

# Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

November 12, 2015

10:00 a.m.

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 Office  
2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock TX

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## 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 in Lubbock, Texas.

Notice of the meeting was provided to each voting/non-voting member/interested parties 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](http://www.hpwd.com), and the regional water planning group web site at [www.llanoplan.org](http://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, H. P. Brown, Jr., Jack Campsey, Jason Coleman, Harvey Everheart, Ronnie Hopper, Doug Hutcheson, Mark Kirkpatrick, Michael McClendon, Charlie Morris, Dr. Ken Rainwater, Kent Satterwhite, Aubrey Spear, Jim Steiert, John Taylor, and Jimmy Wedel.

A quorum of Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members was in attendance (*16 of 20 voting members or 80% attendance*).

**Voting members unable to attend (excused absences):** Delmon Ellison, Bill Harbin, and Don McElroy.

**Voting members unable to attend (unexcused absences):** Tom Simons.

**Non-voting members in attendance:** Non-voting members in attendance were Sarah Backhouse, TWDB; John Clayton, TPWD; Amy Ewing, Daniel B. Stephens and Associates; Beth Salvias, Daniel B. Stephens and Associates; Jason Lindeman, TCEQ; and Matt Williams, TDA.

**Non-voting members unable to attend (excused absences):** None.

**Others in attendance:** The following names were obtained from a sign-in sheet at today's meeting. Kody Bessent, HPWD staff; Amber Blount, Sandy Land UWCD; Kelly Davila, SPAG; J. O. Dawdy, Protect Water Rights Coalition; Adeline Fox, HPWD staff; David Gibson, Texas Corn Producers; Lindy Harris, South Plains UWCD; Lauren Heinrich, Texas Cattle Feeders Association; GayLynn Hobgood, Office of Rep. John Frullo; Malcolm Laing, City of Lubbock; Michael Lowe, City of Lubbock; Dan Seale, HPWD Board Member; Belinda Solis, SPAG; Greg Stanton, USGS, Ben Weinheimer, Texas Cattle Feeders Association; Shawn Wade, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.; Deanya Williams, Mesa UWCD; and Kelly Young, Protect Water Rights Coalition.

*(There may have been others in attendance--but they did not sign in at the start of the meeting.)*

Carmon McCain of the High Plains Water District staff served as recording secretary for the meeting. Cathy Sosebee with Cathy Sosebee and Associates transcribed the meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**3. Discuss and take possible action to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2015 regular meeting.**

Draft minutes of the October 8, 2015 regular meeting were provided to the members prior to today's meeting. There being no additions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes as printed was made by Vice-Chairman Aubrey Spear and seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Doug Hutcheson. All members voted "aye" and the minutes were unanimously approved.

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

The October 2015 financial report was provided to the members prior to today's meeting. Secretary-Treasurer Hutcheson reported an October 31, 2015 bank balance of \$125,659.25. A motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Ronnie Hopper and seconded by Jimmy Wedel. All members voted "aye" and the financial report was unanimously approved as presented.

**5. The LERWPG will appoint a committee to nominate 2016 officers.**

Chairman Brown announced that he is resigning from the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group at the conclusion of the fourth regional water planning cycle. He has served as Region O Chairman since the death of A. Wayne Wyatt in December 2000. He told the group that he is just going to be outside looking at cows as well as spoiling his grandchildren. "It has been a real pleasure knowing you all and being with you. Thank you for all your help and support."

Chairman Brown asked persons interested in serving on the nominating committee to see him during the break. Those who would like to be considered for officers in 2016 cannot serve on the nominating committee. No action was taken on this agenda item.

As a housekeeping matter, Chairman Brown asked the public to reserve their comments/questions until Agenda Item 18.

**6. Discuss and take possible action to move approve moving funds between project tasks and submit a budget memorandum request to the TWDB.**

Chairman Brown asked Amy Ewing with Daniel B. Stephens and Associates to discuss this agenda item. Ms. Ewing called the group's attention to the Nov. 3, 2015 letter from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates to High Plains Underground Water Conservation District. The Region O project consultant requests approval to move a total of \$46,000 in remaining budget funds from completed tasks to other tasks that took more effort than their current budgets allowed. The total project budget will remain unchanged.

- Phase 1 will be increased \$6,000 from \$12,763.00 to \$18,763.00.
- Phase 4D will be increased \$8,000 from \$277,177.00 to \$285,177.00.
- Phase 5 will be reduced \$14,307.00 from 17,302.00 to 2,994.50.
- Phase 6 will be reduced \$20,716.00 from 22,375.00 to 1,659.00.
- Phase 7 will be increased \$7,000 from 53,430.00 to 60,430.00.
- Phase 8 will be reduced \$4,976.50 from \$6,413.00 to \$1,436.50.
- Phase 9 will be reduced \$1,000 from \$4,216.00 to \$3,216.00.
- Phase 10 will be increased \$9,000 from \$128,609.00 to \$137,609.00.
- Phase 11 will be reduced \$5,000 from \$18,396.00 to \$13,396.00
- Phase 12 will be increased \$14,000 from \$11,578.00 to \$25,578.00.
- Phase 13 will be increased \$2,000 from \$4,980.00 to \$6,980.00.

There being no other discussion, a motion to approve moving funds between project tasks and to submit a budget memorandum request to the TWDB was made by Harvey Everheart and seconded by Mark Kirkpatrick. All members voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.

**7. Discuss and consider adopting the final version of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Management Plan with the provision that non-substantive edits may be made by the technical consultants, if needed.**

Ms. Ewing and Ms. Salvas provided a brief update on the tasks they accomplished since the October 8, 2015 meeting. The tasks include:

- Finalizing the 2011 Implementation Surveys.
- Finalizing the 2016 Infrastructure Financing Surveys.
- Completing and posting the revised chapters of the 2016 plan.
- Completing and posting the final TWDB RTC.
- Completing the 2016 Project Prioritization (Agenda Item 10).

Ms. Ewing asked if there were any comments/discussion about the final plan. Dr. Rainwater asked if specific chapters were going to be addressed at today's meeting. He said he had some questions about wording in some places—he will send a marked-up version with his questions to Ms. Ewing.

Vice-Chairman Spear noted that the LERWPG members have been working on this plan for the past five years. He has reviewed the proposed final document as redlined, and is pleased that the group has addressed the City of Lubbock's water management strategies and comments, as outlined earlier in the planning process.

There being no other comments or discussion, a motion to adopt the 2016 LERWPG plan as presented, with the provision that non-substantive edits can be made by the technical consultants and/or the political subdivision staff (HPWD), was made by Jim Steiert and seconded by Mark Kirkpatrick. All members voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.

**8. Discuss and consider authorizing the LERWPG Administrator and Technical Consultant to forward the final version of the 2016 Llano Estacado Regional Water Management Plan to the Texas Water Development Board by the December 1, 2015 deadline as set by statute.**

Mr. Steiert made a motion to authorize the LERWPG Administrator and Technical Consultant to forward the final version of the 2016 Llano Estacado Regional Water Management Plan to the Texas Water Development Board by the December 1, 2015 deadline as set by statute. John Taylor seconded the motion. All members voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Brown, Vice-Chairman Spear, and Secretary-Treasurer Hutcheson then signed the following resolution:

*“BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (“Region O”) adopts the 2016 Llano Estacado Regional Water Plan, pending final changes, and approves the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 and Daniel B. Stephens & Associates to submit the final plan, following completion of changes, to the Texas Water Development Board by December 1, 2015.*

*“This resolution was unanimously adopted by the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group membership at their November 12, 2015 regular meeting in Lubbock, Texas.”*

## **9. The LERWPG will hear a report from the water management strategies prioritization subcommittee.**

Chairman Brown asked Vice-Chairman Spear to report on this subcommittee's recommendations.

The group met October 21, 2015 at the HPWD office to discuss the draft scoring. Members included Committee Chairman Spear, Committee Vice-Chairman Dr. Ken Rainwater, Jason Coleman, Melanie Barnes, Mark Kirkpatrick, Kent Satterwhite, and Jim Steiert.

Vice-Chairman Spear noted the following:

- Regional prioritization of water projects accounts for 15 percent of the total score for the TWDB SWIFT program funding. The top 10 percent of projects (1-11) received 15 points. The lower 20 percent of projects (91-112) receive no points.
- The group discussed the implications of including projects without identified sponsors in the top few tiers.
- Prioritization criteria were as follows:
  - Criteria # 1: Decade of need for project (40 percent).
  - Criteria # 2: Project feasibility (10 percent).
  - Criteria # 3: Project viability (25 percent).
  - Criteria # 4: Project sustainability (15 percent).
  - Criteria # 5: Project cost effectiveness (10 percent).
- The top 10 percent Region O results include:
  - 8 groundwater development projects.
  - 1 potable reuse projects.
  - 1 surface water development project.
  - 1 water loss reduction project.

Based upon the infrastructure finance survey responses for potential funding, nine projects were in the top 10 percent; seven projects were in the top 11-20 percent; and five projects were in the top 21-40 percent.

Chairman Brown thanked Vice-Chairman Spear and the subcommittee for their work.

**10. Discuss and consider adopting the 2016 water management strategies project prioritization.**

Chairman Brown called for the group to discuss and consider adopting the 2016 water management strategies project prioritization.

Mr. Everheart said the Region O prioritization identified and addressed the needs of the area in a better manner than what they had in Region F. He commended Vice-Chairman Spear and the subcommittee for their work and the results to be placed in the plan.

Based upon the previous report, Mr. Kirkpatrick made a motion to adopt the water management strategies project prioritization. Michael McClendon seconded the motion. All members voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.

**11. Discuss and consider authorizing the LERWPG Administrator and Technical Consultant to forward the approved water management strategies project prioritization to the TWDB by the December 1, 2015 deadline.**

There being no discussion, Mr. Hopper moved that the approved water management strategies be submitted to the TWDB by the December 1, 2015 deadline. Mr. Steiert seconded the motion. All members voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION:**

**12. Receive a Report from the Region O Project Manager.**

Ms. Backhouse noted that the abridged application period for the next round of SWIFT funding will open December 1, 2015 and will continue through February 5, 2016. The abridged applications are very brief and allow the TWDB to get just enough information to prioritize the projects. Invitations to submit full applications would follow later in the year.

Vice-Chairman Spear asked about the length of time it takes to receive funding following approval of the SWIFT application. Ms. Backhouse said she believed it took about a year. With that in mind, Vice-Chairman Spear said cities need to apply now if they are within a year of needing the funding.

### **13. Receive a Report from the Region O Technical Consultant.**

Ms. Ewing said the group needs to determine the number of hard copies of the 2016 plan to be produced for distribution. With the draft Initially Prepared Plan, the LERWPG was required to submit hard copies to one public library per county in the region and also the county courthouse in each county. This is not required for the final plan.

She has started a list with names of individuals that want a printed copy of the plan. LERWPG members should contact her if they want a printed copy as well.

Chairman Brown said it was his experience that Garza County residents read the hard copy placed at the library and at the county clerk's office.

Ms. Ewing said the final plan will be posted to the LERWPG website ([www.llanoplan.org](http://www.llanoplan.org)) in its entirety as well as the TWDB website.

After brief discussion, Charlie Morris made a motion to place hard copies of the 2016 plan at each County Clerk's office in the region and CDs of the plan in the local libraries. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. All members voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **14. Receive a Report from the current Region O Administrator.**

With the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of regional water planning ending, this is the last meeting that High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 will serve as the political subdivision administering Region O. These duties will be transferred to the South Plains Association of Governments in January 2016.

Mr. Coleman reported that HPWD staff have worked with Kelly Davila and Belinda Solis of SPAG to make the transition as easy as possible between the two agencies.

Chairman Brown asked about some aspects of the transition, including bank signature cards, records transfer, and audit of financial records (TWDB).

Mr. Everheart said he appreciates the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District and their contributions to the regional water planning process during the past 18 years. He said the group looks forward to working with the SPAG staff and anticipates a smooth transition as well.

Chairman Brown and Kent Satterwhite thanked Carmon McCain for his many years of service as HPWD staff liaison to Region O. Mr. McCain thanked the group for their kind words and noted other staff members, such as Becca Williams, Kathryn CdeBaca, Mike McGregor, and Sherry Stephens, who have served in this capacity throughout the years.

### **15. Receive a Report from the new Region O Administrator.**

Kelly Davila said she and Belinda Solis have met with HPWD staff on several occasions to discuss the transition. The meetings have been very productive and the HPWD staff have been very helpful. They will continue to be helpful in answering questions throughout the process.

She noted that there are a couple of processes that must take place before technical work begins on the fifth cycle of regional water planning. This includes: (1) a public input meeting about the proposed scope of work, and (2) procurement of the technical consultant. Other administrative tasks include appointment of a nominating committee and a review of the LERWPG By-Laws.

Vice-Chairman Spear asked if cities and other local political subdivisions/groups have been billed for their pro-rata share of funding for the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of regional water planning. Ms. Davila said this task is underway and is almost complete.

### **16. Receive A Report from the GMA # 2 and GMA # 6 Representatives.**

Chairman Brown called for a report from the GMA # 2 and GMA # 6 representatives.

**GMA # 2:** Mr. Hopper had no report. However, he asked Mr. Coleman or Mr. Spear to tell the group about the upcoming Water Advancement, Technology, Training, and Solutions (WATTS) Conference to be held March 22, 2016 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. Mr. Spear noted that this is a spin-off of the biennial water conservation symposium held in Amarillo. It is hoped that the afternoon/evening conference format will reach not just the business community—but the general public as well.

Adeline Fox with HPWD is working to promote the conference/trade show. She told the group that a website ([www.h2oblueideas.com](http://www.h2oblueideas.com)) will soon have additional information about the conference, its agenda, and its speakers.

**GMA # 6:** Jack Campsey reported that GMA # 6 met October 21, 2015 at Munday. The group continues to work on the progress/review of explanatory reports. They also agreed to hire an independent contractor to conduct groundwater modeling. The next GMA # 6 meeting is set for January 28<sup>th</sup>.



## **17. Receive reports from liaisons to other regional water planning groups.**

Chairman Brown called for a report from the liaisons to other regional water planning groups.

**Region A:** Kent Satterwhite reported that Region A is meeting November 17<sup>th</sup> to adopt their final plan.

**Region B:** Jack Campsey reported that Region B met October 21 in Wichita Falls to adopt their final plan.

**Region F:** Harvey Everheart reported that Region F was the first region in Texas to adopt their 2016 regional plan back in September.

**Region G:** Michael McClendon reported that Region G met last week to adopt their 2016 regional water plan and to authorize submission to the TWDB.

## **18. Receive Public Input & Comments To The Regional Water Planning Group.**

Chairman Brown then called for public inputs and comments.

### **Mr. Kelly Young:**

Mr. Young said Region O had asked HDR Engineering to conduct a study about water importation to the area in 2011 or so. It was his recollection that it would cost about \$700 per acre-foot to accomplish this task. He was wondering about the current status of this proposal and why it is not included in the 2016 plan. The cost per acre-foot of imported water might be too expensive for agricultural use—but it might be reasonable for municipal use.

Ms. Ewing said water importation was included as a strategy in the 2001 and 2006 regional water plans—but not 2011. However, the group did revisit this for 2016. It was determined that it was not a potentially feasible strategy.

Mr. Steiert said part of the discussion about water importation included the political realities that no neighboring states wanted water leaving their borders to come to Texas.

Mr. Young asserted that Arkansas is the only state that would have to be traversed in order to get water from the Mississippi River to Texas. He said this water could also be of benefit to the Interstate 35 corridor while reducing flooding conditions along the Mississippi River.

Chairman Brown said he recalled Congressman George Mahon discussing the importation issue some 40 years ago. It was concluded not to be feasible even at that time.

Dr. Rainwater looked at the 2016 Region O regional water plan online, and quoted a cost of as much as \$2,800-\$3,500 per acre-foot to import water from the Mississippi River Basin.

Ms. Ewing said the group did look at water importation, and the evaluation was included as an appendix to Chapter 5 (Appendix 5G). Water importation was not a recommended strategy, and it is something that she believes will not move forward at this time. However, should someone want to proceed with it at a later date, they could build upon the current research.

**Mr. J. O. Dawdy:**

He asked if the 2016 LERWPG plan could be amended at a later date—if the NRCS or other such group—came forward to sponsor playa lake recharge efforts, water importation, or other items deemed to be unfeasible in the plan.

Vice-Chairman Spear said amendments are allowed in order to get strategies in the plan to make them eligible for funding through the TWDB. The City of Lubbock made this request during the middle of a planning cycle a few years back.

Mr. Dawdy said it appeared that TWDB Board Member Kathleen Jackson was asking for sponsors in order to utilize the money that the State is willing to lend. He visited with her about the playa lake situation—and wondered why some organization in the region doesn't sponsor such a project. He noted that his farm received 32 inches of rain during June and early July. Much of this was lost to evaporation. It seems to him that the regional water planning group should support alternatives, such as playa lake research and aquifer storage/recovery. Dr. Rainwater shared contact information for Andrew Weinberg with the TWDB who handles research and field work associated with playa recharge.

**Mr. Ben Weinheimer:**

Mr. Weinheimer has had the chance to work with the LERWPG membership for many years. This included the early Ogallala Aquifer Regional Water Plan meetings at the Ollie Liner Center in Plainview, which were led by the late A. Wayne Wyatt prior to the start of the State regional water planning process.

For the past 18 years, TCFA has been part of the regional water planning process. Mr. Weinheimer expressed the association's support of the 2016 plan—and thanked the planning group members for their dedication and service. He especially thanked Chairman Brown for his leadership.

## **19. Consider Other Business And Announcements.**

Chairman Brown asked the group if there were any additional business or announcements. There were none.

The date of the next meeting will likely be sometime in January 2016.

The meeting concluded earlier than expected. Mr. McCain said the box lunches have not been delivered as yet. As a result, Chairman Brown called for a brief recess. Once again, he invited any members to visit with him if they wished to serve on the 2016 officer nominating committee.

Chairman Brown reconvened the meeting and announced that he has appointed Harvey Everheart, Charlie Morris, and Kent Satterwhite to the 2016 officer nominating committee.

## **20. Adjournment.**

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:47 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 to the contrary is received.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Doug Hutcheson*

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**Doug Hutcheson, Secretary-Treasurer**  
Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group

*These minutes were approved at the January XX, 2016 regular meeting of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group.*