

PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

Minutes

September 5, 2001

A meeting of the Panhandle Water Planning Group was held on Wednesday, September 5, 2001, at 1:30 p.m. in the PRPC Board Room, 415 West Eighth Avenue, Amarillo, Potter County, Texas.

C.E. Williams, Chairman, presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vernon Cook, Roberts County; Dan Coffey, City of Amarillo; David Landis, City of Perryton; Rudie Tate, McLean; Janet Tregellas, Booker; Nolan Clark, USDA-ARS; Grady Skaggs, Oldham County; Gale Henslee, SPS; Jim Derington, Palo Duro River Authority; Richard Bowers, North Plains Ground Water Conservation District; C.E. Williams, Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District; John Williams, CRMWA; John Sweeten, TAES/TAMU Agriculture Research and Extension; Ronald Bertrand, TDA; Janet Guthrie (Designated Alternate - Dean Looper); Ross Wilson (Designated Alternate - Frank Simms); Ray Brady (Designated Alternate - Inge Brady); Cleon Namken (Designated Alternate - Mickey Black)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dean Looper, City of Canadian; Bill Hallerberg, Amarillo; Mike Page, Phillips Petroleum; Frank Simms, Panhandle; Inge Brady, Amarillo; Rusty Gilmore, Rita Blanca Well Service; Bobbie Kidd, Greenbelt Municipal and Industrial Water Authority; Charles Cooke, TCW Supply; Mickey Black, USDA-NRCS.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tammy Sullivan, FNI; Simone Kiel, FNI; Steve Stevenson, Mesa Water, Inc.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jarrett Atkinson, Local Government Services Director, PRPC; Colby Waters, Local Government Services Program Specialist, PRPC.

1. CALL TO ORDER

C. E. Williams called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

2. ESTABLISH ATTENDANCE & RECOGNIZE DESIGNATED ALTERNATES

Four Designated Alternates were recognized: Janet Guthrie representing Dean Looper, City of Canadian; Ross Wilson representing Frank Simms; Ray Brady representing Inge Brady; and Cleon Namken representing Mickey Black.

3. **MINUTES**

Judge Vernon Cook made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of the PWPG held on May 21, 2001. Dan Coffey seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. **CONSIDER SELECTING CONSULTANT(S) FOR SCOPE OF WORK DEVELOPMENT AND ROUND II REGIONAL WATER PLANNING**

Jarrett Atkinson stated that as a result of the RFQ process, three firms had contacted the PRPC expressing an interest in providing a response. Two additional firms notified the PRPC that they appreciated the opportunity but declined to respond. As of the deadline, one response was received. This response was in accordance with the posted requirements and is a team effort consisting of Freese & Nichols, Inc and TAMU – TAES/TAES. The RFQ committee has reviewed the response and recommends to the PWPG that they formally select the team of Freese & Nichols, Inc and TAMU – TAES/TAES as the consultant(s) for the development of the Scope of Work and Round II Regional Water Planning efforts.

Richard Bowers made the motion to approve recommendation that the PWPG select team the of Freese & Nichols, Inc and TAMU – TAES/TAES for work on the Scope of Work and the Regional Water Plan. Vernon Cook seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. **CONSIDER THE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO DEVELOP REQUIRED INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE REPORT AND APPROVE FOR SUBMISSION**

Jarrett Atkinson stated that the next phase in the statewide water planning effort is the development of Infrastructure Finance Reports (IFR) by each region. This process is a requirement of Senate Bill 2 (2001). The TWDB has developed a standardized format that must be used by all regions and the funding formula is based on identified needs for water user groups in the recently completed water planning process. For the Panhandle Water Planning Area, there are 43 identified needs, which includes one major water user that must be included in the IFR.

Dr. Nolan Clark made the motion that the PWPG authorize the PRPC to submit an application for Funds to Develop Infrastructure Finance Report to the TWDB. Richard Bowers seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Dr. John Sweeten moved that agricultural strategies be included in the IFR and Dr. Nolan Clark seconded and added that the Agricultural Demands and Projections Committee should be used to assist with this effort. Dr. Sweeten concurred and the motion carried unanimously.

Janet Tregellas made a motion to appoint the PRPC as contractor to develop the IFR. Jim Derington seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. **CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE REPORT DEVELOPMENT**

Jarrett Atkinson stated that it will be necessary to execute a contract with the Texas Water Development board for the funds to develop the Infrastructure Finance Report. Staff is seeking approval from the PWPG to allow the PRPC to execute a contract which is anticipated to be available in late October.

David Landis made the motion to allow the PRPC to execute a contract with the Texas Water Development Board for funds to develop the Infrastructure Finance Report. Rudie Tate seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. **INTERIM STUDIES PROGRESS UPDATE**

Jarrett Atkinson stated that work under the Interim Studies Contract approved earlier this year is proceeding well. The two main tasks for which the PWPG received funding are the upgrade of the existing Ogallala Groundwater Model to GAM standards and expansion of the well metering program. Ray Brady reported that approximately 160 meters have been purchased to date and that the project is proceeding in accordance with the contractual timelines. Dr. Alan Dutton provided an update on the model conversion project and noted that progress was in accordance with contractual timelines and that the model code should be completed by October 15.

8. **CONSIDER ISSUES REGARDING RELEASE OF NEWLY DEVELOPED GROUNDWATER MODEL DATA**

Jarrett Atkinson stated that the PWPG is in the process of updating and upgrading the existing groundwater model. New data sets will be provided to drive the model. According to state law [and our contract conditions] the data sets developed as part of the Regional Water Planning Process are public information once they are complete and have been approved by the PWPG. Staff anticipates that new data sets will be ready for approval by the end of December. In the recently completed Regional Planning Process, the PWPG did release data sets for the model after the data had been approved by the PWPG. Currently, neither the PWPG or the PRPC has the new data sets as they are still being developed by the BEG and they should be available for approval by the end of December. The question under this item is whether to release data sets prior to their final completion and approval by the PWPG.

Rudie Tate made a motion to leave the policy of not releasing data sets until they are complete and approved by the PWPG in place. Richard Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with John Williams abstaining.

9. **COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

C.E. Williams noted that the Agricultural Demands and Projections Committee would work on the Agricultural Strategies for inclusion in the IFR.

The Executive Committee will review the IFR application.

10. **FINANCIAL REPORT AND RELATED ITEMS**

Dr. Nolan Clark presented the Independent Financial Report for the Planning Group. For the period ending July 31, 2001, local revenue earned totaled \$119,882; expenses totaled \$120,830 for a deficit balance of \$948.

Dr. Clark made a motion that the PRPC absorb the overage of \$948 and that the PWPG start over August 1, 2001 with the new local funding. John Williams seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Dr. Clark further reported that the PRPC was in receipt of \$105,694 in state funds for the interim contract. Of that total, \$16,382 had been expended as of July 31, 2001 leaving a balance of \$89,312. The funds received under this account represent approximately 50% of the total interim studies contract amount. Expenses paid to-date represent metering expenses only.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Region O - Kent Satterwhite reported that Region O was in the process of focusing on Irrigation demands and had formed a new committee. Region B - no report

B. TWDB Report - Mr. Stefan Schuster noted that the IFR applications were due on September 21, 2001. The Draft State Water Plan would be available for review on September 15 and the TWDB would be conducting a presentation on the Draft Plan in Amarillo on October 30th. Rules for Round II planning would be out in October and there would be a Chair's conference call on September 12, 2001.

C. Public Comment - Ronald Bertrand mentioned that Commissioner of Agriculture Susan Combs would be in Pampa on September 6th at the Chamber building for a public meeting.

Tammy Sullivan reintroduced Simone Kiel from FNI and noted that she would be stepping down from the Planning process after completion of the Scope of Work. John Sweeten requested a resolution be prepared for Ms. Sullivan thanking her for her past efforts and excellent performance.

D. Other Business - No Other Business was brought before the Planning Group

E. Next Meeting Date - the Planning Group elected to leave the next meeting date open but to tentatively schedule November 1st.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Planning Group, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.