

LLANO ESTACADO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
APRIL 18, 2002 **1:30 P.M.**

1. Call To Order and Welcome

Chairman H. P. Brown Jr. called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.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 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: Delaine Baucum, Dallas Brewer, H. P. Brown Jr., Jim Conkwright, Bill Harbin, Richard Leonard, Don McElroy, E. W. (Gene) Montgomery, Jim Steiert, and Lloyd Urban.

Unable to attend (excused absences): Those unable to attend today's meeting were: John Abernathy (death of mother), Bruce Blalack (work conflict), Delmon Ellison Jr., (meeting conflict), Harvey Everheart, (presentation at Kerrville, TX), Bob Josserand, (out-of-town—Garden City, KS), Kent Satterwhite (meeting conflict), and S. M. True Jr. (out-of-town).

Absent members (unexcused absences): Ches Carthel, Terry Lopas, and Henry Rieff.

Others in attendance: Special guests included Dr. Herb Grubb of HDR Engineering Inc., Stefan Schuster of the Texas Water Development Board, Joan Glass with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Clyde Crumley with Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District, and Jason Coleman with South Plains Underground Water Conservation District. Carmon McCain of the High Plains Water District staff was present to take minutes of the meeting.

Chairman Brown stated that there was not a quorum of the regional water planning group members present at today's meeting. (Today's attendance was 47%, with 10 of 21 members present). He extended his apologies to those members of the planning group who had traveled considerable distance to attend today's meeting.

Chairman Brown said that part of today's discussion was to have included a well spacing and production summary report from the respective underground water conservation districts in the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning area. This report will be postponed until a future meeting.

3. Approval of minutes of the March 18, LERWPG meeting.

No action was taken regarding this agenda item due to lack of quorum.

4. Approval of the Treasurer's Report.

No action was taken regarding this agenda item due to lack of quorum.

5. Replacement Of The Non-Voting Liaison Between Regions B and Region O.

No action was taken regarding this agenda item due to lack of quorum.

6. Discussion And Approval Of The Draft Infrastructure Financing Report.

No action was taken regarding this agenda item due to lack of quorum. Mr. Schuster said he has reviewed the draft infrastructure report and that a minimal amount of work is needed before submitting it to the Texas Water Development Board prior to the June 1, 2002 deadline.

7. Status Report On Scope Of Work For 2006 Llano Estacado Regional Water Plan.

No action was taken regarding this agenda item due to lack of quorum.

8. Report Regarding TWDB Population Data For 2006 Water Plan.

Consultant Herb Grubb of HDR Engineering discussed the Texas Water Development Board's population projections by county to be used in the 2006 Llano Estacado Regional Water Management Plan. He stated that the U.S. Census numbers for 2000 were lower than those projected for each county in the 2001 regional water plan. In fact, the 2000 population total was about 11,000 persons less than what was originally projected in the plan. The essential information used to make population projections to 2050 is based on the age distribution of the existing population as well as migration in and out of the area. The region (with the exception of one county) mirrors statewide age demographics as the majority of counties show a decrease in population among those 35 and younger. There is an increase in population among those 35 and older.

The TWDB computer model shows a downward trend with fewer persons in the future than planned for in the past. This is no secret to most when one considers redistricting and the fewer House/Senate seats in the region.

Dr. Grubb then presented a series of overheads that illustrated the current population projection for each county within the regional water planning area, the 2002 census data, and the projected population based upon the revised census data.

Chairman Brown asked Dr. Grubb if he found any fault in the TWDB data. Dr. Grubb said he did not find any fault with the numbers—but he is curious about some of them. This is why the TWDB is asking the regional water planning group members to review these data and raise questions, if necessary.

Chairman Brown asked that this information be sent to each county judge for review and comment. They may be the best source to verify if these data are correct or not. Comments from the judges are due back to the High Plains Water District office no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2002.

9. Other Business

Dr. Grubb asked the planning group members if they had any comments, additions, or corrections to the draft infrastructure financing report. He noted that the group might wish to consider use of state funding language similar to that in the Region A infrastructure report.

Mr. Montgomery said he had written a "white paper" on the rule of capture as it pertains to the oil and gas industry. Chairman Brown appointed a subcommittee to study this issue and report back to the regional water planning group. The members are Mr. Montgomery, chair; Ms. Baucum; Mr. Coleman; Mr. Conkwright; Mr. Crumbley; Mr. Ellison; Mr. Everheart; Mr. Leonard; Mr. McElroy; and Dr. Urban.

Mr. Schuster reported that Kevin Ward has been appointed executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board. He succeeds Craig Pedersen, who resigned to enter private business. Mr. Schuster said he was very impressed with Mr. Ward and that he has enjoyed a good working relationship with him in the past.

Chairman Brown reminded the group that its next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m., May 16, 2002, in the A. Wayne Wyatt Board Room of the High Plains Water District office. A meeting notice/agenda and draft copies of the April 18, 2002 minutes will be distributed to members for review prior to the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lloyd V. Urban
Secretary-Treasurer