

Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

July 27, 2006

10:00 A.M.

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

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, 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 and the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District web site at www.hpwd.com*

2. Roll Call Of Members and Establish Quorum.

The following Llano Estacado Water Planning Group members were in attendance: Chairman H.P. Brown Jr.; Delaine Baucum; Bruce Blalack; Dallas Brewer; Jim Conkwright; Harvey Everheart; Don James; Bob Josseland; Richard Leonard; Terry Lopas; Gene Montgomery; Ken Rainwater; Kent Satterwhite, and Jim Steiert.

Unable to attend (excused absences): Those unable to attend today's meeting were Melanie Barnes (out-of-country); Delmon Ellison Jr., (resignation pending); Bill Harbin (board meeting); Doug Hutcheson (vacation); Dr. Sukant Misra (resignation pending) and Don McElroy.

Absent members (unexcused absences): None.

There was a quorum of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group members in attendance (14 of 19 voting members or 73.6% attendance).

Others in attendance:

Tom Adams, Deputy City Manager, City of Lubbock; Jason Coleman, South Plains Underground Water Conservation District; Chris Coffman, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission; Katie Day and Debby Hansard with Senator Robert Duncan's office; Mike McGregor, Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District, Judy Reeves; Steve Stevens, Mesa Water Inc.; Ben Weinheimer, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, and C. E. Williams, Region A Chairman and Manager of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

3. Approval of the December 15, 2006 regular meeting minutes.

The minutes of the December 15, 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 Bob Josserand and seconded by Terry Lopas that the minutes of the December 15, 2005 LERWPG meeting be approved as printed. **All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

4. Approval of the Financial Statement.

The Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group financial statement as of June 30, 2006 was provided to members for review. Jim Conkwright said the report shows an ending balance of \$110,090.80. A motion to accept the report as printed was made by Judge Dallas Brewer and seconded by Kent Satterwhite. **All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

5. The LERWPG will consider extending the terms of membership of voting members, whose term expired in late 2005.

Chairman Brown called the members' attention to a spreadsheet containing their names and respective terms of office. Those members whose terms expired in late 2005 were H. P. Brown Jr., Delmon Ellison Jr., Bill Harbin, Doug Hutcheson, Don James, Richard Leonard, the municipalities' position formerly held by Jared Miller, Sukant Misra, Kent Satterwhite, and Jim Steiert. Chairman Brown said it was his understanding that these persons would serve until they were reappointed or replaced. A motion was made by Bob Josserand and seconded by Delaine Baucum that the LERWPG members whose terms expired in late 2005 be reappointed to serve until late 2007. **All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.** Dr. Rainwater questioned if the 2001 date of his appointment as contained in the spreadsheet was correct. Dr. Rainwater filled the unexpired term of Dr. Lloyd Urban, who was appointed in 2001. The spreadsheet will be updated accordingly.

6. The LERWPG will hear a report from Chairman H. P. Brown Jr. regarding filling of voting member vacancies resulting from resignations.

Chairman Brown reported that he has received resignation letters from the following LERWPG members: Judge Dallas Brewer, who is retiring from public office; Ches

Carthel, who left employment with the City of Lubbock; Jared Miller, who resigned at the December 15 2005 meeting; and Sukant Misra, who resigned July 18, due to time constraints caused by job responsibilities. Chairman Brown reported that he has received candidate packets nominating Yoakum County Judge-Elect Jim Barron to replace Judge Brewer; Lubbock Deputy City Manager Tom Adams to replace Ches Carthel; and TTU CASNR Water Center Director Dr. Don Ethridge to replace Dr. Sukant Misra. A replacement for Jared Miller has been located and he is currently preparing candidate support/nomination materials. A motion to appoint Tom Adams, Jim Barron, and Don Ethridge to the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group was made by Kent Satterwhite and seconded by Harvey Everheart. **All voted, "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.** Mr. Adams will represent large municipalities, Judge Barron will represent counties, and Dr. Ethridge will represent agriculture. Chairman Brown thanked Judge Dallas Brewer for his long-time, dedicated service to the regional water planning group.

7. The LERWPG will hear a report from the nominating committee.

Chairman Brown previously appointed a nominating committee, consisting of Delaine Baucum, Don McElroy, and Jim Steiert. Ms. Baucum presented the committee's recommended slate of officers: H. P. Brown Jr., Chairman; Jim Conkwright, Vice-Chairman; and Doug Hutcheson, Secretary-Treasurer.

8. The LERWPG will elect officers for 2006.

After the nominating committee's report, Chairman Brown asked for officer nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion was made by Ms. Baucum and seconded by Mr. Lopas that the nominating committee's report is accepted and that the 2006 officers be elected as presented. **All voted, "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

9. The LERWPG will consider continuation or replacement of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 as the political subdivision to administer the TWDB Regional Planning Grant.

In preparation for the third regional water planning cycle, a political subdivision must be selected to administer the TWDB Regional Water Planning Grant. The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, who has served in this capacity during the two previous planning cycles, has agreed to serve again, if it is the decision of the LERWPG to do so. A motion was made by Mayor Jossierand and seconded by Don James to appoint the High Plains Water District as the political subdivision to administer the grant. **All voted, "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

10. The LERWPG will consider continuation or replacement of HDR Engineering, Inc., as the technical consultant to the regional water planning group.

Also, in preparation for the third regional water planning cycle, a technical consultant to the regional water planning group must be named. HDR Engineering, Inc. and Dr. Herb Grubb have agreed to serve again, if it is the decision of the LERWPG to do so. A motion was made by Mayor Josserand and seconded by Terry Lopas for the High Plains Water District to contract with HDR Engineering Inc., as the LERWPG technical consultant. **All voted, "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Dr. Rainwater asked if the newly-appointed members of the LERWPG should be included in this decision-making process. Both Chairman Brown and Mayor Josserand said the LERWPG must move ahead due to the short time frame to develop the scope of work and have it submitted in advance of the Texas Water Development Board's Sept. 14 deadline.

Chairman Brown then called upon TWDB Project Manager Temple McKinnon to give a brief overview of the timeline associated with development of the scope of work.

Dr. Judy Reeves offered the following comments to the LERWPG members. She said it has been the customary practice of the LERWPG to use Austin firms as technical consultants for regional water planning. It is her opinion that Texas Tech University has much better expertise than most Austin firms. The regional water planning group works to support area agriculture, area municipalities, area industries, so she wondered why local and regional scientists and engineers were not employed as technical consultants to the LERWPG. She said she felt the public interest would be best served by doing so.

Also, she wondered if it would be appropriate for the LERWPG to go through a request for quote (RFQ) process for the scope of work. She said this would assure qualified people were doing the work. She noted that the recently completed regional water plans across the state did not have the seal of a professional geoscientist as required by state statute. Again, she felt the public interest would be best served by having qualified people providing scientific work for the plan.

Dr. Reeves left the meeting at this time.

11. The LERWPG will hear reports from its liaisons to other regional water planning groups.

Region A: Region A Liaison Kent Satterwhite reported that Region A meets August 18. He asked Region A Chairman C. E. Williams, Administrator Chris Coffman, or Project Manager Temple McKinnon for any additional comments. None were provided.

Region B: Region B Liaison Ches Carthel is no longer a member of the LERWPG. Chairman Brown asked Ms. McKinnon to make a report. She said Region B will hold their public meeting on August 23. Their executive committee met recently and this group will be taking an administrative track during the next two years of regional planning. They do not intend to submit a scope of work for grant funding.

Region F: Region F Liaison Harvey Everheart reported that Region F meets July 31. A public hearing on their scope of work is set for August 10. Ms. McKinnon reported that Region F Project Manager Sherry Cordry is leaving the TWDB. Her replacement is Kevin Kluge, who also serves as Region G project manager.

Region G: Region G Liaison Terry Lopas reported that 17 projects have been prioritized for the Region G Scope of Work. No date has been set as yet for their public meeting regarding the scope of work.

The LERWPG will hear a report from the interregional coordination committees working with Region A.

Chairman Brown reported on the two interregional coordination committee meetings held June 20 and July 7 in Plainview.

Following the July 7 meeting, it was agreed that the first priority in the Region A Scope of Work is the Canadian River Municipal Water District's recharge study. Region O would support the study and make it first priority in its Scope of Work as well.

Chairman Brown called upon Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group ("Region A") Chairman C. E. Williams for comments.

Mr. Williams said the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission would serve as administrator for the recharge study. It was the understanding of several members that Dr. Ken Rainwater of Texas Tech and Dr. Bridget Scanlon of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin were to work together on the

recharge study proposal. However, there may have been some confusion since Dr. Scanlon is working on her proposal and Dr. Rainwater is working on his proposal. Mr. Williams said he believes two documents are needed, so that planning group members can "pick and choose" components of the study to be included in the respective Scopes of Work. It is hoped that the study can be partially completed within the first two years of the planning cycle, then the regional water planning groups can take these data and seek additional funding from TWDB and other interested parties. Ms. McKinnon noted that the first two years of the planning cycle is for studies and the remaining three years is more traditional regional water planning activities.

Another interregional cooperation committee meeting is needed prior to the August 18 Region A meeting. It was suggested that the committee meet at 10 a.m., August 10, 2006, at the Unger Memorial Library in Plainview. All interested parties are invited to attend.

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Everheart and seconded by Mr. Conkwright that the interregional coordination committees move forward with the development of the Region O Scope of Work which has support of the CRMWA recharge project as first priority. **All voted, "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Gene Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Everheart that the Region O Scope of Work also includes development /implementation of telecommunications for joint planning meetings as the second priority of the scope of work. Mr. Williams said he thought this would be helpful due to time constraints and escalating fuel prices. **All voted, "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

The LERWPG will hear a report from Dr. Herb Grubb with HDR Engineering, Inc., regarding the third cycle of regional water planning.

Dr. Grubb thanked the LERWPG for selecting HDR Engineering as its technical consultant. He stated that he and HDR are always open to any suggestions from the regional water planning group members.

He said the Round 3 request for proposal for the first two years of the next five-year planning cycle was published in the *Texas Register* last month. The Senate Bill 1 regional water planning instruction sheet provided to attendees at today's meeting shows the timeline for applications, eligible applicants, eligible tasks, and funding for the first biennium of the regional water planning cycle.

Dr. Grubb said funding for the first biennium of the regional water planning cycle is limited to a maximum of \$6.6 million. Approximately \$990,000, or 15 percent, is budgeted to the regional water planning groups for administrative costs. (\$44,475 is budgeted to Region O). The remaining \$5,610,000, or 85 percent, will be awarded by task on a competitive basis. Proposals for work necessary to complete the 2011 regional water plans and related funding will be considered during the third, fourth, and fifth years of the regional water planning cycle.

Tasks should be related to the following activities:

- Evaluation of new water management strategies in response to changed conditions;
- Studies that will further implementation of recommended water management strategies;
- Refinement of water supply information or water management strategies;
- Activities that will help overcome problems from the last round of planning;
- Further evaluation of water management strategies, especially regional solutions, to meet needs in small and rural areas;
- Reevaluation of population and demand projections only under the presence of changed conditions;
- Interregional cooperation; and
- Administrative and public participation activities.

He added that some regions are working on more active outreach programs to inform people about their plan's content.

Dr. Grubb said he would have the draft scope of work completed by the August 31 LERWPG meeting.

Ms. McKinnon said it is important to include as many of the tasks as possible in the scope of work to be developed. Mr. Weinheimer asked if the changed conditions task could include any work relating to the low surface water levels in Lake Meredith. The group thought that it could.

Chairman Brown offered a brief overview of the upcoming High Plains Edwards-Trinity and Dockum aquifer GAM studies. This information about alternate water supplies will be important considering the influx of dairies and possible ethanol plants in the region.

Mayor Josserand said he would like to see a regional study on desalination of water stored in the Dockum Formation. He says a third 100 million gallon ethanol plant has expressed interest in locating at Hereford. In addition, Deaf Smith County is poised to become the second largest dairy production county in Texas. He said desalination

to obtain usable water from the Dockum Formation may be a salvation for Deaf Smith County in the future.

Mayor Josserand expressed his concern that the regional water planning process has focused on administrative tasks—rather than working to produce more water for use in the region. This regional desalination study would help accomplish this goal. Ms. McKinnon said this would likely qualify under the "changed conditions" portion of the tasks—since the influx of dairies and ethanol plants is placing local stress on the Ogallala Aquifer.

Chairman Brown asked if desalination of the Dockum could be used to supply water for Dawson County. If so, the CRMWA water sent south in the pipeline could be used elsewhere. A regional desalination study, such as the one Mayor Josserand suggests, could determine if this is feasible or not. He added that some self-financing of projects and studies may be needed.

The Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District at Seminole is researching Ogallala Aquifer recharge in Gaines County. Manager Mike McGregor had several questions for Dr. Grubb and Ms. McKinnon regarding funding of this study.

Mr. Conkwright asked if there was a need to revise the 2001 small town water assessment study in those areas affected by dairies and ethanol plants. It was agreed that this study needs updating.

Mr. Weinheimer suggested that the desalination study include a four-county area that would have conditions similar to both Region A and Region O. Mr. Conkwright suggested Bailey, Castro, Deaf Smith, and Parmer Counties.

Mr. Steiert asked Mr. Weinheimer if the Texas Cattle Feeders Association was satisfied with the current dairy water use data. Mr. Weinheimer replied that they were, but they are continuing to look at new technologies and will work to revise data as needed.

Currently, TCFCA estimates a dairy uses 65 gallons of water per head per day. This includes both dairy cattle and washes. A feed yard uses about 15 gallons of water per head per day.

In conclusion, Dr. Grubb said he would have appreciated the TWDB allowing the regional water planning groups more time to give thoughtful consideration to the development of the Scope of Work. It seems as if everything associated with regional water planning is on a fast track and the groups must hustle to meet administrative deadlines—rather than taking time to plan for the future.

A motion to include a three-county desalination study (*Castro, Deaf Smith, and Parmer*) in the Scope of Work as the third priority was made by Mayor Josserand and seconded by Kent Satterwhite. **All voted, "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

The LERWPG will consider development of a Scope of Work for the 2011 regional water plan and authorize the High Plains Water District to fund said Scope of Work from available funds, not to exceed \$8,000.

After brief discussion, a motion to authorize the High Plains Water District to fund the development of a Scope of Work and to file it with the TWDB at a cost not to exceed \$8,000 was made by Mayor Josserand and seconded by Mr. Conkwright. **All voted, "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.**

The LERWPG will set a date for a public meeting to receive comments on the proposed Scope of Work for the 2011 regional water plan.

In order to comply with TWDB deadlines, Chairman Brown said the public meeting to receive comments of the proposed Scope of Work needs to be held Thursday, August 31, 2006. The meeting time is 10 a.m. and will be held in the A. Wayne Wyatt Board Room of the High Plains Water District office. It was the consensus of the group that the meeting be held at that date/time/location.

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

Ms. McKinnon said Dr. Grubb did a great job outlining the next five-year regional water planning cycle process. She encouraged any LERWPG member with questions about the upcoming planning cycle to contact her.

The TWDB has planned a series of public meetings to receive comments on the draft 2007 state water plan. Ms. McKinnon reported that the regional summaries are about six pages long and contain good information in both text and visual formats. The Region O summary should be available in the next two weeks or so. She will send an e-mail file to Mr. McCain for distribution to the LERWPG membership.

Other Business

- A. Public Comment: Chairman Brown asked for additional public comments from the audience. None were provided.
- B. General comments from members:

Chairman Brown told the LERWPG members that he had received a letter from an investigator with the Professional Society of Geoscientists asking for a copy of the signature page from the 2006 Llano Estacado Regional Water Plan. The Society was concerned that a Professional Geologist did not sign off on the regional water plan as required by state statute. Chairman Brown said he forwarded the letter to the TWDB for necessary action and response. He said Region O followed TWDB rules for development of the regional water plan. If there was a slip-up in not having a Professional Geologist approve the geosciences included in the previous regional plan, then the fault lies with the TWDB and not the regional water planning group. The LERWPG followed the rules.

- C. Mayor Josserand expressed his concern about the immediate deadlines imposed by the TWDB for development of the scope of work. He was unsure if the regional water planning group could accomplish this task by Sept. 14. He wondered if it would be appropriate for representatives from Regions A & O to meet with TWDB management concerning this matter.

Chairman Brown, Mr. Conkwright, Mr. Williams, and Gene Montgomery also shared their concerns. Dr. Grubb said the group has just completed the 2006 regional water plan. There needs to be time for thought following submission of the last regional water management plan. It is his opinion that there is no need to update the description of the region and other sections of the regional plan since this was just accomplished in the 2006 plan. Also, he commented that Senate Bill 1 is 10 years old. Historically, the state tends to take new directions in water planning every 10 years. He says it will be interesting to see what will happen in the legislature in 2007.

After brief discussion among the membership, it was decided not to send a letter or meet with the TWDB about this concern.

- D: Since there has been some uncertainty in attaining a quorum at recent LERWPG meetings, Dr. Rainwater asked it would be possible for members to have alternates with proxy vote at the meetings. Mr. Conkwright disagreed, saying he felt an alternate might not have the knowledge and background that the regular regional water planning group member would have.

Dr. Rainwater expressed concern that some stakeholder groups might not be represented in the regional water planning group process if their representatives were not in attendance at meetings.

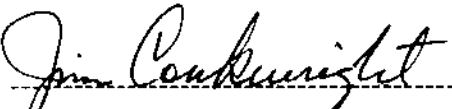
No action was taken regarding this comment.

Adjourn

There being no additional business, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m. Lunch followed immediately afterwards.

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 LERWPG members at their August 31, 2006 regular meeting, held in Lubbock, TX.