

PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

Minutes

June 17, 2004

A meeting of the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG) was held on Thursday, June 17, 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:

Richard Bowers, North Plains Ground Water Conservation District; Nolan Clark, USDA-ARS; Vernon Cook, County of Roberts; Charles Cooke, TCW Supply, Inc.; Jim Derington, Palo Duro River Authority; William Hallerberg; Gale Henslee, Xcel Corporation; David Landis, City of Perryton; Dean Looper; Temple McKinnon, Texas Water Development Board; Charles Munger, TWPD Canyon Fisheries Lab; Frank Simms; 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.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mickey Black, USDA-NRCS; Inge Brady; Dan Coffey, City of Amarillo; B. A. Donelson; Rusty Gilmore, Rita Blanca Well Service; Denise Jett, ConocoPhillips Petroleum; Steve Jones, Texas Department of Agriculture; Bobbie Kidd, Greenbelt Municipal & Industrial Water Authority; Kent Satterwhite, CRMWA; Grady Skaggs, County of Oldham; Janet Tregellas.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Fran Bretz, TAES; Alan Dutton, UT/BEG; Janet Guthrie, HUWCD; Kay Ledbetter, Amarillo Globe News; Thomas Marek, TAES; Stefan Schuster, FNI; Nick Simpson, TAES; Stephanie Sherwood, Canadian River Compact Commission; Richard Smith, TWDB; Steve Stevens, Mesa Water; Ben Weinheimer, TCFA.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jarrett Atkinson, Local Government Services Director; Janice Blandford

1. CALL TO ORDER & ESTABLISH QUORUM

Mr. C. E. Williams called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

2. ESTABLISH ATTENDANCE & RECOGNIZE DESIGNATED ALTERNATES

The following designated alternates were recognized:

Lloyd Pippin for Inge Brady; Lacy Crow for Steve Jones; Ray Brady for Janet Tregellas; Clay Crist for Grady Skaggs; Cleon Namken for Mickey Black and Emmett Autry for Dan Coffey.

3. RECOGNIZE NEW LIAISON – REGION B

C.E. Williams stated that the PWPG had been notified that a new liaison from Region B to Region A has been appointed. However that person, Mayor Robert Kincaid, City of Crowell was not able to attend today's meeting. He will be introduced at the next PWPG meeting.

4. APPOINT LIAISON TO REGION B

Chairman Williams stated that Bobbie Kidd is currently the liaison from Region A to Region B. Mr. Kidd was selected for this role due to his seat on the Region B Planning Group. Since Mr. Kidd is no longer on the Region B Planning Group, he has requested that a replacement be found to fill his post as liaison to Region B.

There being no nominations for a new liaison, Charles Cooke made a motion that Bobbie Kidd remain as the liaison to Region B. Bill Hallerberg seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Jarrett Atkinson stated that during compilation of the agenda packet, an incorrect version of the minutes of the January 29, 2004 meeting was mailed to PWPG members. Therefore, the minutes before the Group had several inaccuracies. He listed the following corrections to the above-mentioned minutes:

- Page 1 – Janet Tregellas and Rudie Tate were listed twice as absent.
- Page 1 – Dr. Yang's name was mis-spelled, it should read "Yujuin" Yang
- Page 3 – Item 3 – first sentence insert "calls" between 'Bylaws' and 'for'.
- Page 3 – should note "C.E. Williams as Chair", "Vernon Cook as Vice-Chair", and "Dan Coffey as Secretary".
- Page 3 – Item #4, should note that John Williams and Nolan Clark would serve as At-Large Executive Committee "members".
- Page 3 – Item #7 – strike "there will then be a 120-day review period. "
- Section 3 – sentence calls for action verb, "be on an annual basis"
- Agenda Item 8 – second paragraph, Dr. Yujuin Yang's name was misspelled

Vernon Cook made the motion to accept the minutes with the above-mentioned changes. Bill Hallerberg seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING – ACCEPTANCE AND ACTION

Jarrett Atkinson explained that at the last meeting of the PWPG, the Executive Committee and the other members of the Group were authorized to prepare and submit an application for supplemental funding to the Texas Water Development Board. The application was for GAM Simulations (GW Availability Numbers), Canadian River WAM Input Analysis, Natural Gas Price Impact on Irrigated Agriculture Water Demands and Interregional Coordination. All four tasks were funded with a reduction in one area.

The PWPG discussed the Scope of Work for these supplemental items and considered acceptance of the funding. The discussion centered around the fact that the State will not have funds to release until 2005. The PWPG could pre-spend but if the legislature does not appropriate funds, the final Regional Water Plan will not be fully funded.

Bill Hallerberg made a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to work with the budget for the original scope of work, and to negotiate and adjust the supplemental and original scopes of work to allow completion of both the original and supplemental work. Included in the motion was that the Executive Committee is authorized to approve the final form of the supplemental work and to authorize the PRPC to execute the contract with the Texas water Development Board. Charles Cooke seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND EVALUATION PROCESS

Stefan Schuster, Freese & Nichols, Inc., explained that at the last meeting, he had been instructed by the PWPG to refine the water management strategies and evaluation process. He submitted a list of strategies and stated that it would not prohibit the PWPG from adding additional potential strategies or from eliminating un-usable strategies from the list at a later date. He asked for input from the PWPG and explained that all strategies will be evaluated for impact and that each strategy will have a component to qualify and quantify environmental impact.

He stated that consultants will identify strategies to provide additional water to the region by several means 1) water conservation and drought management; 2) wastewater reuse; 3) expanded use of existing supplies; and 4) new supply development. He said that these strategies will be presented at a RWPG meeting for review and solicitation for RWPG and public input. The RWPG will approve the potentially feasible strategies that the following meeting. Approved strategies will be evaluated and included in the Panhandle Regional Water Plan. Supplies generated will be used to meet a regional need.

Evaluation criteria was formulated in accordance with Senate Bill One (SB1) and Senate Bill 2 (SB2) guidance. They include: 1) quantity, reliability and cost; 2) environmental factors, including effects on environmental water needs, wildlife habitat and cultural resources; 3) impacts on water resources, such as playas, and other water management strategies; 4) impacts on agriculture and natural resources; and 5) other relevant factors. He provided a water-use table utilizing the figures from the last round of planning.

8. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER NORTHERN OGALLALA GAM UPDATE

Dr. Alan Dutton, BEG, gave a presentation and discussed the update of the Northern Ogallala GAM. The update and Stakeholder Advisory Forum process was overseen and managed by the PWPG Modeling Committee. The update form and format was approved by the TWDB and was done in accordance with the Stakeholder Advisory Forum (SAF). Dr Dutton's report summarized the changes to the model and the impact of those changes.

John Williams stated that the Modeling Committee met and reviewed Dr. Dutton's report. Further, he stated in the form of a motion that the Modeling Committee recommends approval of the update and submittal to the TWDB for their approval. Gale Henslee seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

9. DISCUSSION – UPDATE ON CROSS-SECTIONAL FLOW MODEL

Dr. Alan Dutton explained that he has completed a large portion of the work on a cross-sectional flow model centered on Roberts County. He said the model is designed to assist in evaluating potential changes to the water quality in the study area over time. He said that this study is a work in progress and answers to pumping and chloride questions are not forthcoming at this point.

10. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REGIONAL COUNTY SUMMARY PAGE

Stefan Shuster, Freese & Nichols, Inc., submitted a format for regional county summary pages. He asked for input from the PWPG and explained that the members could e-mail data to him for inclusion in the appropriate county pages. These pages will ultimately be included in the Regional Water Plan and on the PWPG website

11. PRESENTATION – TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Item 11 was tabled due to the absence of the presenter from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Chairman Williams said that this item will be covered at another meeting.

12. RESOLUTION

A dispute between the Far West Texas Planning Area (Region E) has prompted that region to request support from its counterparts and ask that they pass a resolution requiring that agencies or entities wishing to conduct large water projects must be considered in the Regional Water Planning process.

Charles Cooke made a motion to pass the proposed resolution as attached. Ray Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 17 to 1 with Dr. Nolan Clark opposed.

13. PLANNING TIMELINE

Jarrett Atkinson said that the PWPG must have the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) completed by the end of April, 2005 to stay in compliance with the planning rules. At this time, the population projections and the water demand portions of the Plan have been completed but the Group still has substantial work ahead and less than 12 months to complete the remaining elements. He asked the PWPG if a meeting on

environmental work is needed. Since the Texas Parks & Wildlife presentation was not made today, Chairman Williams scheduled a meeting for Thursday, July 15, 2004. Judge Vernon Cook asked for the minutes to reflect that a special meeting was being called to accommodate the TPWD.

An updated timeline for the remainder of the planning process was distributed to the members of the PWPG for their reference.

14. **TASK 1**

Stefan Schuster submitted a draft copy of Task 1/Chapter 1 of the revised Regional Water Plan. He said that the chapter is not completely updated and welcomed input from the PWPG. This chapter will be considered as an action item in August.

15. **COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

There were no committee actions at this time.

16. **FINANCIAL REPORT AND RELATED ITEMS**

Dr. R. Nolan Clark presented the Independent Financial Report with a balance sheet ending \$29,616 for the State funds and of \$62,806 for the local funds. Dr. Clark provided a review of the financial documents as submitted by the PRPC and recommended approval of the financial activities of the PWPG. Vernon Cook seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

17. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Report from the Texas Water Development Board – Temple McKinnon said that Dan Hardin will be sending out Economic Impact letters in the near future and she encouraged use of the Water Policy Website.
- B. Meeting Dates – the PWPG will meet on July 15 and August 12.

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Planning Group, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.