

Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

June 19, 2014

10:00 a.m.

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1

2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock TX

1. Call To Order and Welcome.

Chairman H. P. Brown Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 to each voting/non-voting member 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: Dr. Melanie Barnes; Bruce Blalack; H. P. Brown Jr.; Jack Campsey; Jason Coleman; Harvey Everheart; Tom Fulton; Ronnie Hopper; Mark Kirkpatrick; Richard Leonard; Michael McClendon; Don McElroy; Kent Satterwhite; Aubrey Spear; Jim Steiert; and John Taylor.

Voting members unable to attend (excused absences): Voting members unable to attend today's meeting were: Delmon Ellison Jr.; Richard Gillespie; Bill Harbin; Doug Hutcheson; Mayor Bob Josserand; and Dr. Ken Rainwater.

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

Non-voting members in attendance: Non-voting members in attendance were Sarah Backhouse with the Texas Water Development Board and Andy Donnelly with Daniel B. Stephens and Associates.

Voting members unable to attend (excused absences): John Clayton with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Matt Williams with Texas Department of Agriculture.

There was a quorum of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members in attendance (*16 of 22 voting members or 73% attendance*).

Others in attendance: Lori Barnes, Llano Estacado UWCD; Steve Barrett of Lubbock; Amber Blount, Sandy Land UWCD; Ray Brady of Floydada; Bech Bruun, TWDB Board Member; Velma Danielson of Austin; Amy Ewing, Daniel B. Stephens and Associates; Lauren Graber, TWDB; Lindy Harris, South Plains UWCD; Jessica Hinojosa, DBS&A; Dr. Dana Porter, Texas A&M AgriLife

Extension; James Powell, HPWD Precinct One District Director; Regan Reding, HPWD Outreach and Education Intern; and Curtis Schrader, City of Sundown.

(These names were obtained from a sign-in sheet in the A. Wayne Wyatt Board Room.)

Carmon McCain of the High Plains Water District staff served as recording secretary for the meeting.

3. Introduction of New Members and Guests.

Chairman Brown introduced and welcomed TWDB Board Member Bech Bruun and his chief of staff Lauren Graber.

Chairman Brown then asked those in the audience to stand and introduce themselves.

ACTION ITEMS:

4. Discuss and Take Possible Action to Approve the April 23, 2014 regular meeting minutes.

The minutes of the April 23, 2014 regular meeting were provided to members by e-mail/regular mail for review prior to today's meeting. There being no addition or correction, a motion was made by Harvey Everheart and seconded by Mark Kirkpatrick that the minutes of the April 23, 2014 LERWPG meeting be approved as printed. **All voted "aye" and the motion was unanimously approved.**

5. Discuss and Take Possible Action To Approve the Financial Report.

The Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group financial report was provided to members by e-mail/regular mail for review prior to today's meeting. In the absence of Secretary-Treasurer Doug Hutcheson, Chairman Brown reported a balance of \$93,223.43 as of May 31, 2014. A motion to accept the report as presented was made by Mark Kirkpatrick and seconded by John Taylor. **All voted "aye" and the motion was unanimously approved.**

6. Discuss and Take Possible Action To Dedicate the 2016 Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group Management Plan In Memory of Long-Time Member Delaine Baucum.

Delaine Baucum was appointed in March 1998 as an agriculture representative for the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group. She continued to serve in this capacity until her death on April 23, 2014. Chairman Brown reminded the group that Ms. Baucum was a very loyal member of the regional water planning group. He shared the fact that Ms. Baucum worked during the day and then served as caregiver for her husband at night. She would not place him in an assisted living center—and this finally impacted her health. It is for these reasons that Chairman Brown recommends dedication of the 2016 plan in memory of Ms. Baucum. A motion that the 2016

regional plan be dedicated in memory of Delaine Baucum was made by Ronnie Hopper and seconded by Don McElroy. **All voted "aye" and the motion was unanimously approved.**

7. Discuss and Take Possible Action Regarding The TWDB Response Letter To The Draft 2011 Strategy Prioritizations.

Chairman Brown called on Amy Ewing with Daniel B. Stephens and Associates to discuss this agenda item.

Ms. Ewing stated that DBS&A received a response letter from the TWDB regarding the draft prioritizations submitted by the LERWPG. A copy of this letter was provided to the regional water planning group members by e-mail.

Ms. Ewing said the House Bill 4 stakeholder committee met on June 18th and they determined that no additional guidance needed to be adopted by the committee to apply the uniform prioritization standards to the 2011 Regional Water Plans. This means that the regional planning groups are not required to follow the additional prioritization guidelines recommended by the TWDB while ranking the 2011 Regional Water Plan water supply projects. The regional water planning group has a choice to either (a) make the recommended changes included in the TWDB response letter or (b) submit the draft prioritizations without changes.

There was considerable discussion regarding the prioritization of projects in the 2011 LERWPG plan.

Dr. Melanie Barnes noted that some projects are better suited for the SWIFT funding than other projects. However, it is important that other funding programs be made available for those projects not suited for SWIFT. TWDB Board Member Bech Bruun agreed by saying that there are existing programs available today that will continue to be available for sponsors of water projects such as the State Revolving Fund. The current prioritization is designed to guide regional planning groups in determining which projects are best suited for SWIFT. Chairman Brown expressed his concern about farmers having to obtain a "sponsor" as noted at the last LERWPG meeting. He said the sponsor would be the guarantor of the debt and that could be problematic.

Chairman Brown asked the group if they knew of anyone that actively plans to pursue the SWIFT funding. Mr. Satterwhite said the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority will likely seek funding through SWIFT when it becomes available. Mr. Spear said that the City of Lubbock would potentially pursue SWIFT funds if their projects are ranked high enough and the financial value of the SWIFT program is greater than the "red tape" associated with the program. Chairman Brown said he thought White River Municipal Water District might also be interested in SWIFT.

After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Tom Fulton and seconded by John Taylor that the LERWPG adopt the draft report from DBS&A and not revise it based upon the TWDB guidance. After further discussion, Chairman Brown called the question. There were two voting in favor of the motion and 13 against. **The motion failed.**

A motion was made by Kent Satterwhite and seconded by Mark Kirkpatrick that Ms. Ewing, the Region O water management strategies subcommittee, and any other interested member revisit the draft prioritization of projects (particularly Categories 3A, 3B, 5A) with respect to the TWDB's recommended changes and additional clarifying guidelines. If the subcommittee deems that revisions are appropriate, they will be made and submitted to the TWDB prior to the deadline—if Region O does not meet in the meantime. **All voted “aye,” and the motion was unanimously approved.** Mr. Kirkpatrick said it is important that the subcommittee inform the entire LERWPG membership of any recommended changes to the project rankings. If there are dramatic changes, then the subcommittee may ask the Chairman to call a special meeting of the LERWPG.

8. Discussion of the Technical Memorandum Components--Including The Approved Population And Water Demand Values By WUG, Methods For Obtaining Water Availability, Existing Water Supply, And Water Needs Values By WUG, And Methods For Calculating The Source Water Balance.

Vice-Chairman Spear asked Ms. Backhouse to provide information on the prioritization process that the TWDB will go through in order to assign additional points to the each of the regional water group's water management strategies.

Director Bruun said this information is posted online at the TWDB web site as part of the agenda for the June 26 meeting. He noted that the draft language is available for review and that the language demonstrates how the regional prioritizations are weighed at 15% of the scoring in comparison to the state's prioritization factors weighed at 85%. The language also outlines the state's prioritization factors while are in accordance with the required criteria found in House Bill 4.

Ms. Backhouse will continue this discussion in her report later in the meeting.

9. Discuss And Take Possible Action To (1) Authorize The Consultant (Daniel B. Stephens And Associates) To Submit The LERWPG Technical Memorandum Consisting Of Tables Presenting Population Projections And Water Demand, Water Availability, Existing Water Supplies, Water Needs, And The Source Water Balance To The TWDB By The August 1, 2014 Deadline; And (2) Allow The LERWPG Members To Ratify The Final Technical Memorandum At The Next LERWPG Meeting. (This is due to the TWDB database not being ready to create the necessary reports in advance of this meeting.)

Ms. Ewing introduced Jessica Hinojosa with DBS&A's Austin office. Ms. Hinojosa discussed the population and water demand projections, water availability, water supplies, water needs, and source of water balance tables which will be included in the Technical Memorandum.

The demand projections include municipal and non-municipal needs. The municipal needs were required to be calculated by using population projections and per capita consumption values provided by the TWDB. These projections were reviewed and revised based upon surveys completed by all municipalities and within the constraints provided by the TWDB. The demand was calculated by multiplying the population projections by the gallons of water per capita per day. These data have been submitted to the TWDB and are approved.

The non-municipal demand projections include irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, and steam-electric. Revisions were made to the irrigation and livestock demands. All five water user group demands have been approved by the TWDB.

Water availability, according to the TWDB, is defined as the maximum amount of water that is available from a source during the drought of record. There are three types of availabilities: groundwater, surface water, and reuse. The TWDB used groundwater availability models, or GAMs, to estimate the amount of water available from specific aquifers. The availability estimates are based on desired future conditions (DFCs) which were determined by groundwater conservation districts within their respective Groundwater Management Area. These models include the amount of water available by decade from 2020 to 2060. DBS&A is required to calculate the 2070 values.

There are nine water supply sources that were not included in the model which were part of the previous plan. These were later included in a revision which was approved by the TWDB.

Surface water availability was calculated by RPS Espy, a partner of DBS&A. It included the most current Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) surface water availability models for the time period ranging from 1948 to 1998. This includes the drought of record of the 1950s. This modeling assumes full utilization of all permitted diversions and no return flows.

Draft water reuse availabilities were provided to DBS&A by the TWDB. They were estimated based upon reuse permits. No changes were requested to these draft values for the decades ranging from 2020 to 2060. DBS&A also projected the 2070 values.

The water supply data has been updated based upon surveys completed by all water user groups and municipalities.

A summary table for each of the water user groups (2020-2070) was provided to the LERWPG members. The positive values shown in the table estimates a water need while the negative values indicate a surplus.

Mr. Spear thanked Ms. Hinojosa for helping the LERWPG members understand the concept between “the amount of water in the bucket” and “the amount of water people are trying to take out of the bucket.” This was discussed at the previous LERWPG meeting and it was a source of confusion. Refinement of the models used in the process is very important.

Mr. Kirkpatrick asked why the estimate of livestock water needs jump so much in 2060 and 2070. He believes there will be less irrigation, less crops, fewer cattle, and fewer dairies. Ms. Hinojosa said this is all based upon modeling from the TWDB and there is no way to change this.

The final component of the technical memorandum is source water balance. Ms. Hinojosa said this is calculated by taking the water availability of a source and subtracting out all the supplies associated with that source. The source water number cannot be negative. You can't pull water supplies out of the bucket if there is no more remaining water. That number will either be zero or there will still be some available water remaining for a positive balance.

Ms. Ewing said she had hoped to get the technical approval completed for the LERWPG's approval today. However, some of the reports are not ready for review and approval. She asked the group for approval to submit the data by the August 1 deadline and to ratify it at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Melanie Barnes and seconded by Harvey Everheart to authorize the consultant to submit the LERWPG Technical Memorandum by the August 1, 2014 deadline and allow the LERWPG members to ratify the final version at the next LERWPG meeting in September. **All voted "aye," and the motion was approved unanimously.**

RECESS FOR LUNCH

Chairman Brown recessed the meeting at 11:46 a.m. for lunch. Chairman Brown left the meeting at this time.

RECONVENE MEETING

Vice-Chairman Spear reconvened the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION:

10. Receive A Report From The TWDB Project Manager (*Sarah Backhouse*).

Ms. Backhouse gave a brief report pertaining to development of the rules for the State Water Implementation Task Force. The TWDB Executive Administrator just released the draft rules on Tuesday afternoon—so she did not have time to review them in detail. The draft rules are available on the TWDB website. Once approved by the TWDB, the draft rules will be published in the Texas Register, which begins another comment period that should last until Sept. 1, 2014. Comments can be provided either by mail, email, or on the TWDB web site. There will be three public meetings within the state to receive comments on the draft rules.

11. Receive A Report From The LERWPG Technical Consultant (*Andy Donnelly and/or Amy Ewing*.) Mr. Donnelly and Ms. Ewing had nothing to report at this time.

12. Receive A Report From The LERWPG Administrator (*Jason Coleman*). Mr. Coleman had nothing to report at this time.

13. Receive A Report Regarding The May 23, 2014 RWPG Chairs

Conference Call. Chairman Brown could not participate in this conference call. No report was given.

14. Receive A Report From The GMA # 2 And GMA # 6 Representatives.
(Ronnie Hopper and Jack Campsey.)

Mr. Hopper did not report since he had another meeting to attend this afternoon.

Mr. Campsey said he had nothing to report since GMA # 6 has not had a meeting since the previous Region O meeting.

15. Receive A Report From Liaisons To Other Regional Water Planning Groups: Regions A, B, F, & G.

REGION A: Kent Satterwhite reported that Region A's last meeting was May 20th. The draft prioritization list was approved. The group also approved having the technical memorandum submitted to the TWDB.

REGION B: Jack Campsey was unable to attend the last Region B meeting since the date corresponded with the last Region O meeting.

REGION F: Harvey Everheart reported that Region F is in the same situation as Region O. The group met two to three weeks ago. They are in the process of approving the draft prioritizations.

REGION G: No report given.

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

Vice-Chairman Spear called for public input and comments. None were received.

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

Vice-Chairman Spear called on members to consider a date and agenda items for the next regular meeting. It was the consensus of the group that the next meeting should be held sometime in September. Mr. McCain will poll the membership and determine the most favorable date for a September meeting.

Mr. Everheart asked whether the regional water planning group is meeting on the third Wednesday or the third Thursday of the month. Mr. McCain said the group traditionally meets the third Thursday of the month as needed. However, a conflict with Dr. Rainwater's classes at Texas Tech forced the meeting date to be changed to the third Wednesday of the month for this semester only. The meetings have now returned to the third Thursday of the month as needed.

18. Consider Other Business And Announcements.

Vice-Chairman Spear called on the membership to consider other business and announcements. No action was taken.

19. Adjournment.

There being no additional business, Vice-Chairman Spear adjourned the meeting at 12:48 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/ H. P. Brown Jr.

H. P. (Bo) Brown Jr. Chairman
For Doug Hutcheson, Secretary-Treasurer
Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group

These minutes were approved at the September 18, 2014 regular meeting of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group.