

**MINUTES OF THE
LLANO ESTACADO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION O)
THURSDAY, April 26, 2012**

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

Chairman H. P. Brown Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:02 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.

Notice of the meeting was provided in advance to each member and was provided in advance to each members 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

At 10:02 a.m., Chairman Brown called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

The following Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members were in attendance: H. P. Brown Jr., Jim Conkwright, Doug Hutcheson, Harvey Everheart, Jack Campsey, Bruce Blalack, Aubrey Spear, Dr. Melanie Barnes, Kent Satterwhite, Dr. Ken Rainwater, Mark Kirkpatrick, Don McElroy, and Bob Josserand.

Unable to Attend (Excused Absence): Bill Harbin, Delaine Baucum, Richard Leonard, Delmon Ellison Jr., Michael McClendon, John Taylor, Jim Steiert, and Gene Montgomery.

Absent Members (Unexcused): None

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

Absent Non-Voting Members: Steve Jones

A Quorum of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group was present.
(There were 13 of 21 in attendance or 62%)

Others in Attendance: Mike McGregor, Jason Coleman, Lori Barnes, Ryan Kennerly, Ben Weinheimer, Tom Ray, Mike McGuire, Darren Turley, William Asouith, and Ray Brady.

3. The LERWPG will discuss and consider possible approval of the regular meeting minutes of November 17, 2011. Chairman Brown requested comment and changes to the November 17, 2011 minutes previously provided electronically, as well as hard copies

available at this meeting. It was moved by Bob Josserand to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Aubrey Spear. The November 17, 2011 minutes were approved unanimously.

4. The LERWPG will discuss and consider approval of the financial statements.

Doug Hutcheson, Secretary/Treasurer, presented the financial statement. It was moved by Mark Kirkpatrick to approve the financial statement. The motion was seconded by Jim Conkwright. The financial statement was unanimously approved.

5. The LERWPG will receive a report from the Nominating Committee. At this time, Chairman Brown, Jim Conkwright, and Doug Hutcheson left the room and meeting. Mark Kirkpatrick, Nominating Committee member, was called on to preside over the meeting. Mr. Kirkpatrick presented the Nominating Committee's report. Members of the Nominating Committee were Mike McClendon, Mark Kirkpatrick, and Delaine Baucum. Mr. Kirkpatrick communicated to LERWPG that the Nominating Committee was recommending H. P. Brown as Chairman, Jim Conkwright as Vice Chairman, and Doug Hutcheson as Secretary/Treasurer. The Nominating Committee had discussed this and unanimously made this recommendation.

6. The LERWPG will discuss and take possible action of electing officers of LERWPG for 2012. Mr. Josserand moved approval of the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Mr. Brown to serve as Chairman, Jim Conkwright to serve as Vice Chairman, and Doug Hutcheson to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Satterwhite seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Brown, Mr. Conkwright, and Mr. Hutcheson rejoined the meeting.

7. The LERWPG will discuss and take possible action regarding the appointment of members to LERWPG for the term 2012 to 2017. The members serving the term of 2012 to 2017 and for reappointment are:

H. P. Brown – Agriculture
Jim Conkwright – Water District
Ken Rainwater – Public
Delaine Baucum – Agriculture
Mike McClendon – River Authority
Don McElroy – Small Business
Kent Satterwhite – Water District
Jim Steiert – Environment
Mark Kirkpatrick – Agriculture
County Government (to be filled)
Harvey Everheart – GMA 2

Ms. Barnes moved approval of appointment of the eligible individuals. Bob Josserand seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. The LERWPG will discuss and take possible action regarding "Non-Municipal" water use for the 2016 Region O Water Plan. Chairman Brown called on Stefan Schuster, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, to present this item. Mr. Schuster explained both the Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) and the Unmet Need. The calculation for need is **Supply (GAM-derived Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG)) less or minus Demand =**

Need. Total need, or shortage, is then a total of “unmet need” and “need met” by strategy. Region O under the current adopted plan for 2012 accounts for 30% of the statewide unmet need in the TWDB state water plan. Further, in Region O, 90% of this “unmet need” is irrigation. The MAG amount has been established by the DFC and resulted in policy with input by the seven local groundwater districts in GMA #2. Under statute, it is a requirement that the MAG be used and followed to determine the available water.

The consideration before LERWPG is to match the available water or MAG amount to demands that may reasonably be met by water available also potentially resulting in needs that can be met by strategies and conservation. Mr. Schuster then presented several graphs showing the reductions in volume of the MAG and demand by category. Since irrigation is 90% of use, reduction in this category would be 50% over the 50-year period. However, this needed reduction is proposed to be slow with each decade starting in 2020. Mr. Schuster stressed that 2.6 million acre-feet will remain for irrigation, and agriculture will remain important and still the largest user. Each water conservation district has adopted “Desired Future Conditions” that make these reductions over several years.

Ken Rainwater questioned the graph as to why municipal and non-municipal showed in the manner that municipal had a large reduction by being at the top of the graph. Mr. Schuster indicated he would make that correction by placing municipal at the bottom of the graph.

Mr. Schuster showed a slide with a 50% reduction in irrigation over the 50-year period in order to meet the MAG. Mr. McElroy asked if other RWPG had similar deficits. Mr. Schuster indicated that other areas and regions do not have the amount of irrigation as Region O. Region A is similar and is pursuing a like reduction to match the GAM.

Chairman Brown communicated that the three previous plans had reflected very high unmet need, and he supported the lowering of unmet need, as presented, better planning for the water we have. In the past planning cycles, Region O was not permitted by the TWDB to reduce the unmet need but the TWDB is open to considering such a reduction. Angela Kennedy said that TWDB also supported and approved the irrigation adjustment.

Ken Rainwater questioned the amount of remaining unmet need and asked if proposed strategies will meet these goals. Mr. Schuster indicated a slow reduction over time will close the remaining gap, primarily through conservation.

Don McElroy asked if the MAG will change. Mr. Schuster said it would not change. Mr. McElroy communicated that the need will come down with the MAG.

Chairman Brown said the irrigation subcommittee, Delmon Ellison, Jeff Johnson, and Justin Weinheimer, and the livestock and dairy subcommittee, Ben Weinheimer, Darren Turley, and Mark Kirkpatrick, had met and after extensive discussions recommended the numbers forwarded in the agenda and presented by Mr. Schuster. Also present at the subcommittee meeting were Bo Brown, Jim Conkwright, Stefan Schuster, Bill Mullican, and Mike McGregor.

Bob Josserand asked what effect the irrigation reduction might have on livestock. Ben Weinheimer, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, told the group that 70% of the livestock feedstocks came from outside the region. Mr. Weinheimer also told the group that by using an average of 12.5 gallons per head per day for beef cattle in feedyards rather than 15 gallons a day, projections for livestock have been reduced from the previous plan. Darren

Turley, Texas Association of Dairymen, indicated that he did not see a big increase in dairy head count. The dairy increase came years ago due to California land prices when producers sold land at very high value to relocate to this region. The economics will probably not resemble that in the future.

Chairman Brown communicated to the group that these livestock numbers (livestock head count and conservation) were generated locally and not by the state. Local research, with our own projections, is what the regional planning group is all about. Angela Kennedy agreed with Mr. Brown's comments.

Mark Kirkpatrick questioned projections for cattle, as the head count is currently low due to drought. Mr. Weinhiemer said that there was some growth in the projections, however, the per head use was still lowered to 12.5 gallons per head per day for beef cattle in feedyards. Both slower growth and conservation will balance the numbers over the 50 years projected.

Kent Satterwhite asked if all or part of the Region O and other West Texas area had adopted the 50/50 DFC. Mr. Conkwright estimated that 2/3 of the area is following the 50/50 DFC.

Don McElroy questioned the proposed changes, specifically the irrigation reduction, and what will be disclosed to others. Chairman Brown requested the minutes be very narrative and clear as to the change. This will provide a basis and record of the issue.

Melanie Barnes supported the change, instead of proceeding with endless water, the plan will now be more realistic for the area and public. Ken Rainwater told the group that this is good progress. Many of the models and projections over the years were based on unmetered estimates. These unmetered irrigation projections have overstated water use. This reduction is constructive, with years of local input, and more realistic. It is still not perfect but much better than past practices.

Melanie Barnes moved approval of the presented non-municipal water use, which includes irrigation reduction, livestock water use reduction, conservation strategies, and the elimination of unmet needs. Aubrey Spear seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. **The LERWPG will discuss and take possible action on proposed water planning rule revisions for water planning.** Angela Kennedy provided a power point presentation for rules amendments to Chapters 355, 357, and 358. The major items being amended or added are the results of SB 660 and TCEQ environmental flows. Comment period ends June 4 and TWDB will consider adoption at July 18 meeting.
10. **The LERWPG will receive an update on Groundwater Management Area representatives efforts regarding Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for aquifers in Region O.** Jason Coleman and Jim Conkwright both gave updates. Jason Coleman indicated that the Districts of South Plains, Llano Estacado, Sandy Land, Permian Basin, and Mesa were jointly going to meeting and update management plans for GMA 2. Jim Conkwright gave an update on GMA 1 and reported that HPWD adopted a management plan and rules reflecting the 50/50 DFC.
11. **The LERWPG will receive an update regarding joint planning efforts between Region A and Region O.** No report given.

12. **The LERWPG will receive an update on activities of the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council.** No report given.
13. **The LERWPG will receive a report from the LERWPG Administrator.** Jim Conkwright gave a brief update.
14. **The LERWPG will receive reports from its liaisons to other regional planning groups.**
Region A: Kent Satterwhite reported that Region A was revising the agriculture demands and was at the same point as Region O. Freese/Nichols is the consultant for Region A. Lake Meredith had received 5 inches of rain but was still unable to be pumped. The rain had resulted in about a 1 ft. to 2 ft. rise in the lake.

Region F: There were no major changes in Region F from the last meeting reported by Harvey Everheart.

Region G: No report given.
15. **Other Business.** The LERWPG accepted Gene Montgomery's resignation letter. Next meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2012.
16. **Adjourn.** There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.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.

H. P. "Bo" Brown Jr., Chairman

Doug Hutcheson, Secretary/Treasurer