

# Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

December 15, 2005

10:00 A.M.

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## Call To Order and Welcome by Chairman H.P. Brown Jr.

Chairman H. P. Brown Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 member and was also filed in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act at the following locations: *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](http://www.llanoplan.org) and the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District web site at [www.hpwd.com](http://www.hpwd.com)*

## Roll Call Of Members and Establish Quorum.

**The following Llano Estacado Water Planning Group members were in attendance:** Chairman H.P. Brown Jr.; Vice-Chairman Ches Carthel; Secretary-Treasurer Jim Conkwright; and members Delaine Baucum; Bruce Blalack, Harvey Everheart, Bill Harbin, Doug Hutcheson, Don James, Robert Josserand, Richard Leonard, Sukant Misra; Gene Montgomery, Ken Rainwater, Kent Satterwhite, and Jim Steiert. Non-voting members in attendance were Joan Glass, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Dr. Herb Grubb, HDR Engineering in Austin, Steve Jones, Texas Department of Agriculture; Malcolm Laing, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; and Temple McKinnon, Texas Water Development Board.

**Unable to attend (excused absences):** Those unable to attend today's meeting were Melanie Barnes (out-of-country); Dallas Brewer (meeting conflict); Delmon Ellison Jr. (out-of-town wedding); Terry Lopas (meeting conflict); Don McElroy (meeting conflict); and Jared Miller (resigned due to relocation outside region.)

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

There was a quorum of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members in attendance (16 of 22 voting members or 72.7% attendance).

A letter of resignation was received from Jared Miller, who has moved from Crosbyton to accept a new position as City Manager for the City of Snyder, which is outside the LERWPG area. In the letter, Mr. Miller said he appreciated the opportunity to serve as a member of the regional water planning group representing small municipalities and apologized for the brevity of his tenure. Chairman Brown accepted the letter as presented.

Chairman Brown welcomed Mr. Bill Mullican to today's meeting. Mr. Mullican is the Deputy Executive Administrator in the Office of Planning of the Texas Water Development Board in Austin.

**Others in attendance:** Tom Adams, City of Lubbock; Elliott Blackburn, *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*; Chris Coffman, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission; Jason Coleman, South Plains Underground Water Conservation District; Clyde Crumley, Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District; David Dunn, HDR Engineering of Austin; Greg Ingham, City of Plainview; Debby Hansard with Senator Robert Duncan's office; Kevin Hopson, Daniel B. Stephens and Associates; Don McReynolds, High Plains Water District; Bruce Rigler, High Plains Water District; Stefan Schuster, Freese and Nichols; Jim Stefanov, USGS, David Wheelock, Brazos River Authority; and C. E. Williams, Region A Chairman & Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District Manager.

Carmon McCain of the High Plains Water District staff was also present to take minutes of the meeting.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **Approval of the November 10, 2005 regular meeting minutes.**

The minutes of the November 10, 2005 LERWPG meeting were provided to members by e-mail / hard copy for review prior to today's meeting. There being no additions or corrections, a motion was made by Jim Conkwright and seconded by Doug Hutcheson that the minutes of the November 10, 2005 LERWPG meeting be approved as printed. **All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

#### **Approval of the Financial Statement.**

The Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group financial statement as of December 15, 2005 was provided to members for review. Jim Conkwright said the report shows an ending balance of \$42,554.10. A motion to accept the report as printed was made by Robert Jossierand and seconded by Richard Leonard. **All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**The LERWPG will hear a report from Dr. Herb Grubb with HDR Engineering regarding the evaluation of additional water management strategies.**

At the November 10, 2005 meeting, the regional water planning group made several modifications to the draft initially prepared plan. Dr. Grubb made those revisions and

incorporated them into the 2006 regional water plan, which was forwarded to members on or about December 7, 2005. Dr. Grubb said no one complained about not receiving the copy—so he assumes there were no delivery problems. However, there are some changes and other information needing to be added.

Some of the ground water conservation district managers questioned the irrigated acreage figures used in the irrigation water conservation management strategy section, as presented to the LERWPG on November 10, 2005. High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 staff and USDA-NRCS staff revisited these data and some changes were made. The irrigation water management strategy has been revised. The revised strategy was based upon the same methodology as used for the version presented on November 10, 2005, however, the number of acres to which the irrigation water conservation strategy may be applied has been reduced by approximately 570,000 acres. This strategy is documented beginning on Page 4-109 of the plan.

Dr. Grubb said the basic irrigated acreage changed in 11 of the 21 counties. Most were reduced while a couple of counties showed increased irrigated acreage. The curve was shifted downward by about 20 percent from the previous version. These data are reflected on pages 4-109 through 4-126 of the plan.

He also told the group that one of the major industries in Littlefield is expanding, and as a result, will need additional water other than what is noted in the plan. The regional water planning group has received a request from the City of Littlefield to add an additional strategy (two new water wells) to the regional water plan. Chairman Brown asked Mr. Mullican if this could be done at this late date and Mr. Mullican indicated "yes" by nodding his head in the affirmative.

A motion to include the City of Littlefield strategy in the final version of the plan was made by Ches Carthel and seconded by Kent Satterwhite. **All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Dr. Grubb then asked David Dunn of HDR Engineering to explain the evaluation of the City of Lubbock's additional water management strategies, including the Lubbock Jim Bertram Lake System expansion and the Lubbock North Fork Scalping Operation.

He explained that this planning strategy would allow use of Lubbock's developed water resources, including storm water collected within the city, transferred, and discharged into Yellowhouse Canyon; ground water from the Lubbock Land Application Site; and treated wastewater discharged into Yellowhouse Canyon. This strategy would be achieved by constructing Lakes 7 & 8 in the Jim Bertram Lake System to capture, store, and divert water. This water would be treated at a new water treatment facility southeast of Lubbock.

Lake 7 would have a projected storage capacity of 20,700 acre-feet of water while Lake 8 would have a projected storage capacity of 49,900 acre-feet. The quantity of water for impoundment in the proposed lakes was estimated using Run 3 of the Brazos River Basin Water Availability Model (WAM). The model utilizes a timeframe from January 1940 through December 1997, and assumes that existing perpetual water rights are fully utilized, reservoir storage capacity is as originally described, and wastewater treatment plant effluent is fully reused. It is estimated that 22.9 million gallons per day of effluent will be available in the future to develop water supply for these reservoirs.

Mr. Dunn then reviewed Tables 4.4-55, 4.4-7A, 4.4-7B, 4.4-8A and 4.4-8B with the regional water planning group members. In addition, there was a discussion of how potentially endangered species and archeological sites might impact future development of the project. Mr. Dunn closed this discussion with an overview of the cost-estimate for the Jim Bertram Lake System Expansion at Second Quarter 2002 prices.

He then discussed the Lubbock North Fork Scalping Operation, which would involve diversion of storm water flows from the North Fork of the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River to supplement the firm annual yield of Lake Alan Henry. Mr. Dunn then discussed Table 4.4-60, Table 4.4-61, and Figures 4.4-10 & 4.4-11 with the group. Also, environmental and archaeological concerns were discussed. The discussion was concluded with an engineering and costing overview for the project.

After several questions directed to Mr. Dunn, Chairman Brown called for a motion to include the expansion of the Jim Bertram Lake System and the North Fork Scalping project in the plan. Dr. Grubb responded that these strategies had already been included during the Nov. 10 meeting and that this was the evaluation of said strategies. As a result, no action was needed by the planning group. Chairman Brown thanked Mr. Dunn for his presentation.

**The LERWPG will consider revising the City of Lubbock's population and water demand projections that are in the current draft initially prepared plan.**

Dr. Grubb explained that the City of Lubbock has asked the RWPG members to adjust the City of Lubbock population projections. State figures showed the population to increase and eventually decline; while city planners believe the city is growing at seven-tenths of a percent and rising through 2060.

Lubbock population figures for 2060 were 224,074 as presented in the draft initially prepared plan. These figures have been increased by 24,548 to 248,622.

Water demand totals were originally projected at 167 gallons of water per person per day by 2060 in the draft IPP. This has been increased by 28 gpcd to 195 gallons by 2060.

The total acre-feet demand has been revised upward from 41,915 to 54,305 by 2060.

Dr. Grubb said if the City of Lubbock's request to revise the population and water demand projections is approved by the RWPG at today's meeting, then the plan and the addendum with the revision will be submitted to the TWDB to meet the filing deadline. It appears that the TWDB staff does not have major objections to the numbers; however, the request must go before the TWDB Board for approval. If the TWDB board or other state agencies disagree with the revision, then the addendum will be removed from the plan.

Mr. Mullican said the City of Lubbock request would likely go before the TWDB Board in April or May. Approval of the LERWPG plan may likely occur at the same meeting.

Mayor Josserand stated that he did not see any downside in doing what Dr. Grubb suggested.

A motion to include the City of Lubbock's revised population and water demand projections in the final plan was made by Jim Steiert and seconded by Doug Hutcheson. **All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Lubbock Deputy City Manager Tom Adams thanked the Texas Water Development Board staff for considering the City of Lubbock's request to revise the population and water demand figures.

**The LERWPG will discuss, review, and consider interregional coordination of water plans between the Panhandle Water Planning Group (Region A) and the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (Region O).**

Chairman Brown vacated the chair at this time. Vice President Ches Carthel acted as Chairman and called on Mr. Brown to discuss this agenda item.

On November 17, 2005, Mr. Brown sent a letter to each of the regional water planning group members discussing a meeting in Plainview, where he represented the LERWPG. In addition to Mr. Brown, others included Tom Adams, Ches Carthel, Lynn Sherman, and Councilman Gary Boren with the City of Lubbock; C. E. Williams and 12 representatives from the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District and Region A; Bill Mullican and Temple McKinnon with the TWDB, Senator Robert Duncan and staff members; and Senator Kel Seliger and staff members.

As a result, Region A worked and approved language regarding interregional cooperation of water plans. A copy of said language was provided to the Region O members at today's meeting.

Mr. Brown said the language had been negotiated back and forth for about a week. During the past few days, this has been a daily negotiation.

He said it was the understanding of both Mr. Brown and Mr. Williams that whatever language was arrived at—that it was "their" language and not that of the group attending the Plainview meeting. It was their hope that any interregional conflict could be avoided as a result.

Region A approved the language as shown in the handout. Mr. Brown's approved language for Region O on Dec. 1 differed from that he saw back from Region A. Mr. Brown's language was that Region O would abide by all applicable water conservation district rules and would coordinate with other regional water planning groups as applicable. This is different from what Region A included in their plan. Their language states that Region O would abide by all applicable water conservation district rules and would honor the Region A policy goal of 50/50 and no greater than 1.25 acre-feet annual withdrawals. Mr. Brown said he chose not to use their language, but rather developed substitute language for Region O. The proposed language was reviewed by Carolyn Brittin of the TWDB and in her opinion, no interregional conflict exists. The proposed language by Mr. Brown resolved the conflict and that the TWDB would not "throw a red flag."

Mr. Brown said that whatever is agreed to, Region O would not only agree to it—but would be honor bound to the agreement in the future. He said he did not want to use precise language since regional water planning rules will likely change in the future. He said the region would abide by all applicable ground water conservation district rules; however, regional water planning policy will "ebb and flow" in the future. He did not want to paint the regional water planning group into a corner.

C. E. Williams, chairman of the Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group, said he had no major problems with the proposed language—but questioned why Chairman Brown had such a concern with it. He said all that was needed was an agreement to abide by the ground water district rules in the area where the water is produced.

With that background, a motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mayor Jossierand that the Region O sections 4.4.2.2 and 4.4.3.5.1 and 4.4.3.5.2 be adopted as an amendment into the plan. **All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Mr. Brown reassumed his duties as Chairman from Mr. Carthel at this time.

**The LERWPG will consider adopting the final version of the 2006 Llano Estacado Regional Water Plan as amended through December 15, 2005.**

A motion to adopt the final version of the 2006 Llano Estacado Regional Water Plan as amended through December 15, 2005 was made by Robert Josserand and seconded by Bill Harbin. **All 15 members in attendance voted "aye," and the motion was approved.** *(This represents 2/3 of the regional water planning group members and the vote was in accordance with Article IX of the LERWPG by-laws.)*

Chairman Brown commended each planning group member for their hard work in creating such a "marvelous document."

Gene Montgomery thanked Chairman Brown for his leadership during this planning cycle.

Ches Carthel thanked Dr. Herb Grubb and the staff of HDR Engineering for their diligent work on the plan, particularly during the past few weeks as they worked the City of Lubbock's request for revised population and water demand numbers into the plan.

Chairman Brown also offered special commendation to Jim Steiert for his work on the section discussing springs in the region and to Dr. Judy Reeves for her work on the Bailey County well field data.

**The LERWPG will consider authorizing its consulting firm, HDR Engineering of Austin, to submit the approved version of the plan to the Texas Water Development Board prior to the January 5, 2006 deadline.**

A motion was made by Ches Carthel and seconded by Jim Conkwright to authorize HDR Engineering to submit the approved version of the plan to the TWDB prior to the January 5, 2006 deadline. **All voted "aye," and the motion carried.** Dr. Grubb reminded Chairman Brown that the LERWPG will need to submit a letter to the TWDB asking their consideration of the revised City of Lubbock population and water demand projections which will be included as an addendum to the final plan.

### **Brief Recess**

Chairman Brown called for a brief recess at 11:20 a.m.

## Reconvene

Chairman Brown reconvened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. He then asked Mr. Mullican if he would like to make any remarks to the group. Mr. Mullican thanked the members for their dedicated work during this five-year planning cycle. It is through their dedicated work that Texas is recognized as a leader in water planning efforts.

He reported that a meeting of all regional water planning group chairs and other interested parties is set for mid-February. It is hoped that this meeting will provide an insight into ways the regional water planning effort can be improved for the third planning cycle. He said the planning effort should be now shifting from planning to enhancing strategies and implementing projects.

He commended Ms. McKinnon for her work as project manager for Regions A, B, and O. Mullican said she has done a good job working in the three regions.

### **The LERWPG will hear a report from Dr. Herb Grubb with HDR Engineering, Inc.**

Dr. Grubb had no additional comments at this time.

### **The LERWPG will hear a report from LERWPG Project Manager Temple McKinnon.**

Ms. McKinnon said it has been a pleasure working with the LERWPG members. She also mentioned the mid-February regional water planning group chairs meeting.

### **The LERWPG will hear a report from the Regional Water Planning Group liaisons.**

- Region A:** Region A meets tomorrow (Dec. 16) to approve their plan.
- Region B:** Region B met today to approve their plan.
- Region F:** Region F has approved their plan.
- Region G:** Region G has approved their plan.

Mayor Josseland said that he felt it would be a good idea to take Mr. Williams' earlier suggestion seriously and have members of the Region A and Region O planning groups get together in a social setting to get to know one another better as the two regions will have to work together in the future.

## Other Business

- A. Public Comment: Chairman Brown asked for additional public comments from the audience. None were provided.
- B: Dr. Grubb said both he and the staff of HDR Engineering have enjoyed working with the LERWPG members on the revised 2006 plan.

## Adjourn

There being no additional business, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

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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,



**Jim Conkwright, Secretary-Treasurer**

**These minutes were approved by Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members at their July 27, 2006 regular meeting at Lubbock, Texas.**