

**Minutes of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
July 30, 2020**

Chair Scott called the virtual meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., held through the GoToMeeting online platform.

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

Voting Members Present:

Tim Andruss	Weldon Riggs
Patrick Garcia for Rey Chavez	Roland Ruiz
Alan Cockerell	Suzanne Scott
Will Conley	Greg Senglemann
Charlie Flatten	Mitchell Sowards
Kevin Janak	Heather Sumpter
Tom Jungman	Thomas Taggart
Russel Labus	Ryan Kelso for Ian Taylor
Glenn Lord	Diane Wassenich
Dan Meyer	Adam Yablonski
James Dotson for Gary Middleton	
Jonathan Stinson for Kevin Patteson	
Iliana Pena	
Robert Puente	
Humberto Ramos	

Voting Members Absent:

John Byrum
Curt Campbell
Pat Calhoun
Vic Hilderbran
Steve Ramsey
Diane Savage

Non-Voting Members Present:

Elizabeth McCoy, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Iliana Delgado, TCEQ
Marty Kelly, TX Department of Parks and Wildlife
Rusty Ray, Texas Soil & Water Cons. Board

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Joseph McDaniel, Region J Liaison
Jami McCool, TX Dept. of Agriculture
Carl Crull, Region N 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.

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

Caitlin Heller, 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 FEBRUARY 20, 2020, MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG)

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: REMARKS FROM TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD DIRECTOR, KATHLEEN JACKSON

Ms. Jackson thanked the Planning Group for all their continued hard work regarding regional water planning. She highlighted some of the changes that TWDB has implemented to keep its employees safe and complimented her staff on their seamless transition to working virtually.

Ms. Jackson then gave an update regarding Regional Flood Planning Group. She explained that TWDB has received many applications to join this group and is in the process of reviewing these nominations.

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

Mr. Storment updated the planning group that the EAHCP has been working on a Permit Option Analysis Report. The ICF Consulting group is working with the EAHCP to create a permit option renewal process. Mr. Storment explained that their Incidental Take Permits will end in 2028 which will affect the City of San Antonio through SAWS, the City of San Marcos, New Braunfels, Texas State University, and the EAA. The EAHCP and the ICF Consulting are determining what to do when these permits end and what the next permits will look like.

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 informed the planning group that the TWDB is funding the *Statewide Synthesis of Environmental Flow Studies* which will review all the various environmental flow studies that have been thus far completed. This research will analyze these completed studies to ensure that they are gathering important information for the state. Ms. Scott explained that there will be an opportunity to comment on the response from this study in the fall.

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

Ms. McCoy updated the planning group on Regional Water Planning Rulemaking, explaining that Chapter 357 planning rules were revised to incorporate HB 807 requirements. These revised rules have been adopted and became effective on June 28, 2020. She went on to say that the TWDB has issued Initially Prepared Plan comments. These comments and RWPG responses must be included in the final 2021 plan.

Ms. McCoy explained that Request for Application (RFA) for Sixth Cycle Planning Grant Funds will be issued next spring. Prior to the RFA deadline, RWPGs will need to take action to select a political subdivision and authorize them to apply. Ms. McCoy then moved on to the Interregional Planning Council, explaining that the council has held six virtual meetings and has broken into committees to work on several topics. A report on the council's work is due to TWDB on October 16, 2020.

Ms. McCoy informed the planning group that at the TWDB July 23, 2020, Board meeting, 2020 SWIFT funds were committed to the following Region L projects: \$47,100,000 to the GBRA Mid-Basin Water Supply Project and \$65,000,000 to the ARWA Carrizo Wilcox Project Phase 1B.

Ms. McCoy ended her updated with the Regional Flood Planning program. She explained that the flood planning boundaries have been established and the rules have been adopted. TWDB has solicited initial flood planning group membership and nominations for certain interest categories are still being accepted. Solicitation for interested political subdivision sponsors closes August 21, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Scott informed the group that she has been selected to Chair the Interregional Planning Council. She explained that the council has split into subcommittees to work on the three topics highlighted in the legislature. Ms. Scott explained that Chair Larson has requested that the council spend some time reviewing interregional conflicts and ways to identify how these conflicts can be resolved in future planning. She encouraged interested parties to attend the next council meeting on August 12, 2020. The TWDB website has all of the information for the Interregional Planning Council meetings.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE CONSULTANT'S WORK AND SCHEDULE

Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the Consultant's schedule and noted that since the final plan deadline is approaching, the ongoing phases are related to public participation and the project prioritization. She stated that these phases will culminate at the September 3, 2020, RWPG meeting when the group will adopt the final regional water plan and the project prioritization. Ms. Gonzalez informed the group that revised chapters of the final plan will be available for the RWPG to review on August 17, 2020 with comments due to the technical team on August 24, 2020.

Ms. Heller provided a review of the Region L Google Drive process where planning group members will submit their comments for the final plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: PRESENTATION OF REGION L BUDGET CURRENT STATUS

Ms. Gonzalez updated the group on the current budget, explaining that, as the plan is closing, the budget is nearly closed as well. She explained that in the coming months Black & Veatch will be working diligently to complete the final tasks.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING COMMENTS RECEIVED TO DATE ON THE 2021 REGION L IPP

Ms. Gonzalez reviewed comments given from the public, state and federal agencies, and the TWDB, and the responses created by the consultant team. Members made several changes and suggestions to give the team direction on certain comment responses.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: PRESENTATION OF INFASTRUCTURE FINANCING SURVEY, CHAPTER 9

Ms. Snyder presented on the Infrastructure Financing Survey. She explained that this survey would be located in chapter 9 of the regional water plan and would include: objectives of the Infrastructure Financing Analysis, methods and procedures, and a summary of survey responses.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: PRESENTATION OF IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY, CHAPTER 11

Ms. Snyder provided a brief summary of the Implementation Survey which is used to gather information about how projects that were recommended in the 2016 RWP have progressed. The summary of the Implementation Survey will be included in chapter 11.1 of the RWP.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND APPROACH

Mr. Lagade briefed the planning group on the purpose of project prioritization and reviewed the experiences of the last two planning cycles. He then reviewed the 2021 cycle approach and asked the planning group for direction on certain Uniform Standards. The planning group provided guidance to refine the draft prioritization approach.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING REGIONAL LIAISONS INCLUDING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND NOMINATIONS FOR REGIONS N, J, K, M, AND P

Ms. Heller gave a brief presentation on the roles and responsibilities for Regional Liaisons. She informed the group that the nomination process would begin at the November 5, 2020, planning group meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING PLANNING MEMBERS BYLAWS VIOLATION

Ms. Heller informed the group that two members had been found in violation of the Region L Bylaws regarding excessive absenteeism. She explained that she had communicated with these members and briefly reviewed the Bylaw section.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGION L MEETING

The next planning group meeting will include the following agenda items: Discussion and Appropriate Action to Adopt the Project Prioritization, Discussion and Appropriate Action to Authorize the San Antonio River Authority to Submit the Project Prioritization to TWDB, Discussion and Appropriate Action to Adopt and Submit the 2021 Regional Water Plan, Discussion and Appropriate Action to Authorize the San Antonio River Authority to Submit the 2021 Regional Water Plan to TWDB, and Presentation on Region L Website Updates.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Heller read a written public comment that urged the planning group to make information easier to find on the Region L website. Members tasked Ms. Heller with making changes to the website to resolve this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on September 3, 2020.

GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

SUZANNE SCOTT, CHAIR

