

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

**February 20, 2020**

Chair 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.

27 of the 31 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

**Voting Members Present:**

Kenneth Eller for Tim Andruss  
John Byrum  
Curt Campbell  
Patrick Garcia for Rey Chavez  
Alan Cockerell  
Charlie Flatten  
Kevin Janak  
Tom Jungman  
Russel Labus  
Glenn Lord  
Dan Meyer  
Gary Middleton  
Johnathan Stinson for Kevin Patteson  
Robert Puente  
Humberto Ramos  
Steve Ramsey

Weldon Riggs  
Roland Ruiz  
Diane Savage  
Greg Senglemann  
Mitchell Sowards  
Heather Sumpter  
Thomas Taggart  
Ian Taylor  
Diane Wassenich  
Adam Yablonski

**Voting Members Absent:**

Pat Calhoun  
Will Conley  
Vic Hilderbran  
Iliana Pena

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

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

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Iliana Delgado, TCEQ  
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison  
Joseph McDaniel, Region J Liaison  
Carl Crull, Region N Liaison  
Rusty Ray, Texas Soil & Water Cons. Board

*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](http://www.regionltexas.org).*

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: (9:30 AM) ROLL CALL**

Caitlin Heller, San Antonio River Authority, called the role, and confirmed a quorum

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 23, 2020, MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG)**

Ms. Wassenich moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Middleton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

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

Mr. Storment was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, no update was given.

## **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 informed the group that the TWDB had received the BBASC list of recommended projects on December 2, 2019. On February 5, 2020, BBASC received the list of chosen projects to receive funding and noticed that only one of their projects was being funded; *Guadalupe Delta Ecological Assessment of Freshwater Inflows*. Ms. Scott told the group that their number one priority project, *Developing Models to Forecast Ecological Outcomes of Various Flow Scenarios on Oysters and Sport Finfish in the Colorado-Lavaca, Guadalupe-San Antonio, Mission-Aransas, and Nueces Estuaries*, was not chosen. She explained that BBASC wanted clarification from the TWDB on the share rejection memo for this project and was arranging a meeting to better understand the project selection process.

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

Mr. Ellis announced to the members that the first meeting for the Interregional Planning Council would take place on April 30, 2020 and that the TWDB was hiring a facilitator for that meeting. He informed the group that the SWIFT application cycle was closed, and the Board is considering amounts for the applications received. Full applications will be open to be submitted in the Spring.

Mr. Ellis then elaborated on the Regional Water Planning rules which went to the Board on February 13, 2020 and is to be published in the Texas Register on February 28, 2020. A comment period will be open until March 30, 2020 and comments can be sent to the TWDB website. The

updates to the rules were required because of the legislative updates from SB 7 & 8. Mr. Ellis stated that these rules would be finalized in the Spring.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: PRESENTATION OF THE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT BY TWDB**

Dr. Ellis reviewed the socioeconomic impact analysis process that the TWDB developed on behalf of the Regional Water Planning Groups. He highlighted that this information can be found on the new Socioeconomic Impact Data Dashboards and Methodology website created by the TWDB. A summary of the methodology can be found on page 16 of the agenda packet.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Scott informed the group that the state's Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC) is requesting feedback on their proposed legislative recommendations. The draft version of these recommendations is included in the agenda packets. She likewise encouraged members to review the new TWDB RWPG rules and submit comments by March 30, 2020.

Ms. Scott told the members that the process to begin for the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Water Plan would be begin in meetings later this year.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: CONSULTANT'S WORK AND SCHEDULE**

Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the Consultant's schedule and noted that the deadline for the IPP submittal is March 3, 2020. She stated that the finals parts include the presentation of the Cumulative Effects Analysis. Ms. Gonzalez spoke briefly about the upcoming public hearings, the additional Planning Group meeting on July 30, 2020, and the adoption of the final plan on September 3, 2020.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: PRESENTATION OF THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS**

Ms. Gonzalez presented Chapter 6, which includes the impact of the RWP and consistency with protection of resources. She reviewed impacts on instream flow and freshwater inflow for New Braunfels, San Marcos River at Luling, Guadalupe River at Victoria, San Antonio River near Falls City, San Antonio River at Goliad, Guadalupe River at Diversion Dam, and the Guadalupe Estuary. Her team presented on the Regional Environment, Ecoregions and Environmental Effect Analysis as well. This presentation can be found in the agenda packet.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMENTS RECEIVED TO DATE ON THE REGION L WATER PLAN CHAPTERS**

Ms. Gonzalez explained the process for how Black & Veatch collected comments from the Region L Google Drive, phone, email, and ones that she personally discovered. The comments were then categorized as Substantive or Editorial. Ms. Gonzalez then reviewed the comments that were gather from the Planning Group and explained the consultant team's responses for Chapters 8, 3,

2, 4, 5, 11 and 7. Members made several minor changes to clarify the intent of the language in the chapters.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ADOPT AND SUBMIT THE 2021 INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN (IPP) AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CONSULTANT TO ADDRESS ANY PLANNING GROUP CHANGES TO THE IPP DOCUMENT PRIOR TO SUBMITTING TO THE TWDB**

Ms. Gonzales briefed the Planning Group on a high-level summary of the 2021 Initially Prepared Plan. She noted that Chapter 9 currently has a placeholder as that data will be gathered after the IPP has been submitted. Likewise, Chapter 10 information will be developed after the public hearings, but relevant portions were included in the IPP.

Ms. Gonzales then reviewed the updated schedule for the 2021 Regional Water Plan. Ms. Scott requested that the Guiding Principles workgroup be included into the IPP presentation. Mr. Middleton motioned to adopt the IPP and was seconded by Mr. Riggs. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE CONSULTANT TO SUBMIT THE 2021 INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN (IPP) ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG) BY MARCH 3, 2020**

Mr. Janak motioned to authorize the consultant and Mr. Middleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY TO POST THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Ms. Heller explained the IPP public hearing notice to the group members and highlighted the dates and locations of the three upcoming public hearing meetings. Mr. Taggart motioned to authorize and Mr. Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION SETTING THE SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020 MEETINGS**

Ms. Heller informed the group that July 30, 2020 was chosen as the next meeting date for the SCTRWPG. This earlier meeting is to provide time for the members to review any questions received from the public hearings. Mr. Middleton motioned and Mr. Eller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGION L MEETING (JULY 30, 2020)**

The next planning group meeting will involve discussion of public hearing comments, presentations of chapters 9, 10, and 11 of the regional water plan, a review of the Region L consultant and administrative budget, absences of planning group members and the presentation of project prioritization.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 am.

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on July 30, 2020.

---

GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

---

SUZANNE SCOTT, CHAIR

