

Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

April 15, 2015

10:00 a.m.

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 Office
2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock TX

1. Call To Order and Welcome.

Chairman H. P. Brown, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. in the A. Wayne Wyatt Board Room of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 office, 2930 Avenue Q, in Lubbock, Texas.

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

2. Roll Call of Members and Establish Quorum.

The following Llano Estacado Water Planning Group members were in attendance: H. P. Brown, Jr., Jason Coleman, Harvey Everheart, Bill Harbin, Ronnie Hopper, Doug Hutcheson, Mayor Bob Josserand, Mark Kirkpatrick, Michael McClendon, Charlie Morris, Dr. Ken Rainwater, Kent Satterwhite, Aubrey Spear, Jim Steiert, and Jimmy Wedel.

There was a quorum of Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members in attendance (*15 of 22 voting members or 68% attendance*).

Voting members unable to attend (excused absence): Dr. Melanie Barnes, Bruce Blalack, Jack Campsey, Delmon Ellison, Jr., Richard Gillespie, Don McElroy, and John Taylor.

Voting members unable to attend (unexcused absence): None.

Non-voting members in attendance: Sarah Backhouse, Texas Water Development Board; John Clayton, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Amy Ewing, Daniel B. Stephens and Associates; and Matt Williams, Texas Department of Agriculture.

Non-voting members unable to attend (excused absences): Jay Keith, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Others in attendance: The following names were obtained from a sign-in sheet at today's meeting: J. Collier Adams, Jr.; Kelly Baker, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates; Lori Barnes, Llano Estacado UWCD; Kody Bessent, HPWD; Ray Brady, GMA 6; Amber Blount, Sandy Land UWCD; Adeline Fox, HPWD; Lindy Harris, South Plains UWCD; GayLynn Hobgood, Office of Rep. John Frullo; Malcolm Laing, City of Lubbock; Elena Quintanilla, SPAG; Beth Salvas, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates; Dan Seale, HPWD Precinct One District Director; Tom Simons, Mayor-Elect of Hereford; and Aaron Wendt, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Carmon McCain of the High Plains Water District staff served as recording secretary for the meeting. Elaine Fowler with Cathy Sosebee and Associates transcribed the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

3. Discuss and take possible action to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2015 regular meeting.

Draft minutes of the March 26, 2015 regular meeting were provided to the members prior to today's meeting. Prior to taking action on the minutes, Chairman Brown asked Ms. Salvas to update the members on recommended additions/revisions to the draft chapters of the Initially Prepared Plan as noted in the minutes. There being no other additions, comments, or corrections, a motion was made by Mayor Jossierand and seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick to approve the minutes as printed. All members voted "aye" and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Discuss and take possible action to approve the financial report.

A financial report was provided to the members prior to today's meeting. Secretary-Treasurer Hutcheson reported an April 15, 2015 bank balance of \$63,232.02. A motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Mr. Kirkpatrick and seconded by Mr. Coleman. All members voted "aye" and the financial report was unanimously approved as presented.

5. Discuss and take possible action to approve the following draft chapters of the Initially Prepared 2016 Llano Estacado Regional Water Management Plan: Executive Summary and Chapter 5 – Water Management Strategies.

Chairman Brown invited Ms. Ewing and Ms. Salvas to lead discussion of this agenda item.

Ms. Salvas noted that the current draft of the Executive Summary contains 13 pages of text and all required DB-17 reports. There is a 30-page limit for this section. Some additional figures may be added once all the DB-17 reports are received and reviewed.

She then gave a brief overview of the draft Executive Summary of the 2016 LERWPG Regional Water Management Plan. She concluded by asking the members if they had comments or any additions/revisions to the draft document.

Chairman Brown asked for a clarification on the unmet water needs for livestock as shown in DB-17. Ms. Salvas told the group that drought of record conditions are being used for the current planning cycle. As a result, surface water for livestock supplies is set to zero during the drought of record. This results in a much greater livestock water need than shown during the last planning cycle due to dry surface tanks.

Mayor Josserand noted that the irrigation water needs do not vary that much from 2020 to 2070. Although the water needs are still high, Ms. Salvas said they have decreased slightly due to desired future conditions limiting the managed available groundwater (MAG).

Dr. Rainwater asked if the summary was available on the LERWPG website. Ms. Salvas said that it was.

Mr. Morris asked for an additional clarification on the livestock water needs. He noted a continual progression of these water needs through 2070. Many of these counties do not have animal feeding operations (AFOs), confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), or dairies. Yet, the increase in water needs seems to reflect an increase in cattle numbers.

Ms. Salvas responded that it is her belief that these projections were made by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). These were not modified by DBS&A.

Chairman Brown called for other questions and comments. He asked the group if they wished to consider approval of the Executive Summary at this time.

Dr. Rainwater said the draft Executive Summary is incomplete and will have several "placeholders."

Chairman Brown concurred. He said additional materials will be added prior to the final adoption of the 2016 LERWPG Water Management Plan. The group could proceed with approval of the draft Executive Summary at today's meeting.

A motion to approve the draft Executive Summary was made by Mr. Satterwhite and seconded by Mr. Steiert. All members voted "aye" and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Brown asked Ms. Baker and Ms. Ewing to lead discussion regarding draft Chapter 5: Water Management Strategies.

- Section 5.0 discusses the evaluation process and how the LERWPG developed its list of strategies.
- Section 5.1 discusses the evaluation assumptions and methodology.

- Section 5.2 contains evaluations of each of the strategies-including addressing water quantities that could be generated, reliability of these individual sub-strategies, financial costs, environmental impacts, and implementation issues.

Each strategy and sub-strategy has been evaluated. They include the following:

- Municipal Water Conservation.
 - Agricultural Water Conservation. (*Includes TAWC project data*).
 - Manufacturing Water Conservation.
 - Local Groundwater Development. (*Drill new city wells on individual basis*).
 - Water Reuse. (*Includes possible Farwell and Lubbock projects*).
 - Brush Management. (*Includes TSSWCB project information*.)
 - Cloud Seeding.
 - Playa Best Management Practices.
 - Rainwater Harvesting.
 - Drought Management.
 - Brackish Groundwater Desalination.
 - Water Transfers.
 - Water Importation.
 - Electric Dry-Power Generation.
 - City of Lubbock specific strategies (14).
 - CRMWA specific strategies (3).
 - South Garza Water Supply infrastructure project.
- Section 5.3 is the Management Supply Factor. It is a placeholder at this time.
 - Section 5.4 contains the water conservation recommendations.

Mr. Spear said the brush management section discusses the City of Lubbock brush management feasibility study for Lake Alan Henry. However, the City of Lubbock is also in its third year of active salt cedar management, which needs to be included in Section 5.2. This program utilizes aerial spraying from helicopters. In addition, the USDA introduced salt cedar leaf beetles several years ago in the Lake Alan Henry watershed. The beetles have been effective at eliminating some salt cedar. The target aerial spraying area ranges from the mouth of Lake Alan Henry up stream in a westerly direction. It is estimated that the cost is around \$225 per acre—and is producing good results. Actual costs will be added to the draft IPP.

Chairman Brown asked for clarification of the statement, “The Federal Crop Insurance Program, which can be a disincentive to conserve water,” as shown on Page 5-76. Mr. Kirkpatrick said he believed this was based on several conversations with Mr. Ellison. Producers must continue to irrigate a failed crop in order to collect on their federal crop insurance. Mayor Josserand suggested a detailed explanation about this be included in the plan. Ms. Ewing said that this was left out due to comments/conversations with regional water planning group members and the HPWD Board of Directors.

Mr. Hopper said he favors leaving the explanation somewhat vague since the federal crop insurance programs are so complex. It would take lots of study to understand them—and this is the supposition for the recommendation. After discussion, it was the consensus of the group to leave the explanation as is. It is not the LERWPG's role to fix a problem—but rather to point out problematic situations, such as this one.

Mr. Coleman questioned the reasoning for including the cloud seeding text in the draft IPP since no one in Region O is involved in weather modification. He noted that HPWD discontinued its precipitation enhancement program on October 1, 2002. Other groundwater conservation districts have also discontinued their programs.

Since this is a possible water management strategy, Dr. Rainwater said it would be good to document previous efforts in the plan. Mr. Spear concurred. He said the City of Lubbock has evaluated some unviable options in their strategic water supply plan so that the public can see why they are not viable. If the public hears about cloud seeding—then they may wonder why it is not being done in the region. In his opinion, an explanation of why it is not being done would be tremendously helpful.

A motion to leave the cloud seeding section in the draft IPP was made by Mr. Kirkpatrick and seconded by Mr. Steiert. All members voted “aye,” and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Rainwater said he was surprised to see water transfers included in the 2016 draft IPP—especially since this strategy was not included in the 2011 plan. He knows that there are many obstacles (political, financial, environmental,) to water importation. Including this as a possible water management strategy sends the wrong message to the general public. He also sees a need to include this for information purposes—similar to his comments about cloud seeding earlier. The group needs to show all options, even if some are less feasible than others.

Mr. Hopper suggested use of the word, “future,” to describe such projects. He gave the example that 10 years ago no one could have imagined mobile phones to have the capabilities that they do now. There needs to be flexibility to “dream” for the future.

After discussion, Mr. Kirkpatrick made a motion that the water transfers section (importation) contain an advisory statement that such recommendations are not socially, economically, and politically feasible at this time. They are being included for future consideration. Mayor Josseland seconded the motion. All members voted “aye,” and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Harbin asked if the electric dry power generation section should be expanded to include renewable generation resulting from wind and solar power. There will be less steam cycle generation in the future due to renewable generation which is being recommended by the industry. Less water will be needed for cooling purposes.

Dr. Rainwater asked Mr. Harbin if the energy cost of \$0.09 per kilowatt hour (kWh) per annual basis is reasonable for planning purposes. It is included in several sections in Chapter 5. Mr. Harbin said it is not an unreasonable number—but is probably a little on the low side.

Dr. Rainwater also asked about the assumed value of \$1,000 per acre foot for agricultural conservation. He did not recall how this value was determined. Ms. Ewing said this was an assumption based upon conversations with other consultants for Region A and Region F. Dr. Rainwater said it would be good to document this number and provide clarification. "If I'm an agricultural producer and I decide to use an acre-foot less water, then what will I replace that water with and how much will it cost?"

Mr. Coleman and Mr. Morris said this could vary depending upon the cost of the irrigation application equipment per acre and energy to deliver the water. Mr. Morris recommended that a range of costs be included. For example, re-nozzling a center pivot could cost \$20 per acre while installing subsurface drip irrigation could cost \$1,000 per acre or more.

Ms. Ewing said she would draft appropriate language to address these concerns. Chairman Brown noted that data from Dr. Robert Mace of the TWDB indicates 69 percent of residents' water use occurs indoors and 31 percent occurs outdoors. That may be the case in Austin-but Chairman Brown disagrees with those figures for West Texas. He suggests a modification to show the greater urban water use in Region O is for outdoor use rather than indoor use. Mr. Spear said the City of Lubbock has evaluated their customers' water usage patterns and they support Dr. Mace's numbers. About 30 percent of the annual water used by citizens of Lubbock is used for landscape irrigation as compared to indoor use. However, Mr. Spear noted that this may not be the case for other cities in the region.

Dr. Rainwater said he is trying to learn the value of agricultural water conservation so that it can be explained if someone asks about it. He wondered if this is a DB-17 number or if it was calculated by the consultants. Ms. Ewing said it was calculated. Dr. Rainwater also asked about the "non-specified" numbers. The data collected is not that specific as it is gathered only every five years.

Mr. Coleman said Table 5-14, "Acres by Crop Type," should be revisited as some of the irrigated crops, especially cotton and peanuts in Terry and Yoakum Counties, may not have been included properly.

Chairman Brown noted that some of the crops in the table do not show irrigated versus non-irrigated acres—but there are a total number of acres per county. Ms. Ewing said she will work with Mr. Coleman to clarify this.

Mr. Everheart joined the meeting at this time (11:15 a.m.).

Ms. Ewing invited Ms. Baker to discuss the specific water management strategies pertaining to the City of Lubbock. These 14 difference strategies are based on the City of Lubbock's 2013 water supply plan.

They are:

- Direct potable reuse to the South Water Treatment Plant.
- Direct potable reuse to the North Water Treatment Plant.
- North Fork Diversion at County Road 7300.
- South Fork Discharge.
- North Fork Discharge to Lake Alan Henry Pump Station.
- Reclaimed Water to Aquifer Storage and Recovery.
- Bailey County Well Field Capacity Maintenance.
- CRMWA Aquifer Storage and Recovery.
- South Lubbock Well Field.
- Brackish Well Field at South Water Treatment Plant.
- Lake Alan Henry Phase 2.
- Jim Bertram Lake 7.
- Post Reservoir.
- North Fork Scalping Operation.

Mr. Spear said there was some wording relating to the County Road 7300 strategy that needs modification. He will visit with Ms. Baker and Ms. Ewing about this.

He also noted that there needs to be further discussion regarding the relationship between Lake Alan Henry Water District and the South Garza Water Supply District in 5-225. In addition, the 540 acre-feet of water that is allocated to South Garza Water Supply includes 520 acre-feet from Lake Alan Henry Water District and 20 acre-feet from the South Garza Water Supply. These allocations are based on a raw water supply contract between the City of Lubbock and these entities. They are not water rights associated with the certificate of adjudication for Lake Alan Henry.

Ms. Ewing said the consultants have been asked to consolidate the group's water conservation recommendations in Section 5.4 of the plan. These are recommendations that water user groups in the region should consider. She asked if these recommendations should be edited or revised in any manner.

Mr. Spear said Section 5.4.1, Page 5-229 cites a Texas Water Conservation Task Force recommended goal for municipal water use of 140 gallons per capita per day (GPCD). The task force recommends a minimum annual reduction of one percent until the goal of 140 GPCD is met. However, the City of Lubbock's goal written in their water conservation plan is set at a 0.5 percent annual decrease in per capita water usage, Mr. Spear feel that the LERWPG should not include the Task Force's one percent annual reduction recommendations in the plan. This could have devastating effects on municipal revenue streams if the GPCD is lowered too quickly. He also noted that some cities have as high as 60 percent water loss due to aging infrastructure. The City of Lubbock has done some internal water loss audits-and its water loss is about ten percent. He added that it is important for these cities to determine how to prevent the water losses in their systems before undertaking new water supply projects. Ms. Ewing said she would work to strengthen the language addressing this situation.

Ms. Backhouse said it appears that the LERWPG is not estimating any kind of capital cost for municipal water conservation (Table 5-3). She wanted to be sure that the group understands that municipal conservation would not be eligible for SWIFT funding unless capital costs for specific strategies were included in the Plan.

Ms. Ewing asked if there were any additional recommendations for agricultural water use strategies. Mr. Hopper said he believes there will be an increased trend in minimum tillage or no-till operations—which is a great water conservation tool that will likely be implemented in the future.

MEETING RECESSED FOR LUNCH:

Chairman Brown called a recess at 12:04 p.m. for lunch. Mr. Harbin left the meeting at this time.

MEETING RECONVENED:

Chairman Brown reconvened the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

Ms. Ewing told the group that the draft Executive Summary and Chapter 5 of the draft IPP will be revised with the changes/comments provided at today's meeting. The deadline to submit the draft IPP is May 1, 2015.

The Texas Water Development Board requires 12 hard copies of the draft Initially Prepared Plan. In addition, hard copies will be provided to Chairman Brown, Mayor Josserand, and Mr. Steiert. Everyone else will obtain it off the LERWPG website at www.llanoplan.org. The chapters will be revised with changes from the previous meeting and posted to the website in the immediate future.

Ms. Ewing polled the group to determine if hard copies or electronic copies of the plan on CD should be sent to the County Courthouses and County Libraries for public inspection. There was a comment to provide electronic versions on CDs—but most folks that use computers and tablets would be more likely to access a website, instead of a CD.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the group to provide the hard copies to the TWDB, the three LERWPG members, the County Courthouses, and County Libraries. The cover letter accompanying these notebooks will have a very clear cover letter referencing the website.

6. Discuss and take possible action to adopt the Initially Prepared Plan and authorize the LERWPG political subdivision to submit the IPP to the TWDB by the May 1, 2015 deadline.

Ms. Ewing said the consulting firm received approval at the last meeting to submit all of the draft chapters of the Initially Prepared Plan—with exception of the draft Executive Summary and the draft Chapter 5 that were discussed today. All that is needed on this action item is approval of Chapter 5 as well as approval to submit the draft IPP to the TWDB by the May 1 deadline.

Mayor Josserand made a motion to approve the draft Executive Summary and draft Chapter 5 with modifications presented at today's meeting. Mr. Steiert seconded the motion.

Ms. Backhouse offered a clarification. She said the plan must be approved as a whole and that the regional water planning group certifies that it is administratively complete. It is at the regional water planning group's discretion whether or not to certify this now or later. Also, the group needs to authorize HPWD, the Region O administrator, to submit the plan to the TWDB by the May 1, 2015 deadline.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the group to give Chairman Brown authority to certify the final draft IPP as being administratively complete and officially adopted by the group before it is submitted to the TWDB. This will eliminate the need to call another LERWPG meeting for this one action item.

Mayor Josserand amended his motion to (1) approve the draft Chapter 5 with modifications presented at today's meeting; (2) approve the draft IPP as a whole; (3) authorize Chairman Brown to certify adoption of the plan; and (4) authorize HPWD to submit the plan on or before the May 1, 2015 deadline. Mr. Steiert amended his second of the motion accordingly. All members voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.

7. Discuss and take possible action to authorize the LERWPG political subdivision to provide public notice and to hold a public hearing on the Initially Prepared Plan.

Ms. Backhouse told the group that the public hearing on the draft IPP needs to be scheduled some time this summer. There needs to be at least a 30-day advance public notice prior to the hearing. Following the public hearing, there is a 60-day period for the public to submit written comments. Federal and state agencies have a 90-day period to offer comments. After this, the LERWPG will need to meet to discuss the comments, make any necessary revisions to the plan, and submit it to the TWDB prior to the December 1, 2015 deadline.

She added that many of the RWPGs are having their public hearings in June. Because of this, most of the comments should be received by the end of August. The hearing could be held later—but it is important to leave enough time to address comments, make revisions, and have the plan approved by the submission deadline.

Mr. Spear asked how many public hearings are required to be held. Ms. Backhouse said the LERWPG is required to hold only one public hearing. It is up to the group if they want to hold additional hearings at other locations. Generally, the public hearing consists of a summary overview of the plan by the consultant and then acceptance of public comments.

Ms. Ewing will coordinate with Mr. McCain to make arrangements for the public hearing. She prefers having the hearing in June-rather than August. It is her preference to submit the final 2016 LERWPG Water Management Plan to the TWDB in advance of Thanksgiving. It is important not to wait too late to incorporate the comments.

After discussion, it is the consensus of the group to hold the public hearing on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Texas Tech University International Cultural Center, 601 Indiana, in Lubbock. (This is contingent upon availability of the facility.)

Mr. Hopper made a motion to authorize HPWD to provide public notice of the June 18, 2015 hearing to County Clerks in Region O; County Clerks of counties where future water management strategies may be located; County Judges in Region O; LERWPG interested parties; LERWPG members and non-voting members; mayors of cities with populations greater than 1,000 in the region; municipal water suppliers in the region; and surface water rights holders in the region as required by TWDB rules. Mr. Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. All members voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION:

8. Receive A Report From The TWDB Project Manager.

Ms. Backhouse provided an update on the 5th cycle of regional water planning. At the April 10 Board meeting, the TWDB staff received authorization to enter into contracts with political subdivisions for the 5th cycle of regional water planning. The draft contracts will be forwarded to the political subdivisions in early June.

In addition, a public input meeting must be held in the region before any technical work is done for the 5th cycle of regional water planning. Also, the group must procure a consultant to assist with preparation of the regional plan.

The TWDB has opened a West Texas field office in Lubbock. Kelly Davila, formerly with South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG), is the new staff member handling outreach for funding programs. She was here earlier—but had to leave for another meeting.

9. Receive A Report from the Region O Technical Consultant.

Ms. Ewing had no additional information to report.

10. Receive A Report from the Region O Administrator.

Mr. Coleman said Elena Quintanilla with SPAG was present earlier today—but had to leave due to another obligation. HPWD is trying to set up a meeting with SPAG officials/members to provide an overview of the regional water planning process and to answer any questions they might have about administering the plan.

11. Receive A Report From The GMA # 2 And GMA # 6 Representatives.

GMA # 2: Mr. Hopper had no new information to report.

GMA # 6: Ray Brady reported for Mr. Campsey. GMA #6 met April 2 and approved a resolution asking the TWDB to make a formal boundary change in Briscoe County as well as adjusting other boundaries based upon entity size.

12. Receive reports from liaisons to other regional water planning groups.

Region A: Kent Satterwhite reported Region A will meet next Monday (4-20-15).

Region B: Jack Campsey was absent. Mr. Brady had no information to share.

Region F: Harvey Everheart said Region F will meet tomorrow (4-15-2015).

Region G: Michael McClendon left the meeting. No report was given.

13. Receive Public Input & Comments To The Regional Water Planning Group.

Chairman Brown called for public input and comments from the audience.

Mr. Satterwhite left the meeting at this time.

J. Collier Adams, Jr. of Cochran County offered the following comments:

- There needs to be some latitude in best management practices recommended by the LERWPG. A best management practice may not be the most reasonable one for an individual or entity. For example, a best management practice may be to adopt a dog. However, if that dog needs \$3,500 hip surgery, one must wonder if that is the most reasonable best management practice. Recommended BMPs could get costly very quickly.
- In his opinion, there is a misconception about groundwater conservation districts. Some think this is how privately-owned groundwater is managed in Texas. He says the truth of the matter is that groundwater districts don't manage private property any more than a library district manages books in your home.
- He is concerned about recommendations in the plan for agricultural water metering, which shows an attempt to control private property. If this were not so, he believes the recommendation would be stricken from the plan.
- In examining the tables, he believes private ownership categories in Cochran County should not be part of the plan. It is his understanding that state prisons, wildlife refuges, national and federal lands are excluded from this planning process. There is no TCEQ jurisdiction over any livestock water, irrigation water, or mining water in Cochran County. The only jurisdiction TCEQ has is over municipal systems. So, he remains skeptical of the process.

Mr. Adams thanked Chairman Brown and the LERWPG members for the opportunity to provide public comment at today's meeting.

Chairman Brown called on Mayor Josserand for additional comments.

Mayor Josserand announced that he has served as Mayor of Hereford for 22 years and as a member of the LERWPG for 17 years. He did not seek re-election as Mayor. Former Deaf Smith County Judge Tom Simons will be Hereford's next mayor, effective May 18th.

With permission of the LERWPG, Mayor Josserand will submit a letter of resignation as the representative for municipalities in the region with 10,000 to 30,000 in population. He proposes Mayor-Elect Simons to take his place as a member of the LERWPG.

Chairman Brown thanked Mayor Josserand for his dedicated service. Mayor Josserand and Mr. Steiert will provide letters of support for nomination of Tom Simons as a member of the LERWPG.

14. Consider A Date And Agenda Items For The Next Regular Meeting.

After discussion, the next regular meeting of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group is set for Thursday, October 8, 2015 at the High Plains Water District office.

15. Consider Other Business And Announcements.

Chairman Brown asked Ms. Baker, Ms. Ewing, and Ms. Salvas to excuse themselves from the meeting for a moment.

In discussion with Ms. Backhouse earlier, Chairman Brown said the LERWPG will need to begin the process next year to select a consultant for the 5th cycle of regional water planning.

Chairman Brown said he is very impressed by the work product provided by Ms. Baker, Ms. Ewing, and Ms. Salvas. If there is a disagreement, then he would appreciate that being voiced at this time. It is his recommendation that Daniel B. Stephens & Associates be strongly considered to continue consulting work for the next cycle of regional water planning.

Ms. Backhouse said the LERWPG has to go through the formal process of procuring the consultants. This process must follow the requirements that the political subdivision who administers the region uses to procure services..

Mr. Kirkpatrick said he believed a subcommittee interviewed each of the prospective consultants and then made a recommendation to the entire LERWPG.

Mr. Coleman noted that there is the likelihood that the Region O administration may change at this point in time. The RFP process may be handled by SPAG, if they accept the administrative duties.

Chairman Brown said the group did not have to make a decision about the consulting firm at today's meeting.

Mr. Kirkpatrick agreed with Chairman Brown's assessment of the consultants. He believes the group has come a long ways from where it was with the previous consultant. He believes DBS&A has done a good job with all the data that they have put together for this plan.

Mr. Steiert concurred. He worked with Ms. Ewing and Ms. Salvas to update the information on springs and seeps in the region. They were very amenable and helpful. He was surprised and pleased with some of the data they found to assist him.

Chairman Brown said this discussion is not to make a predetermined decision—but rather to share comments with the group.

Ms. Baker, Ms. Ewing, and Ms. Salvas rejoined the meeting.

16. Adjournment.

There being no additional business, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Doug Hutcheson

Doug Hutcheson, Secretary-Treasurer
Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group

These minutes were approved at the September 10, 2015 regular meeting of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group.