

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

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. Notice of today's meeting has been provided to each member and has been filed in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

**2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS & ESTABLISH QUORUM**

**The following Llano Estacado Water Planning Group members were in attendance:** John Abernathy, Delaine Baucum, Bruce Blalack, Dallas Brewer, H.P. Brown Jr., Ches Carthel, Jim Conkwright, Delmon Ellison Jr., Bill Harbin, Richard Leonard, Don McElroy, Kent Satterwhite, and S.M. True Jr.

**Unable to attend (excused absences):** Those unable to attend today's meeting were: Harvey Everheart, Bob Jossierand, Terry Lopas, Gene Montgomery, Henry Rieff, Jim Steiert, Lloyd Urban, and Jerry Webster.

**Absent members (unexcused absences):** None.

There was a quorum of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members in attendance (13 of 21 members or 70% attendance).

**Others in attendance:** Dr. Herb Grubb of HDR Engineering Inc., Stefan Schuster with the Texas Water Development Board, Joan Glass with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Ernest Terry with the City of Bovina, Don McReynolds with the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, Ray Brady with the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District, Brandon Lipps with Senator Robert Duncan's Lubbock office, Tommy O'Brien with White River Municipal Water District, Ben Weinheimer with Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Neil Blandford with Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, Richard Smith with the Texas Water Development Board, David Turnbough with Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, Bruce Rigler with the High Plains Water District, and Clyde Crumley with the Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District. Carmon McCain of the High Plains Water District staff was present to take minutes of the meeting.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2002 LERWPG MEETING.** A motion was made by Bill Harbin and seconded by Richard Leonard that the minutes of the May 16, 2002 LERWPG meeting be approved as printed. (Copies of these minutes had been distributed by e-mail to members prior to this meeting.) **All voted "aye," and the motion unanimously passed.**

**4. APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT.** In the absence of Secretary-Treasurer Lloyd Urban, Vice-Chairman Ches Carthel reported a fund balance of \$1,293.89 as of June 30, 2002. Since that time, receipts totaled \$750.00 and disbursements totaled \$2,043.89. The fund balance as of August 29, 2002 is \$0.00. (A copy of the treasurer's report is included as part of these minutes.) A motion to accept the report as presented was made by Delmon Ellison Jr. and seconded by Dallas Brewer. **All voted "aye," and the motion unanimously passed.**

**5. REPLACEMENT OF THE NON-VOTING LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONS B AND REGION O.**

Chairman Brown noted that the death of A. Wayne Wyatt has left the position of non-voting liaison between Regions B and O open since December 2000. He had previously asked for volunteers to serve in this capacity. Again hearing no volunteers, Mr. Brown recommended that no action be taken on this agenda item and that it be considered at a future meeting. **A motion to table was made by Ches Carthel and seconded by Don McElroy. All voted "aye," and the motion unanimously passed.**

**6. THE PLANNING GROUP WILL CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A REGIONAL WATER PLANNING CONTRACT BETWEEN THE HIGH PLAINS UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NO. 1 AND THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Chairman Brown asked High Plains Underground Water Conservation District Manager Jim Conkwright to give an overview on the proposed regional water-planning contract between the district and the TWDB. On March 18, 2002, the High Plains Water District filed an application to serve as the local contractor for preparation of the 2006 Llano Estacado Regional Water Management Plan. He noted that the water district board of directors has not yet approved this contract as they are waiting to approve it and the HDR contract at their September meeting. Of the \$612,065 in funding requested, only \$320,177 has been appropriated. It is likely that the group will have to work through only those tasks for which they have funding—and then send a status report to the TWDB that no additional work can be completed until supplemental funding is provided. Mr. Conkwright presented a handout containing the task budget, expense budget, and the schedule for development of the 2005 regional water management plan. **A motion to approve the contract was made by Delmon Ellison Jr. and seconded by Bill Harbin. All voted "aye," and the motion unanimously passed.**

**7. PRESENTATION BY THE CITY OF LUBBOCK REGARDING ITS PROPOSED APPLICATION TO THE TWDB FOR GRANT FUNDING TO PROVIDE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPLY TO AREA TOWNS.**

Ches Carthel with the City of Lubbock told the planning group that recent drought conditions have significantly reduced the amount of water in storage at MacKenzie Reservoir and White River Lake. These reservoirs supply water to several small towns in the region. The City of Lubbock realizes that water is essential for the success of the regional economy. Because of this, they plan to seek grant funding from the Texas Water Development Board for water infrastructure and supply to smaller towns in the region.

Using a regional map illustrating the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority pipeline and the City of Lubbock pipeline, Mr. Carthel pointed out the location of the City of Lubbock's water supplies. The city currently has a 50-year supply of water from CRMWA and the Bailey County well field. This will be extended to a 100-year supply once Lake Alan Henry is put into use.

It is the city's desire to create a regional "water grid," similar to electrical grids. This would allow additional surface and ground water to be transported throughout the region to areas where it is needed. Mr. Carthel stated that the impetus for this project came from Lubbock Mayor Marc McDougal after receiving several requests for water assistance from neighboring towns and cities.

Mr. Carthel stated that the project has a wide range of options that will depend upon water needs, pipeline costs, and available funding. They may have to scale back somewhat and address the MacKenzie/White River problems first—and then look at the larger regional water supply issue.

Chairman Brown commended the City of Lubbock for its leadership and regional vision approach. The concept of a regional water pipeline system had been presented to the former mayor and city council—but received lukewarm response. He welcomed the City of Lubbock's interest and participation in such a regional water project.

Mr. Tommy O'Brien, manager of the White River Municipal Water Authority, told the group that his board of directors is examining the feasibility of intercepting stream flow from the North Fork of the Yellow House Canyon Fork of the Brazos River near Post and diverting it to White River Lake. His organization is applying for a planning and research grant from the TWDB to conduct this feasibility study.

He has requested support of this action from several local elected officials and wants to include the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group as well. Mr. Brown told Mr. O'Brien that official action could be taken on this later today under "Other Business." **Since this was for informational purposes only, the LERWPG took no official action on Mr. Carthel's report.**

## **8. STATUS REPORT ON THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE 2006 REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Consultant Herb Grubb of HDR Engineering told the group that population projections for the 21 counties in the Llano Estacado Water Planning region and each of the 75 water user groups have been provided to counties, cities, councils of governments, LERWPG members, and other selected groups for review and comment. Deadline for comments is September 16. Dr. Grubb noted that a series of TWDB requirements must be met if reviewers request a change to their respective population projections.

Dr. Grubb then reviewed the tasks associated with the scope of work for the 2006 Llano Estacado Regional Water Plan. Task 1 is an update of the planning area description; Task 2 is review/revision of the population and water demand projections; Task 3 is analysis of the current water supply in the LE region; Task 4 is the identification, evaluation, and selection of water management strategies; Task 5 is the impacts of selected water management strategies on key parameters of water quality and the impacts of moving water from rural and agricultural areas; Task 6 is water conservation and drought management recommendations; Task 7 is a description of how the regional water plan is consistent with long-term protection of state water resources, agricultural resources, and natural resources; Task 8 is additional recommendations including unique ecological stream segments, reservoir sites, and legislative/regional policy issues; Task 9 is the report to the legislature on water infrastructure funding recommendations; and Task 10 is the adoption of the plan—including public participation, facilitation, implementation, and project management. The initially prepared plan is due to the TWDB on April 30, 2005 and the adopted final plan is due December 31, 2005.

**Since this was for informational purposes only, the LERWPG took no official action on this report.**

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER AUTHORITY**

Mr. O'Brien restated that the White River Municipal Water Authority board of directors is seeking a planning and research grant from the TWDB to examine the feasibility of diverting stream flow from the North Fork of the Yellow House Canyon Fork of the Brazos River near Post to White River Lake. He said that he would appreciate the support of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group in this effort. A motion was made by Jim Conkwright and seconded by Delmon Ellison Jr. to support the White River Municipal Water Authority's efforts to seek TWDB grant funding. **All voted "aye," and the motion unanimously passed.**

### **GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATION**

Chairman Brown advised the group of the upcoming statewide public meetings to discuss the ground water management area (GMA) designations proposed by the TWDB. There will be a meeting September 6, 2002 at

6:30 p.m. at the Plainview Country Club. LERWPG members are encouraged to attend.

### **CONCERNS ABOUT REGULATION OF THE OGALLALA AQUIFER**

Mr. Ellison discussed a recent newspaper article discussing Texas-New Mexico water issues /concerns. Even after educational meetings, there is still concern from New Mexico legislators about depletion of ground water along the state line. He encouraged the group to be aware of this issue.

Mr. Clyde Crumley also discussed U.S. Senate Bill 2773 pertaining to monitoring, modeling, and conservation of the Ogallala aquifer. There was also considerable discussion regarding the US Geological Survey modeling of the aquifer and how it would relate to the ground water availability modeling (GAM) process already underway.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Brown mentioned a recent *New York Times* article by Douglas Jehl regarding the High Plains Ogallala aquifer and the conservation efforts associated with it.

Chairman Brown noted that there is a new publication, *Lubbock Illustrated*, that will have water-related articles in the premiere issue.

High Plains Water District Manager Jim Conkwright gave a status report on the district's precipitation enhancement program. The program has been suspended until further notice based upon feedback from residents in five counties in the western portion of the water district.

Mr. Stefan Schuster, Region O project manager with the Texas Water Development Board, discussed the following items:

- He reminded the group of the groundwater management area public meeting in Plainview on September 5, 2002.
- The TWDB and other sponsoring agencies kicked off a series of water conservation workshops on August 14, 2002 in Austin. The closest meetings to Region O will be in either Amarillo or Odessa.
- All regional water planning groups were represented at a desalination workshop held in Austin on August 21, 2002. While the current emphasis is on developing a pilot desalination plant on the Texas coast, the developing technology could have use on the Texas High Plains to desalinate brackish ground water from the Dockum aquifer.
- Contracts for the next round of the regional water planning are due to the TWDB by September 17, 2002.
- Mr. Schuster announced that the TWDB has revised its regional water planning database format to make it easier for Internet use.
- Mr. Schuster's final announcement was that he is leaving the Texas Water Development Board in mid-September to join Freese and Nichols. This is his last meeting as the Region O project manager. The Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group has enjoyed its working relationship with Mr. Schuster and wishes him the best in his new endeavor. It was the consensus of the regional water planning group members that a letter commending Mr. Schuster be sent to the Texas Water Development Board.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Carmon E. McCain**

In absence of

Lloyd V. Urban, Secretary-Treasurer