

LLANO ESTACADO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP PUBLIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 22, 2002

7:00 P.M.

Call To Order

Chairman H.P. Brown Jr. called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the USDA-ARS Plant Stress and Water Conservation Laboratory, 3810 4th Street, in Lubbock, Texas. Notice of this public hearing has been posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Welcome and Introduction of Consultant Dr. Herb Grubb

Chairman Brown welcomed those in attendance and asked Dr. Herb Grubb of HDR Engineering in Austin to present an overview of the proposed scope of work for the 2006 Llano Estacado Regional Water Plan.

Brief Overview of the Proposed 2006 Scope of Work

Dr. Grubb began his presentation by stating that the initial Llano Estacado Regional Water Management Plan had been approved by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in January 2001. It was later incorporated into the state water plan in January 2002. The regional water management plans are to be updated every five years. This public hearing begins the start of the second five-year water planning cycle.

He stated that there are 10 tasks to be addressed in this water planning cycle. Each will be reviewed tonight and the public has an opportunity to comment on each one. Following the comment period, the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (LERWPG) will file the grant application with the TWDB by April 1, 2002. The TWDB will approve the scope of work and sign a funding contract with the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No.1, which serves as the local political subdivision for administration of the plan.

Dr. Grubb then explained each of the tasks for the 2006 Llano Estacado Regional Water Plan.

- **Task 0 is development of the scope of work.**
- **Task 1 is a description of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group area, economy, and water use.** Since this section contains dated material, it will likely be finalized in 2005 in order to utilize the most current data.
- **Task 2 is a review/revision of the population growth and water demand projections.** The population growth and water demand projections were based upon the 1990 census. The TWDB will make its first projections based upon data in the 2000 census. This will include the best estimate of past/present water use. The new projections will extend to 2060 as compared to 2050 in the last planning cycle.
- **Task 3 is an analysis of current regional water supplies.** This task includes an inventory of both surface and ground water supplies. The ground water availability model (GAM) will be used in an attempt to determine projected ground water demand and supply.
- **Task 4 is to identify, select, and evaluate water management strategies.** The three work areas in this task include a comparison of water demands and supplies to compute shortages; identification and evaluation of water management strategies; and a study of the cumulative effects of the plan's implementation (i.e., effects on environment, etc.).
- **Task 5 is the impact of the water management strategies upon water quality and the impacts of moving water from rural and agricultural areas.** This would include the impact of these strategies upon water quality, people, and the economy.
- **Task 6 are water conservation and drought management recommendations.** This task would include

strategies and recommendations to homeowners/business owners to reduce water waste and improve water use efficiencies.

- **Task 7 is a description of the plan and how it is consistent with the long-term protection of the state's water resources, agricultural resources, and natural resources.**
- **Task 8 includes additional recommendations regarding the plan, including unique ecological stream segments, reservoir sites, and legislative and regional policy issues.**
- **Task 9 is a report to the legislature regarding water infrastructure issues.** As per Senate Bill 1, the LERWPG is surveying those towns/cities with identified water needs to determine how they will pay for the proposed water management strategies, if state involvement is needed, and how much state funding is needed.
- **Task 10 involves adoption of the plan—including public participation, facilitation, implementation, and project management.**

Suggestions and Recommendations from the Public

There were no suggestions or recommendations from the public at this time.

Introductions

Following Dr. Grubb's presentation, Chairman Brown introduced the following: Dr. Dan Upchurch, director of the USDA-ARS Plant Stress and Water Conservation Laboratory; Carmon McCain, who is present to take the minutes of this meeting; and Stefan Schuster, Region O representative with the TWDB.

Mr. Brown told the audience that the LERWPG consists of people representing 11 water user groups in the region. This is a very diverse and broad-based group. He stressed the fact that meetings are open to the public and encouraged members of the audience to become involved and participate in the regional water planning effort. For without water, the region will lose its agricultural economy and population. Mr. Brown lauded Senator Robert Duncan's leadership and involvement with the regional water planning effort.

Mr. Stefan Schuster of the TWDB thanked the group for their attendance and involvement.

Mr. Jim Conkwright, manager of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District, told the audience that their "grassroots" participation is critical. He noted the fact that the plan belongs to the thousands of residents of the Texas High Plains and not just the regional water planning group.

Mr. Brown then introduced the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members in attendance: Delaine Baucum; H.P. Brown Jr.; Ches Carthel; Jim Conkwright; Don McElroy; Gene Montgomery; Jim Steiert; S.M. True Jr.; and Dr. Lloyd Urban. In addition, Mr. Brown recognized State District 83 Representative Delwin Jones.

Excused Absences

The following LERWPG members were unable to attend: John Abernathy, Bruce Blalack, Judge Dallas Brewer, Delmon Ellison Jr., Bill Harbin, Bob Josserand, Richard Leonard, Henry Rieff, Jerry Webster, and Randall Wooten (Denis Qualls attended in his place).

Others in Attendance

Others attending the public hearing were Lorenc Qualls, Clyde Crumley, Dana Porter, James P. Mitchell, Ross Wilson, Bruce Biederman, Arnold Husky, Don McReynolds, H. Keith Pate, Harvey Everheart, Bruce Rigler, Tommie Weems, Don Stubbs, and Brice Clements.

Other Business

Public comments about the draft scope of work for the 2006 Llano Estacado Regional Water Plan should be submitted to Jim Conkwright, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock TX 79405-1499 by 5:00 p.m. on March 11, 2002. The LERWPG will have a meeting in mid-March to review any comments received about the draft scope of work.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.