

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group**

January 31, 2019

Chair Suzanne Scott called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Customer Service Building, Room CR 145, 2800 US Highway 281 North, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

26 of the 30 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Kenneth Eller for Tim Andruss
Curt Campbell
Patrick Garcia for Rey Chavez
Alan Cockerell
Will Conley
Vic Hilderbran
Kevin Janak
Tom Jungman
Blaine Schorp for Russell Labus
Glenn Lord
Dan Meyer
Gary Middleton
Con Mims
Tommy Hill for Kevin Patteson
Iliana Pena

Robert Puente
Humberto Ramos
Steve Ramsey
Weldon Riggs
Roland Ruiz
Diane Savage
Suzanne Scott
Greg Sengelmann
Mitchell Sowards
Heather Sumpter
Thomas Taggart
Ian Taylor
Dianne Wassenich
Adam Yablonski

Voting Members Absent:

Pat Calhoun
Charlie Flatten

Non-Voting Members Present:

Elizabeth McCoy, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Marty Kelly, TX Dept. of Parks and Wildlife
Jami McCool, TX Dept. of Agriculture
Tony Franklin for Rusty Ray, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Iliana Delgado, TCEQ-South TX Watermaster Specialists
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Joseph McDaniel, Region J Liaison
Carl Crull, Region N Liaison

Beginning with the February 11, 2016, meeting of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group, all recordings are available for the public at www.regionltexas.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment to be heard.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 1, 2018, MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG)

Mr. Mims motioned for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Sengelmann seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with an amendment to correct the spelling of Mr. Eller's name.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019

Ms. Scott asked the group if there were any nominations for officers. Mr. Puente took a point of order to introduce Mr. Mike Frisbe, SAWS new Chief Operating Officer. Ms. Wassenich then asked who the at-large officers were that were up for reelection. Mr. Mims moved to re-elect all current officers. Mr. Riggs seconded the motion and all members voted in favor of the re-election of the current officers.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: STATUS OF EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (EAHCP), SCOTT STORMENT

Mr. Scott Stormant gave a brief update on the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan. He described the success of Phase One of the plan and went on to discuss the final phase that would span from 2020-2028. Mr. Stormant was confident in the conservation measures that had been determined in Phase One and will share a final proposal for future efforts to his committee in May.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: STATUS OF GUADALUPE, SAN ANTONIO, MISSION, AND ARANSAS RIVERS AND MISSION, COPANO, ARANSAS AND SAN ANTONIO BAYS BASIN AND BAY STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE (BBASC) AND EXPERT SCIENCE TEAM (BBEST)

Ms. Scott reviewed the FY18-19 study updates with the group and highlighted that the phase three freshwater inflows study was cancelled. The monies that were dedicated to that phase were said to be reallocated by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for other studies throughout the state. She confirmed that the upcoming BBASC meeting was still being scheduled and that the group would be notified of the meeting as it was scheduled.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. McCoy gave an update on activities since the November 1, 2018 meeting including a briefing on the hydrologic variance that had been reviewed and approved, as well as the notice-to-proceed from the block 1 water management strategies. She gave a briefing on the uniform costing tool as well as the conservation planning tool that can be found on the TWDB website. She reminded the group that the SWIFT funding cycle is open for 2019 but that it would close on February 1, 2019. Ms. McCoy then gave a brief review of the uniform standards stakeholder committee meeting that

occurred in November 2018. The committee adopted two changes, standards 1A and 1B were updated to reflect current planning horizon decades and standard 2A language that relates to the allocation of five points was revised. Standard 2D was revised to remove the reference to the 2016 plan. She also stated that a TWDB guidance document would be made available for optional use. Ms. Scott highlighted that she was present at the meeting in November and that the general feeling was there was not an appetite for change, mainly just clarifications of the current language were supported.

Ms. McCoy then described the Texas Water Service Boundary Viewer that collects accurate retail water service boundaries to better estimate and project utility population for the region. She shared an example of what the tool looked like online as well as gave a handout to the planning members. Ms. Scott said that TWDB would be putting together some educational materials for unique stream segments and reservoirs. Ms. McCoy let the group know that if any members are interested in having materials produced the TWDB would be happy to help.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Scott reviewed a number of bills that relate to the planning group including HB 723 on water availability models as well as HB 807 that would create an interregional planning council for more cohesive communication between regions. Mr. Sengelmann said that Chairman Larson would likely refile a brackish water bill and Ms. Wassenich made a comment on HB 722.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE CONSULTANT'S WORK AND SCHEDULE

Mr. Brian Perkins reviewed his schedule for the upcoming months, highlighting that the IPP is due in March of 2020 and that following that due date public meetings will be scheduled around the state. He then shared a handout of projects that Black & Veatch has been working on to keep everyone up to date. He gave a brief explanation of the hydrologic variance letter and that things are moving quickly to take care of the variance. Mr. Sengelmann asked about public participation with the 2021 plan, and Mr. Perkins responded that once the draft regional water plan is complete, they would have public hearings for the public to come and ask questions, as well as share comments on the plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO AMEND THE ADOPTED POPULATION AND WATER DEMAND PROJECTION FOR THE 2021 SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Perkins explained the reasoning behind the amendments to the population and water demand projections. He reminded the group of the previously approved amendments and shared the potential amendments that the group would then vote on, as well as the suggested amendments that would not move forward for approval. He referred to a letter sent by the Goliad County Groundwater Conservation District and explained why their projections would not be amended. Ms. Scott then reminded the group that these would be the final changes made to the projections if approved, though a comment period would be open until February 14, 2019.

Mr. Perkins then recapped the amendments that were previously approved for Cibolo, Green Valley SUD, and Guadalupe Steam-Electric. He went on to detail the amendments that are being proposed for the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) as well as Atascosa County Other. Mr. Perkins then reviewed the proposed changes for Comal County and reminded the group of a conference call in which the changes were proposed. Mr. Sengelmann asked who from Comal County was involved and did they approve of the amendments. Mr. Perkins listed the attendees of the call and shared that it was a compromise decision by those entities and the TWDB. Mr. Cockerell asked if the amendments would negatively impact other municipalities. Mr. Perkins said no, it would not impact the other municipalities. Ms. Scott asked Mr. Taylor if he had anything to add and he confirmed that he was happy with the direction things were going and thanked Mr. Perkins for his work on the amendments.

Mr. Perkins then requested an amendment from the planning group on the SAWS, Atascosa County, Comal County, Canyon Lake WSC, and NBU population water demand projections. He then explained the schedule following an approval of the item. A motion was made by Mr. Middleton, seconded by Mr. Lord and all voted in favor of the motion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING A REQUEST FOR THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO CONDUCT A SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF NOT MEETING THE WATER NEEDS IN THE 2021 SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Perkins gave a brief explanation of the socioeconomic impact analysis process. He recommended to the group that they request that the study be conducted by the TWDB. Ms. Scott asked if the group would then adopt the study done by the TWDB, and Mr. Perkins said the group would have an opportunity to comment on the study and it would then be added as an attachment to the 2021 plan. Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve, Mr. Riggs seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Mr. Perkins started by reviewing the 11 water management strategies in Block 1 that were approved at the November meeting and explained that he would then share 18 additional strategies for Block 2 for the group's approval. He reviewed all scope and fee estimates in Block 2. Ms. Scott asked who would be sponsoring the Victoria County Steam-Electric Project. Mr. Perkins responded by saying that the sponsor had not been determined. Ms. Scott reminded the group that through their own guiding principles there must be a sponsor identified for each project. Mr. Hill said that GBRA and Victoria County would get together to discuss sponsorship. Mr. Middleton questioned the fee associated with the City of Victoria ASR project. He said that the demonstration project was almost complete and with most of the work already finished the listed fee is too large for the project. Mr. Perkins said that the fee may be on the high side because the values are all estimates but that his team would review. Mr. Puente asked if the funds were being spent in 2019 and who would be overseeing the expenditures and work being conducted. Mr. Perkins responded by explaining the process of review that takes place when invoices are sent from Black and Veatch to the San Antonio River Authority. Mr. Middleton requested that he be able to see the work and

hours that are charged to the ASR project. Mr. Ramos moved to approve all 18 water management strategies in Block 2, Ms. Pena seconded the motion and they were approved by vote from the group.

Mr. Perkins then reviewed seven potential water management strategies in Block 3 and asked the group for their approval to move forward in determining the scope and fees for those strategies.

Mr. Perkins explained the advanced water conservation goals that Ms. Wassenich had requested be brought to the attention of the planning group. Ms. Wassenich went into detail about the analysis and why she wanted to bring it to the group. She shared an excerpt from a Texas Living Waters report on conservation. Ms. Scott asked Mr. Perkins if he would be using the information to inform his analysis of water conservation. Mr. Perkins explained how the best management practices in the report could be helpful and would be utilized.

Mr. Perkins reminded the group that they had approved 29 water management strategies and the next few meetings would be heavy in water management strategy evaluation. Ms. Scott recommended that the next presentation would include a review that confirms that the strategies meet the requirements found in the guiding principles. She recommended that all strategies be reviewed before making any determinations on approval. Mr. Taggart asked if all strategies are recommended or were there any alternates? Mr. Perkins said at this time most are proposed to be recommended.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY (SARA) TO REQUEST A NOTICE-TO-PROCEED FROM THE TWDB; AUTHORIZING THE CONSULTANT AND/OR SARA TO WORK WITH THE TWDB ON ANY FOLLOW UP INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED; AND AUTHORIZING SARA TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE THE SUBSEQUENT TWDB CONTRACT AMENDMENT THAT WILL BE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE NOTICE-TO-PROCEED

Ms. Scott read the above item referring to a contract amendment needed to proceed with the work on Block 2 of the water management strategies and Ms. Wassenich moved to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Middleton. The motion was approved by the Planning Group.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGION L MEETING

The first item suggested for the next meeting was the review of the Block 3 water management strategies' scope and fees. Mr. Perkins reminded the group that within Chapter 8 of regional water plan, the group could make policy recommendations. It was suggested that Chapter 8 from the previous plan be printed out for the members and an item placed on the May agenda to discuss if the group would like to make any changes, additions or subtractions for the new plan. Ms. Wassenich recommends that the group discuss counties that no longer serve on the planning group such as Goliad and Hays counties. Mr. Mims announced his retirement and that this meeting would be his last to represent River Authorities. He was asked to have his board send a letter to

recommend a replacement for the planning group. Mr. Raabe explained the process that the group would need to take in replacing Mr. Mims. The group then thanked Mr. Mims for his leadership.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment to be heard.

The meeting adjourned at 11:27am.

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on May 2, 2019.

GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

SUZANNE SCOTT, CHAIR