

## PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

### Minutes

January 29, 2004

A meeting of the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG) was held on Thursday, January 29, 2004, 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; Vernon Cook, County of Roberts; Charles Cooke, TCW Supply, Inc.; Jim Derington, Palo Duro River Authority; B. A. Donelson, First State Bank; William Hallerberg; Gale Henslee, Xcel Energy; Bobbie Kidd, Greenbelt Municipal & Industrial Water Authority; David Landis, City of Perryton; Dean Looper; Temple McKinnon, Texas Water Development Board; Frank Simms; Grady Skaggs, County of Oldham; John Sweeten, Texas Ag. Experiment Station - TAMU Ag. Res. & Ext; John Williams, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority; C.E. Williams, Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District; Rhonda Artho – Designated Alternate – Richard Bowers; Cole Camp – Designated Alternate – Rusty Gilmore; Tommy Powell – Designated Alternate – Rudie Tate; Ray Brady – Designated Alternate – Janet Tregellas; Joe Minshew – Designated Alternate – Steve Jones.

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Richard Bowers, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District; Rusty Gilmore, Rita Blanca Well Service; Rudie Tate; Janet Tregellas; Steve Jones, Texas Department of Agriculture; Mickey Black, USDA-NRCS; Dan Coffey, City of Amarillo; Denise Jett, ConocoPhillips Petroleum; Charles Munger, TWPD Canyon Fisheries Lab; Kent Satterwhite, CRMWA;

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Mark Meek, Janet Guthrie, Hemphill UWD; Steve Amosson, TCE; Kel Seliger; Kirk Besselman; Richard Morris, City of Pampa; Yujuin Yang, TWDB; Stefan Schuster, FNI; Kay Ledbetter, *Amarillo Globe News*.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jarrett Atkinson, Local Government Services Program Director; 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. **SELECTION OF MEMBERS TO FILL EXPIRING TERMS (8)**

Mr. C.E. Williams stated that the terms of eight (8) members have expired as of September 1, 2003. The members whose terms have expired are as follows:

- Richard Bowers – Water Districts
- Inge Brady – Environmental
- Vernon Cook – Counties
- Charles Cooke – Water Utilities
- B.A. Donelson – Agriculture
- Rusty Gilmore – Small Business
- Bill Hallerberg – Industries
- Bobbie Kidd – Water Districts

He also stated that the process stipulated in the Bylaws for soliciting nominees from the general public was undertaken beginning on January 9 and closed on January 26. The terms up for selection will now convert to regular 3-year terms and will not expire again until September 1, 2006. No nominees were received from the required solicitation. In accordance with the Bylaws, he asked for nominations from the floor.

John Williams nominated Richard Bowers to a regular 3-year term representing water districts. Nolan Clark seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Charles Cooke nominated Inge Brady to a regular 3-year term representing environmental interests. John Williams seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Nolan Clark nominated Vernon Cook to a regular 3-year term representing county government. Charles Cooke seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Cole Camp nominated Charles Cooke to a regular 3-year term representing water utilities. John Williams seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Vernon Cook nominated B.A. Donelson to a regular 3-year term representing agriculture. Nolan Clark seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Nolan Clark nominated Rusty Gilmore to a regular 3-year term representing small business. Charles Cooke seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Nolan Clark nominated Bill Hallerberg to a regular 3-year term representing industry. John Williams seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

David Landis nominated Bobbie Kidd to a regular 3-year term representing water districts. Vernon Cook seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **3. SELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairman Williams stated that the PWPG Bylaws call for the officer elections on an annual basis. In accordance with this requirement, he asked for nomination from the floor for a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

Vernon Cook moved to re-elect C.E. Williams as Chair by acclamation; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Charles Cooke moved to re-elect Vernon Cook as Vice-Chair by acclamation; motion carried by unanimous vote.

John Williams moved to re-elect Dan Coffey as Secretary by acclamation; motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **4. SELECTION OF AT-LARGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairman Williams stated that the Bylaws of the PWPG call for two At-Large Executive Committee members. Further, that no more than two members can represent the same interest group. He said that currently John Williams and Nolan Clark serve in these positions with Mr. Williams representing water districts and Dr. Clark representing environmental concerns.

Vernon Cook moved to re-elect John Williams and Nolan Clark to serve in the capacity of At-Large Executive Committee Members. Bill Hallerberg seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **5. ESTABLISH ATTENDANCE & RECOGNIZE DESIGNATED ALTERNATES**

Five Designated Alternates were recognized: Joe Minshew representing Steve Jones; Rhonda Artho representing Richard Bowers; Ray Brady representing Janet Tregellas; Tommy Powell representing Rudie Tate; and Cole Camp representing Rusty Gilmore.

### **6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Charles Cooke made the motion to accept the minutes from Panhandle Water Planning Group Meeting held on August 27, 2003 as presented. Nolan Clark seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **7. REGIONAL WATER PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE**

Jarrett Atkinson gave a brief overview of the regional water planning process and said that as of February 20, 2004, the GAM update must be finished and that on March 1, the Stream Flow Assessment is due to the State. By June 1, 2004 the Supplemental Funding Application must be completed and submitted and by June 1, 2005 the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) must be submitted. On January 1, 2006 the final Plan must be completed.

**8. HEAR A PRESENTATION ON STREAM FLOW ASSESSMENT AND FORMULATE RECOMMENDATION FOR REGION A**

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is in the process of conducting Stream Flow Assessments for all river basins in the state. Temple McKinnon gave a presentation of the TWDB's effort to determine the hydrologic effect of the proposed water demands and management strategies on the surface water resources of the state. As part of that process, the state is offering to the PWPG the opportunity to select "control points" (actual places on the river or stream that is selected for analysis) that will be used in this assessment.

Temple McKinnon and Dr. Yujuin Yang presented the Assessment and asked for comment on the proposed methodology. Ms. McKinnon stated that TWDB recommends 3 – 5 control points per basin per region. She reviewed the timeline Mr. Atkinson covered in the previous agenda item. Dr. Yang explained a two-phase approach. In Phase I, flows will be assessed under natural and current conditions. Under Phase II, flows will be assessed under future conditions including proposed water management strategies. He covered methodology and explained how flow data would be derived. Dr. Yang explained that changes in stream flow would be revealed by this analysis as well as how it is like to change in response to the proposed strategies.

John Williams reported that the Modeling Committee met earlier in the day and developed a series of comments. With the help of Stefan Schuster, consultant with Freese and Nichols, Inc., they explained that the Modeling Committee is not comfortable with the Water Availability Model (WAM). There are 22,000 acre feet of water not accounted for. The Committee is proposing that we update naturalized flows (currently the hydrology is current only through 1996). Mr. Schuster stated that Freese and Nichols is uncomfortable using unreliable data, since the spring flow data is also spotty. John Williams said the Committee recommends that the Executive Committee fortified with other members of the PWPG who have some expertise in this field to make comments to the TWDB in order to encourage them to correct the WAM. If they are unwilling, the Committee recommends that the PWPG request supplemental funding. Chairman C.E. Williams suggested Jim Derington, Bobbie Kidd, Grady Skaggs and John Sweeten work with the Modeling Committee on these comments.

Bill Hallerberg made the motion to appoint the four above-mentioned members of the PWPG to work with the modeling Committee to encourage the TWDB to correct the WAM. Cole Camp seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

**9. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION PROCESS – INCLUDING SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Stefan Schuster presented the proposed methodology for screening water management strategies. An opportunity was provided for public comment on the proposed water management strategy evaluation process – no comments received. A list of suggested guidelines to be used during the screening process followed the proposed methodology.

Nolan Clark suggested that the methodology focus more to this area's agriculture water demands. He asked that the strategies tailor our demand reduction.

John Sweeten made the motion that with the changes requested by Dr. Clark, the PWPG approve the water management strategy evaluation process as proposed by Freese and Nichols. David Landis seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

**10. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PREPARING AND SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

Jarrett Atkinson stated that the TWDB is beginning the process to solicit applications for Supplemental Funding for Regional Water Planning. These applications will be for additional funding to address "changed conditions" in a region that were either not present or were not an issue when the original applications for funding were submitted.

Stefan Schuster stated that if we don't request supplemental funding, the numbers we will be forced to use will be at least 15 years old. He suggested six possible projects (ranked in order of importance) including: 1) revised GAM; 2) surface water; 3) a study of natural gas impact and how it changes irrigation and crops.; 4) Inter-regional coordination; 5) groundwater transfer; and 6) quantify environmental impact.

Jarrett Atkinson stated that the Request for Applications has not been formally published at this time but it will be necessary for the PWPG to approve the preparation of an application.

John Williams moved that the PWPG approve the preparation of the application including the proposed list and that it be submitted to the Executive Committee, Further, upon their approval that the application be submitted to the TWDB for Supplemental Funding without further action by the PWPG. Bill Hallerberg seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

**11. REVIEW PROPOSED UPDATE TO 50/50 GOAL AND CONSIDER FOR INCLUSION IN ROUND II REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

John Williams stated that the first Regional Water Plan established a planning goal that no more than 50% of the currently available groundwater would be considered available for use in the first 50 years. With the planning horizon extending to the year 2060, the Modeling Committee making the following recommendation:

*"Adopt a Recommended Policy Based on the Goal of Using Not More than 1.25% of the Available Supply in Each year, With the Base Recalculated every Five Years, so that the Goal of Maintaining 50% of the Available Supply in 50 years of any Groundwater Availability Estimate is Met."*

Charles Cooke made the motion to adopt the recommendation by the Modeling Committee. Nolan Clark seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

## 12. **COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

Jarrett Atkinson stated that the PWPG does need to proceed with evaluating the policy lists. He stated that he will be contacting the Committee Chairs to begin the process of reviewing a list of 73 policy topics.

## 13. **FINANCIAL REPORT AND RELATED ITEMS**

Dr. R. Nolan Clark presented the Independent Financial Report with a balance sheet ending -\$17,126 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 PWPG. John Sweeten seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

## 14. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Report from Region B and Region O Liaison – Bobbie Kidd and Kent Satterwhite
- B. Report from the Texas Water Development Board
- C. Public Comment
- D. Consider Next Meeting Date

## 15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Planning Group, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.