the Cumulative Effects Analysis. Task 7 with Emergency Interconnects is still in progress as well. Chapter 8 is being finalized and will be discussed at the next meeting. Likewise, the Initially Prepared Plan and Cumulative Effects Analysis will also be presented at the February meeting in order to be submitted by the March 3, 2020 deadline. The final plan is due on October 14, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM NO.10: PRESENTATION OF EMERGENCY INTERCONNECTS INFORMATION

Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the Emergency Interconnects process. The presentation can be found in the agenda packet on the Region L website.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING PRESENTATIONS OF CHAPTERS OF THE REGION L REGIONAL WATER PLAN

SUB-AGENDA ITEM A: PRESENTATION OF CHAPTER STATUSES OF THE REGION L REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the status of the chapters that are currently being worked on. Chapters 1 and 4 has been posted in the Region L Google Drive for review and comments. Chapters 2 and 3 are almost finalized and will be uploaded to the drive.

SUB-AGENDA ITEM D: DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMENTS RECEIVED TO DATE ON THE REGION L WATER PLAN CHAPTERS AND WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Ms. Gonzalez then reviewed the comments that were gathered from the Planning Group and explained the consultant team's responses for Chapter 1. Ms. Wassenich recommended adding a statement in the plan regarding WMS that would not be moving forward from the 2016 plan into the 2021 plan. ~~The group discussed the process moving forward for WMS that would not be moving forward in the 2021 plan.~~ It was recommended that a preamble be added to highlight the dynamic nature of the plan by Mr. Sowards.

Commented [SR1]: I do not remember this being discussed. Please review the recording.

Ms. Scott recommended adding a statement to Chapter ~~1.2.4?~~ that if a WUG was not listed then they would not be required to submit, or they did not submit a water loss audit to TWDB.

Commented [SR2]: Please add a reference to the chapter so the sentence has the proper context.

SUB-AGENDA ITEM C: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION ON CHAPTER 8 OF THE REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Ms. Scott reviewed the Chapter 8 Workgroup recommendations. Then, Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the comments and responses to Chapter 8. The first comment that was reviewed was WAM updates. The discussion on this comment was to include the Nueces WAM in the planning group's comment. The next comment discussed was referring to Instream Flows and the group directed the consultant to add language referring to SB 2. Then there was a discussion on making the planning cycle 10 years as opposed to 5 year cycles. Ms. Scott recommended that the group continue to plan on a 5 year cycle due to development and growth in our region. Consensus was reached to keep it at a 5 year cycle.

Ms. Gonzales asked for more direction on section 8.4.4 from Mr. Flatten to clarify the language in that section. Mr. Flatten has determined that the TCEQ has new rules regarding this item and he requested that the language can be struck. Section 8.4.4 will be removed from the chapter. Mr. Schorpe inquired why the weather modification program was not an existing WMS. The planning group discussed and determined that they would move forward by studying and determining how it could become a WMS in the future. Mr. Puente said he would like to remove 8.10.4 from the chapter as well. This section refers to county authority for land use planning and he feels that it is not necessary to include in the chapter because it is outside the planning purview of the group. It was decided by the planning group to remove this section. A follow up question was how the planning group provides notice to counties that do not have a groundwater district about upcoming water managements strategies and projects in that county. Ms. Scott asked the group if anyone had objection to that concept. There was no objection. Mr. Ramos suggested adding language to the guiding principles. Mr. Janak said that he would rather see it in Chapter 8 so that it will impact the state. Ms. Scott said we would work with Ms. McCoy to determine a plan moving forward in notifying counties.

SUB-AGENDA ITEM B: PRESENTATION OF CHAPTER 5 TABLES REGARDING SUPPLIES AND COST OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Ms. Gonzales reviewed the work of the consultant team on Chapter 5 and the Chapter 5 tables regarding water supplies and needs. She then explained how to navigate the packet and tables within Chapter 5. Ms. Gonzales reviewed the water user groups (WUGs) that still have needs after all the potential WMSs have been assigned to WUGs. The San Antonio Water System and GBRA agreed to sell water to those WUGs to meet their needs if those WUGs were agreeable to that. Ms. Scott requested that the consultant reach out to these WUGs to determine their preference. Ms. Gonzales then asked the planning group for their approval to let the unmet irrigation and mining needs remain as there are no resolutions at this time. The planning group came to a consensus for the consultant to move forward. Ms. Gonzales then moved on to explain water supply plans for wholesale water providers in Chapter 5.4.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO SELECT RECOMMENDED OR ALTERNATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Ms. Gonzales shared a snapshot of the WMS that have been evaluated and approved by the planning group. She then requested the group identify recommendations and alternatives. Mr. Yablonski asked if irrigation water conservation could be added to the list of WMS. Ms. Gonzales said that, that would require making irrigation water conservation a WMS. It would have to be an amendment. The consultant group recommended inserting a narrative within the plan to explain irrigation water conservation as a strategy. Mr. Ramos recommended that all 33 WMS move forward in the plan as recommended strategies. The planning group came to consensus on this.

Ms. Scott requested a summary on the order of magnitude of supply v. needs at the February 20, 2020 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE PREPARATION OF THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS

Ms. Gonzales then described the cumulative effects analysis that is required for the regional plan implementation. She then asked for planning group approval for her team to proceed with conducting the analysis for the 2021 plan. Ms. Scott asked Ms. Gonzales if the consultant team looked at environmental impacts for each WMS during the evaluations process. Ms. Gonzales confirmed this. Ms. Scott then went on to ask how the SB 3 flows information factors into the cumulative effects analysis. Mr. Raabe explained that this was factored in during individual evaluations and this analysis will describe the individual effects cumulatively to understand the big picture effects.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION SETTING THE SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020 MEETINGS

The consultant suggested adding a planning group meeting during the summer to provide direction on substantial comments to the Initially Prepared Plan. The planning group agree to look for dates to meet in the summer. The planning group directed the Administrator to make the necessary arrangements to hold three public meetings to obtain comments on the IPP.

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

Futures Items for consideration are reviews of comments from Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5. TWDB will present the Socioeconomic Impact Report and the consultant will present the Cumulative Effects Analysis.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on February 20, 2020.

GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

SUZANNE SCOTT, CHAIR

