

**MINUTES OF THE
LLANO ESTACADO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION O)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2012**

1. CALL TO ORDER and WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN H. P. BROWN JR.

Chairman H. P. Brown Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the A. Wayne Wyatt Board Room of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 office, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, Texas, and welcomed all in attendance.

Notice of the meeting was provided in advance to each member and was also filed/posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act at the following locations: Office of the Texas Secretary of State; Lubbock County Courthouse; Administrative Offices of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1; the regional water planning group web site at www.llanoplan.org and the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District web site at www.hpwd.com.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

The following Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members were in attendance: H. P. Brown Jr., Jim Conkwright, Doug Hutcheson, Harvey Everheart, Delmon Ellison Jr., Aubrey Spear, Dr. Melanie Barnes, Kent Satterwhite, Dr. Ken Rainwater, Mark Kirkpatrick, Michael McClendon, Delaine Baucum, Richard Leonard, Jim Steiert, Don McElroy, Bill Harbin, and Bruce Blalack.

A Quorum of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group was present.
(There were 17 of 21 in attendance or 81%)

Unable to Attend (Excused Absence): Bob Josserand and Jack Campsey.

Absent Members (Unexcused): None

Non-Voting Members In Attendance: John Clayton, Stefan Schuster, Malcolm Laing, Matt Williams, and Angela Kennedy.

Absent Non-Voting Members: None

Others in Attendance: Mike McGregor, Jason Coleman, Kyle Chapman, Bob Joseph, William Asquith, Ferrel Wheeler, Tom Fulton, Phil Elledge and Tim Walker.

3. The LERWPG will discuss and consider possible approval of the regular meeting minutes of April 26, 2012. Chairman Brown requested comment and changes to the August 23, 2012 minutes previously provided electronically, as well as hard copies available at this meeting. It was moved by Ken Satterwhite to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mark Kirkpatrick. The August 23, 2012 minutes were unanimously approved.

- 4. The LERWPG will discuss and consider approval of the financial statements.**
Doug Hutcheson, Secretary/Treasurer, presented the financial statement. It was moved by Jim Conkwright to approve the financial statement. The motion was seconded by Aubrey Spear. The financial statement was unanimously approved.

- 5. The LERWPG will discuss and consider approval of “Non-Municipal” demand to be forwarded and recommended to the Texas Water Development Board for Region O.**
Mr. Schuster was called upon to present this item. Mr. Schuster presented some final revisions and recommended adjustments to the “Non-Municipal” estimates due to very recent information from the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) regarding mining (oil/gas) and concerns raised by Mr. Coleman about unintended consequences from the 25% buffer as it relates to irrigation.

The mining revisions are projected to be about 8,000 acre feet higher than the 2012 plan using the recent BEG projections over the next decades. Although this increase will be highly depended on prices and technology in the future, it is in line with state-wide trends. Also, the mining increase is less than ½% of total water projections and remains very small.

Addressing Mr. Coleman’s concerns about the 25% buffer to agriculture, Mr. Schuster thanked Mr. Coleman for pointing the real impact of adding the buffer to agriculture. By adding a 25% buffer, the graphs and tables reflect a great deal of water that the Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) cannot make available, particularly in the early decades. The Desired Future Conditions (DFC) of the different districts also make a difference in the later decades, based upon the policies of individual districts. For example, in High Plains UWCD there is a projected 50% remaining after 50 years due to policy, as well as Garza County Underground & Fresh Water Conservation District in Garza County. South Plains Underground Water Conservation District shows to have 10% water remaining in 50 years and Terry County shows to have 8% water remaining in 50 years. Mesa Underground Water Conservation District in Dawson County and Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District in Gaines County both are projected to have 16% in 50 years, again due to policy differences. Chairman Brown asked each district present, High Plains UWCD, South Plains UWCD, Mesa UWCD, and Llano Estacado UWCD, individually, if they were in agreement with the MAG. Each responded that they agreed from purely a hydrological basis that the MAG numbers are acceptable. Chairman Brown asked who created the MAG and Mr. Schuster communicated the model was generated by the Texas Water Development Board based on DFC policy in each district.

Mr. Schuster further pointed out with the MAG and DFC influences agricultural irrigation and will remain the predominant use in 50 years. Mr. Leonard asked if the lower projection of irrigation without the buffer could be changed at a later date. Mr. Schuster explained it could only be changed in future plans once included in this planning cycle. The mining, steam electric, and livestock projections were presented. Angela Kennedy was asked if action was deferred until the next meeting in the spring of 2013 to adopt these “Non-Municipal” demand projections by LERWPG, would that meet the TWDB time table. Ms. Kennedy indicated that due to delays in the municipal numbers from the state data center, the time frame has been extended by about 90 days. Other regions are also set to adopt “Non-Municipal” demand projections in early 2013. It was moved by Ken Rainwater to defer final adoption of all the “Non-Municipal” demand projections to the next meeting in March. The motion was seconded by Delmon Ellison Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **The LERWPG will discuss and consider appointment to fill vacancies to LERWPG.**
 Vacancies exist for an oil/gas member and county government member. Letters of nominate on and letters of recommendation were provided to LERWPG for Richard Gillespie of Gaines County employed by Hess Corporation (oil/gas) and Lamb County Judge Mike DeLoach (county government). It was moved by Delmon Ellison Jr. to appoint Richard Gillespie to oil/gas. Motion was seconded by Mark Kirkpatrick. Motion carried unanimously. It was moved by Jim Conkwright to appoint Judge Mike DeLoach as county government representative. Motion was seconded by Harvey Everheart. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **The LERWPG will discuss matters related and associated with criteria/evaluation of Water Management Strategies for Region O Plan.**
 The needed strategies for addressing water management was discussed. Several strategies were suggested such as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), reuse of water for all demands but particularly oil/gas, facilitating and assisting small towns with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) "180-day list," water loss audit requirements, drought contingency plans, public education, brush control, coordinated and interconnected opportunities among municipalities. Chairman Brown asked for volunteers to serve on the Water Management Strategies subcommittee to develop a process to identify criteria for evaluating these strategies. The following members agreed to serve: Aubrey Spear, Dr. Melanie Barnes, Mark Kirkpatrick, Delmon Ellison Jr., Kent Statterwhite, Dr. Ken Rainwater, and Jim Steiert. Mr. Spear agreed to serve as subcommittee chair and Dr. Rainwater consented to serve as vice chair.

8. **The LERWPG will discuss the Water Supply Module.**
 Mr. Schuster reviewed the status of the supply and indicated that the supply issues will be addressed in the technical memo he is currently preparing. Mr. Rainwater formally requested that the text and numbers in the technical memo be provided on a timely basis prior to the vote and action at the next meeting. This will give the LERWPG members a few days to consider the numbers ahead of formally voting. Surface water availability is determined by the Water Availability Model (WAM) compiled by TCEQ, taking environmental flows into account. LERWPG did not request amendment of the WAM, since in general it is not applicable outside of the Brazos River Authority (BRA) jurisdiction. Mr. McClendon and Mr. Spear updated the LERWPG on the BRA surface water role at the last meeting.

9. **The LERWPG will receive an update on the Groundwater Management Areas and Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for their areas. (Jim Conkwright, GMA #1 and Jason Coleman, GMA #2).**
 Mr. Coleman indicated that a meeting will be called of GMA #2 before the end of this calendar year. Mr. Conkwright communicated that GMA #1 also needs to conduct the same annual meet by calendar year end.

10. **The LERWPG will receive an update regarding joint planning efforts between Region A and Region O. (Kyle Ingham, PRPC)**
 No report.

11. **The LERWPG will receive a report from LERWPG Administrator. (Jim Conkwright, HPWD)**
 No report.

12. The LERWPG will receive reports from liaisons to other regions.

Region A: No report.

Region B & TWDB: Angela Kennedy explained the request for funding is currently in final contract process for January of 2013 from the TWDB. Angela Kennedy also explained that the TWDB's six-member governing board approved LERWPG's application at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 17, 2012.

Region F: No report.

Region G: Michael McClendon communicated that the TCEQ had recommended against a Water Master for the Brazos River Authority and that the Systems Operation Permit for the Brazos River Authority was complete.

13. The next Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group meeting was scheduled for March 21, 2013.

14. The LERWPG adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

The above conveys my understanding of the issues discussed and conclusions reached. I assume this understanding is correct until notice of the contrary is received. Respectfully submitted.

_____/S/
H. P. "Bo" Brown Jr., Chairman

_____/S/
Doug Hutcheson, Secretary/Treasurer