

PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

Minutes

June 27, 2003

A meeting of the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG) was held on Friday, June 27, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. in the PRPC Board Room, 415 West Eighth Avenue, Amarillo, Potter County, Texas.

Mr. C.E. Williams, Chairman, presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Inge Brady; Nolan Clark, USDA-ARS; Dan Coffey, City of Amarillo; Vernon Cook, Roberts County; Jim Derington, Palo Duro River Authority; Bill Hallerberg; Gale Henslee, Xcel Energy; David Landis, City of Perryton; Dean Looper; Kent Satterwhite, CRMWA; Temple McKinnon, Texas Water Development Board; Grady Skaggs, Oldham County; John Sweeten, Texas Ag. Experiment Station - TAMU Ag. Res. & Ext; Rudie Tate; John Williams, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority; C.E. Williams, Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District; Cole Camp – Designated Alternate – Janet Tregellas; Jeremy Patman – Designated Alternate – Denise Jett; Danelle Barber – Designated Alternate – Richard Bowers; Cleon Namken – Designated Alternate – Mickey Black; Ben Weinheimer – Designated Alternate – Frank Simms.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald Bertrand, Texas Department of Agriculture; Mickey Black, USDA-NRCS; Richard Bowers, North Plains Ground Water Conservation District; Charles Cooke, TCW Supply, Inc.; B. A. Donelson; Rusty Gilmore, Rita Blanca Well Service; Denise Jett, ConocoPhillips Petroleum; Bobbie Kidd, Greenbelt Municipal & Industrial Water Authority; Charles Munger, TWPD Canyon Fisheries Lab; Frank Simms; Janet Tregellas

OTHERS PRESENT:

Quincy Howard, National Wildlife Federation; Fran Bretz, TAMUS; Steve Amosson, TAMUS; Steve Stevens, Mesa Water, Inc.; Stefan Schuster, FNI; Randy Criswell, City of Canyon.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jarrett Atkinson; Janice Blandford

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

Mr. C. E. Williams called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present.

2. ESTABLISH ATTENDANCE & RECOGNIZE DESIGNATED ALTERNATES

Five Designated Alternates were recognized: Danelle Barber for Richard Bowers; Jeremy Patman for Denise Jett; Ben Weinheimer for Frank Simms; Cole Camp for Janet Tregellas; Cleon Namken for Mickey Black.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vernon Cook made the motion to accept the minutes from the January 22 meeting with the following corrections: in the first paragraph, the date of that meeting should be January 22, 2003; Under agenda item 3, the date on the minutes should be December 18, 2002. Bill Hallerberg seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING AND THE 78TH LEGISLATURE

C.E. Williams introduced the Panhandle Water Planning Group's newly appointed project manager, Temple McKinnon. Ms. McKinnon provided a brief update on water-related items in the 78th Legislature. According to Ms. McKinnon, since there have been no changes since the memo of June 6, the Panhandle Water Planning Group still has committed funds of \$682,664.

C.E. Williams discussed action in the 78th Legislative Session that affected the Panhandle Area.

After a round table discussion of the soon to be created Water Conservation Task Force, Chairman Williams tasked the Chairs of the standing committees to make a list of nominees to be presented to the TWDB. He requested that the names be submitted to Jarrett Atkinson by July 8, 2003. The Executive Committee would use these nominees to develop a slate of recommended members to the Task Force.

5. CONSIDER SELECTION OF GROUNDWATER MODELING CONSULTANT

The lead contractor on the Regional Water Plan, Freese-Nichols, Inc., issued a RFQ for groundwater modeling services in late 2002. The scope of work for the current regional water plan calls for certain modeling efforts under the availability studies and also for an approved water quality model based generally in the Roberts County area. The RFQ received a large number of responses, and the PWPG Modeling Committee was tasked with review and making a recommendation for the PWPG's consideration.

John Williams, Chairman of the Modeling Committee reported that the Committee met on January 22, 2003 and conducted their initial group review of the proposals received. Due to the volume and quality of the proposals, the committee decided to conduct a formal interview with each of the respondents. The interviews were conducted on February 21, 2003. As a result of these reviews, the Committee is recommending the firm of the Bureau of Economic Geology to provide the needed modeling services.

Grady Skaggs made a motion that the PWPG formally appoint the Bureau of Economic Geology as subcontractor to provide modeling services under the availability studies and also for an approved water quality model based generally in the Roberts County area. David Landis seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. **CONSIDER AUTHORIZING A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND APPROVE SUB-CONTRACT FOR GROUNDWATER MODELING CONSULTANT**

Jarrett Atkinson explained that under the previous agenda item, action was taken to select a consultant to provide modeling services. He also explained that in this round of planning, the actual contract with the modeling firm will be a sub-contract to the lead contractor, Freese-Nichols. He stated that our contract with Freese-Nichols does require that the PWPG review and approve sub-contracts. In the past, the Executive Committee has been given authority by the PWPG to review and approve certain tasks. He further stated that review by a committee would preclude the need to call additional meetings.

Davis Landis made a motion that the Executive Committee be formally appointed to review and approve the subcontracts between Freese-Nichols, Inc. and the Bureau of Economic Geology. Rudie Tate seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. **REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSED REVISED IRRIGATION AND LIVESTOCK WATER DEMAND PROJECTIONS**

Dr. Nolan Clark stated that the Agricultural Demands and Projections Committee and the consultant team have been working to review and develop proposed revisions to the Irrigation and Livestock water demand projections. The Agricultural Committee met on February 19th and May 16th to work on reviewing and the revised demand projections. He stated that the Agricultural Committee recommended that the PWPG adopt the following methodology for irrigation:

- Use of FSA data for irrigated acreage;
- Use of 3 to 5 year averages for acreage;
- Use of TAMU's water use estimates; and
- For current demands, use of 2000 FSA acreage and TAMU's water use estimates.

With concern for some of the numbers, he asked that the PWPG approve the methodology for calculating the acreage and the water use per acre estimating the water use in 2000, and charging the Committee to go back and develop procedures for projecting the decrease for water use in the years 2010 through 2060. Dr. Clark stated that included in the backup material for this item, a table was provided which includes 2000 LTA TAMA total water use, acre feet. These are the numbers that will be used in the methodology.

John Sweeten made the motion that the PWPG approve the methodology for calculating the acreage and the water use per acreage estimating the water use in 2000, and charging the Committee to go back and develop procedures for projecting

the decrease for water use in the years 2010 through 2060. John Williams seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Dr. Clark stated that the Committee used water use estimates developed by Region A under SB1 for the livestock projections with the exception of swine and dairy. He stated that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) adopted the numbers proposed by this group in the regional planning process under SB1. Those same numbers are used statewide now. With work done by the Region A Livestock Water Use Hog/Dairy Focus Group and including PWPG member Dr. John Sweeten and Designated Alternate Ben Weinheimer, the Committee determined the water use and also developed the numbers as provided in related agenda materials. Dr. Clark stated that the Agriculture Committee recommends that the PWPG adopt numbers and the following methodology:

- Accept the proposed inventory procedure;
- Accept the revised water use per animal estimates; and
- Accept the revised projections as presented.

Ben Weinheimer made the motion that the PWPG adopt the revised projections. Bill Hallerberg seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Chairman Williams asked Jarrett Atkinson to send a letter of appreciation to the members of the above-mentioned focus group.

8. REVIEW AND CONSIDER MUNICIPAL, MINING, STEAM ELECTRIC, AND MANUFACTURING DEMAND PROJECTIONS

Dan Coffey stated that the Municipal Committee has met twice since the last meeting of the PWPG. He reported that TWDB will be releasing additional data today that will help the Committee by providing more accurate numbers. He said that under the Mining category, more data is needed. Under Steam Electric, it has been recommended that the Committee go back and use 2002 projections, since they seem to be most accurate. Under Manufacturing Demands, the Committee has asked for additional data from TWDB. There are some issues that the Committee must address such as industries that may come into this area within the next few years.

Mr. Coffey stated that the Committee does not have a recommendation for the PWPG at this time.

9. CONSIDER REQUESTING UPDATED WATER AVAILABILITY STUDIES FROM TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Jarrett Atkinson stated that TWDB is now the owner of the Panhandle Groundwater Availability Model (GAM). The Southern Ogallala GAM has been completed, as well. In order to receive new outputs for availability information from the models, it will at some point in the future be necessary to go through a request process to get the new data fed into it and new "outputs". He stated that since we are not at this time approving or recommending our new demand data, it is a little early to get the availability. He suggested that when the PWPG does formally make this request, that the added request for digital outputs for the Southern Ogallala GAM be made. This data would make the region complete in terms of the Ogallala.

10. CONSIDER A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CANADIAN RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER AUTHORITY DESALINATION PROJECT

C.E. Williams stated that the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority is proposing a desalination project. Ken Satterwhite explained the scope of the project. He also stated that if the PWPG concurs and issues a resolution to that effect, the Water Authority would use that resolution when applying for funding to be used in this endeavor. Jarrett Atkinson provided a copy of the resolution that the Water Authority is proposing.

Nolan Clark made a motion to approve the resolution in support of the desalination project operated by the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority. John Williams seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

11. COMMITTEE ACTIONS

There were no Committee actions to be considered by the Committee.

12. FINANCIAL REPORT AND RELATED ITEMS

Dr. R. Nolan Clark presented the Independent Financial Report (with a balance sheet ending \$50,299) for the Panhandle Water Planning Group. He provided a review of the financial documents as submitted by the PRPC and recommended approval of the financial activities of the Panhandle Water Planning Group. Bill Hallerberg seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

13. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION OF LOCAL FUNDS SOLICITATION PROCESS FOR FY2003-2004

Nolan Clark stated that it has been the practice of the Panhandle Water Planning Group to begin the local funds solicitation process in July of each year. This allows public entities an opportunity to include the request in their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. Using this time frame, this Group typically will begin receiving these funds in October. The solicitation process as proposed would be for FY2003-2004.

He said that the Group had \$10,245 in local funds at the beginning of the year. He projected a balance of \$24,565 after collections and expenses for the current year. This projection was based on the projected increase in the upcoming workload.

Bill Hallerberg made the motion to authorize the billing for local funds solicitation. David Landis seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Report on a presentation made by Mesa Water - Bill Hallerberg and Jarrett Atkinson
- B. Report from the Texas Water Development Board – Temple McKinnon discussed the following topics:
 - Policy Identification Process

- Interactive website
- Groundwater district recertification
- Technical assistance provided by the TWDB

C. Update on EQIP Program - Cleon Namken

D. Public Comment – Dr. Nolan Clark thanked the members of the PWPG for their support on the recently approved Ogallala Initiative.

E. The next meeting of the PWPG will be August 27, 2003.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Planning Group, the meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.