

MINUTES OF THE  
LLANO ESTACADO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION O)  
THURSDAY, May 16, 2013

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**1. Call to order and welcome by Chairman Brown.**

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.

On May 2, 2013 notice was posted on the Secretary of State's website, the Region O website and the HPWD website; notice was provided to all Region O members, all county clerks within the Region O planning area, all regional planning group chairmen, and other interested parties; and meeting materials were posted on the Region O website and a hard copy was made available at the HPWD office.

**2. Roll Call to establish a quorum.**

**The following Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members were in attendance:** H. P. Brown, Jr., Jim Conkwright, Doug Hutcheson, Melanie Barnes, Bruce Blalack, Jack Campsey, Harvey Everheart, Bill Harbin, Mark Kirkpatrick, Mike McClendon, Don McElroy, Ken Rainwater, Kent Satterwhite, and Aubrey Spear. A quorum established.

**Unable to Attend (Excused Absence):** Delaine Buacum, Delmon Ellison, Bob Josserand, Richard Leonard, Richard Gillespie, Jim Steiert, and John Taylor.

**Absent Members (Unexcused):** Mike DeLoach.

**Non-Voting Members in Attendance:** John Clayton (TP&W), Doug Shaw (TWDB), and Stefan Schuster (DBS&A).

**Absent Non-Voting Members:** Malcolm Laing (TCEQ) and Matt Williams (TDA).

**Others in Attendance:** Sherry Stephens, Elaine Fowler (court reporter), Sara Eatman, (DBS&A), Jason Coleman (SPUWCD), Zane Edwards, Ryan Kennerly, Sarah Clifton (Sen. Duncan's Office), William Asquith (USGS), Jon Thomas (USGS), and Dan Buhman (CDM).

**3. Introduce new members.**

Chairman Brown introduced Doug Shaw as Region O's new Project Manager. Mr. Shaw replaces Angela Kennedy who has taken employment with another agency.

**4. Discuss and take possible action to approve the May 16, 2013 regular meeting minutes.**

Chairman Brown requested comments and questions on the minutes. There being none, it was moved by Kent Satterwhite to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mark Kirkpatrick. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Discuss and take possible action to approve the financial report.**

Doug Hutcheson, Secretary/Treasurer, presented the financial report. It was moved by Jim Conkwright to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Don McElroy. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Receive a report from the Officer Nominating Committee.**

Aubrey Spear, Officer Nominating Committee, was called on to preside over the meeting. Chairman Brown, Jim Conkwright, and Doug Hutcheson left the room and the meeting. Mr. Spear presented the committee's report. Members of the Officer Nominating Committee are Bob Jossierand, Aubrey Spear and Delmon Ellison. Mr. Spear reported that the committee is recommending that H.P. Brown be elected as chairman, Jim Conkwright as Vice Chairman, and Doug Hutcheson as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Spear asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he proceeded to Item 7 Election of the Officers.

**7. Discuss and take possible action to elect officers for 2013.**

It was moved by Mark Kirkpatrick that H.P. Brown be elected as chairman, Jim Conkwright as Vice Chairman, and Doug Hutcheson as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Harvey Everheart. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Brown, Jim Conkwright, and Doug Hutcheson returned to the meeting.

**8. Discuss and take possible action to change Harvey Everheart's designation from GMA#2 representative to a Water District representative.**

Senate Bill 660, passed by the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislature in 2011, requires that, in addition to the representation of 11 interest groups currently required by statute, regional planning groups maintain additional representation from each groundwater management area (GMA) located wholly or partially within a regional planning area.

In November 2011, instead of adding an additional member to meet this requirement, the Region O planning group changed Harvey Everheart's designation from Water District representative to GMA#2 representative. Because groundwater is the predominate water supply throughout Region O and due to the vast challenges in managing this water supply, representation by groundwater districts and groundwater management areas becomes increasingly important. Making this change renders the GMA#2 position vacant and adds an additional Water District representative which will improve representation by groundwater management interests. This change has been recommended with Mr. Everheart's consent.

It was moved by Jim Conkwright that Mr. Everheart's designation be changed from GMA#2 representative to Water District representative. The motion was seconded by Melanie Barnes. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Discuss the nomination process for appointing an additional voting member to represent GMA#2.**

This item appears on the agenda in error. The planning group does not appoint GMA representatives. GMA's are responsible for this appointment. Melanie Barnes asked if the planning group could add this member without amending its bylaws. Sherry Stephens answered "yes", and explained that Region O's bylaws allow up to 25 members. While there is a nomination process for adding members, this process does not apply to GMA representatives. The changes made today will increase total membership to 23 representatives.

**10. Discuss and take possible action to approve the municipal demand projections.**

Using the meeting material provided to the planning group, Stefan Schuster presented an overview of the population and municipal demand projections focusing on the cohorts (age, group, race, etc.) and the distribution of those cohorts in each of the categories to determine why there was such growth in the region since 2000. The population projections are based on the 2010 census.

When compared to the 2000 census, the 2010 census indicates that growth is due to an increase in young populations moving to or staying in the region, a fluctuation in the Anglo population, a significant increase in the Hispanic population, and some growth in “other populations”.

Mr. Schuster continued this analysis county by county. He noted that the counties with significant increases tend to have a broad younger population driving increases in the future. He indicated that the population projections could be adjusted based on the results of the interviews with the municipal water suppliers. He reminded the planning group that populations could be adjusted within the region, but that the population for the region as a whole could not be increased.

Mr. Schuster presented an overview of how municipal demands are determined. Municipal demand is based on gallons per capita per day (“GPCD”) which is tracked through annual surveys conducted annually by TWDB using 2011 as the base year. The year 2011 was used because it was a dry year. The GPCD is multiplied by the population for each entity. One of the purposes of the interviews with municipal water suppliers is determine if the municipal water demands are in fact accurate for each water supplier.

**11. Receive a report on the methodology for developing the Task 4D Scope of Work.**

Stefan Schuster explained that the planning cycle is broken down into multiple funding components. Region O has already initiated two components. The next component, referred to as “Task 4D”, provides funding for evaluating each potentially feasible water management strategy (WMS). Using a template provided by the TWDB, Mr. Schuster walked the planning group through the requirements for requesting funding. Once the WMSs have been identified, Mr. Schuster will outline individual procedures for evaluating each strategy and the anticipated deliverable. As these are completed, the planning group will be asked to approve the scope of work, authorize the HPWD to request the funding, and to amend its agreement with TWDB.

Doug Shaw told the planning group that they did not have to submit a request for all WMSs at one time. Requests can be submitted as WMSs are identified.

Before proceeding, Mr. Schuster asked the planning group if anyone wanted to add other WMSs to the existing list. Ken Rainwater requested that “brackish water” be a strategy instead of specifying “Lubbock’s brackish water” as a strategy. Mr. Schuster will make that correction.

Mr. William Asquith asked if storm water harvesting would be considered a WMS. He mentioned several potential opportunities (Lubbock, Hereford, Plainview, and Brownfield). Mr. Schuster indicated that if storm water harvesting is mentioned by these or any other water user group as a WMS, then it will be considered in the plan.

Using grey water reuse as an example, Melanie Barnes asked if educating individuals could be a strategy. Mr. Schuster noted that while it may be difficult to quantify as a WMS education could be a sub strategy under any strategy.

Jim Conkwright asked Sara Eatman if during her interviews any new WMSs had been identified. Ms. Eatman mentioned that a lot of smaller communities have mentioned the regionalization of reuse facilities, the pooling together of wastewater for treatment and reuse.

As the interviews are completed, Mr. Schuster will update the list of WMSs and forward them to the WMS Subcommittee for comment. And as the WMSs are confirmed, he will complete the 4D Task scope of work for each WMSs.

**12. Receive a report on the methodology for determining irrigation conservation.**

Stefan Schuster explained that he initially developed the irrigation demands by subtracting non-irrigation demands from the managed available groundwater (MAG) provided by TWDB. A

question came back from the TWDB asking how irrigation conservation savings as a strategy was incorporated. Using the presentation materials provided to the planning group, Mr. Schuster explained the methodology.

The scenario considers possible irrigation conservation savings for on-farm delivery. Assuming that a significant component of irrigated acreage is already applying efficiency measure (WMSs approved in the previous regional plan), possible conservation savings for on-farm delivery were applied to those irrigated acres that are not covered by some sort of efficiency measure. And because not all irrigated acres will adopt efficiency measures, he applied an adoption rate of 20 to 40 percent. After applying these assumptions, projected irrigation conservation savings in 2010 could be as much as 400,000 acre-feet and then decreasing through 2070 to 212,000 acre-feet.

Ken Rainwater pointed out some errors in the summation of the figures. Mr. Schuster will make the corrections.

Aubrey Spear asked that any reference to the use of Lake Alan Henry as an irrigation supply be deleted from the report. Mr. Schuster will make the correction.

**13. Receive a report on the Estimated Working Schedule: Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning.**

Stefan Schuster walked the planning group through the planning requirements and deadlines for submitting each component to the TWDB. All demand projections are due to TWDB no later than August 16; the evaluation of water source availability and existing water supplies must be completed by December 2013; and the identification of potentially feasible water management strategies must be completed no later than January 2014. The technical memos preceding the submittal of the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) are due no later than May 1, 2014; the IPP is due no later than May 1, 2015; and the final plan must be adopted by the planning group and submitted to the TWDB no later than November 2, 2015.

**14. Receive a report on legislative issues related to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature.**

Sarah Clifton and Harvey Everheart gave an update on bills potentially affecting groundwater conservation districts:

SB 272/HB 2577 relating to water well record keeping and reporting requirements

SB 302/HB 3535 relating to the management, operation, rulemaking authority, and oversight of groundwater conservation districts

SB 1282 relating to deadlines for proposals for adoption by certain districts or authorities of desired future conditions of relevant aquifers

SB 873 relating to the authority of a groundwater conservation district to require a permit for the drilling and operation of a water well used to supply water for the performance of a hydraulic fracturing treatment on an oil or gas well.

SB 2133 relating to public policy for the use of innovative and alternate water treatment technologies for water development purposes and to the establishment of the Texas Center for Innovative Desalinization Technology

**15. Receive a report from the Region O Administrator.**

Jim Conkwright told the planning group that the group will continue using a court reporter to record the meeting. The use of a court reporter has not only resulted in the preparation of more accurate minutes but has also reduced staff time and the cost of preparing the minutes.

**16. Receive a report from GMA #2 and GMA #6 representatives.**

Neither GMA #2 nor GMA #6 has met since the last Region O meeting. Jack Campsey discussed the water restrictions in Wichita Falls (no outside water use at all), the operation of a new well field in Greenbelt, and the impact of an increase in water fracturing. Doug Shaw added that Wichita County Irrigation District is reconsidering the drought triggers in their drought contingency plan.

Sherry Stephens reported that Ronnie Hopper replace Jim Conkwright as the HPWD representatives on GMA #2.

**17. Receive a report from liaisons to other regional planning groups.**

Region A: Doug Shaw reported that Region A has approved all their non-municipal demands projections and their consultant is in the process of interviewing municipal users so they can finalize their municipal demands.

Region B: No report.

Region F: Doug Shaw reported that Colorado River Municipal Water District is replacing the City of Can Angelo as the political subdivision for Region F. Region F has approved all their non-municipal demands projections and their consultant is in the process of interviewing municipal users so they can finalize their municipal demands. Mr. Shaw also mentioned that CRMWD's reuse project went online in May.

Region G: Mike McClendon reported that while lake levels are down, Brazos River Authority is still able to meet all demands.

**18. Receive a report from the TWDB Project Manager.**

Doug Shaw introduced himself and mentioned that Angela Kennedy was sorry she didn't get to attend another Region O meeting before she left. Mr. Shaw is currently the Project Manager for Region A and Region B and feels his experience with these two regions makes him an asset to Region O. Chairman Brown concurred.

Chairman Brown and Mr. Shaw reported on the Regional Chairman's conference call. Another conference call will be scheduled shortly after the legislative session ends. Other points of interest include (1) the planning group's responsibility to go back and prioritize projects included in the 2011 plan and then do the same for 2015 and (2) if the TWDB receives the funding they are expecting they will not fund projects that were not originally included in the 2011 plan unless some changed condition has prompted their inclusion in the plan.

Chairman Brown asked Mr. Shaw to report on the recent article published in the Lubbock Avalanche Journal about the TWDB prioritizing projects. Mr. Shaw confirmed that the TWDB did not prioritize any projects. The TWDB was asked to provide a list of projects to answer a very specific question. They did so. The media took the list and turned it into an inaccurate news story.

**19. Receive public input and comments to the planning group.**

No comments provided.

**20. Consider a date and agenda items for the next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on June 27, 2013.

**21. Conduct other business.**

Kent Satterwhite reported on a meeting of the Drought Contingency Planning and Water Conservation Subcommittee. The subcommittee met to discuss the new Chapter 7 drought

planning requirements affecting regional water planning. Stefan Schuster will work through the subcommittee to prepare the documentation required to meet the TWDB requirements.

Chairman Brown asked if public water supplies (PWS) set their drought triggers or if this is the responsibility of the planning group. Mr. Schuster stated that the TCEQ requires that (PWS) prepare a drought contingency plan and that such plans must include triggers for implementation. However, if the planning group wants to make recommendations over and above what is required by existing law it may do so.

Aubrey Spear reported on the status of the process for filling the vacant “public interest” position on the Brazos River and Associated Bay and Estuary System Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC). The meeting was cancelled and is rescheduled for June 2013.

**22. Adjourn the meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 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**