

## PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

### Minutes

June 20, 2006

A joint meeting of the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG Region A) and the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (LERWPG Region O) was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. in the basement of the Van Howeling Education Complex, at Wayland Baptist University, 1900 West. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Plainview, Texas.

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

#### REGION A MEMBERS PRESENT:

Janet Guthrie, Hemphill County UWCD; Vernon Cook, County of Roberts; Dan Coffey, City of Amarillo; Ben Weinheimer, Texas Cattle Feeders Association; Rudie Tate; Dr. Nolan Clark, USDA-ARS; Grady Skaggs; Rusty Gilmore, Rita Blanca Well Service; Gale Henslee, Xcel Energy; Jim Derington, Palo Duro River Authority; Richard Bowers, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District; C.E. Williams, Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District; Charles Cooke, TCW Supply, Inc.; Steve Jones, Texas Department of Agriculture; Temple McKinnon, Texas Water Development Board; Charles Munger, TPWD; Kent Satterwhite, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority and Dr. John Sweeten, Texas Ag. Experiment Station - TAMU Ag. Res. And Ext.;

#### REGION A MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mickey Black, USDA-NRCS; John Williams; David Landis, City of Perryton; Denise Jett, Phillips Petroleum; Inge Brady; B.A. Donelson, First State Bank; Bill Hallerberg; Bobbie Kidd, City of Clarendon; and Janet Tregellas.

#### REGION O MEMBERS PRESENT:

H. P. (Bo) Brown Jr., Chairman, Temple McKinnon TWDB, Steve Jones TDA, Melanie Barnes, Jim Conkwright, Delmon Ellison Jr., Harvey Everheart, Bill Harbin, Doug Hutcheson, Don James, Richard Leonard, Terry Lopas, Don McElroy, Gene Montgomery, Kent Satterwhite and Jim Steiert.

## REGION O MEMBERS ABSENT

Delaine Baucum, Bruce Blalack, Dallas Brewer, Bob Josserand, Sukant Misra, and Ken Rainwater. Absent non-voting members were Dr. Herb Grubb, HDR Engineering, Austin; Joan Glass, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Malcolm Laing, TCEQ.

## OTHERS PRESENT:

Cindy Cockerham, State Senator Kel Seliger's Office; Katie Day, State Senator Robert Duncan's Office; Lewis Britt, US Representative Mac Thornberry's Office; Tom Adams, City of Lubbock; L. C. Childers, Mayor of Wolfforth; Frankie Pittman, City of Wolfforth; Dave Bowser; Elliott Blackburn, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal; Fran Bretz; Kevin Welch, Amarillo Globe-News; Bonnie Holmes; Kena Harris; Mike McGregor, Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District; Greg Ingham, City of Plainview; John Anderson, Mayor of Plainview; Steve Stevens, Mesa Water; Don McReynolds, High Plains Water District; Jarrett Atkinson, City of Amarillo; Judy Reeves; Bruce Crawford, TWDB; and Susanne Lucignani, TWDB.

## STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Coffman, Local Government Services Program Director PRPC; Carmon McCain, Administrative Aide, High Plains Water District.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. C.E. Williams called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

### **2. Roll Call of members to establish a quorum**

Region O called roll of members and established a quorum.

Region A called roll of members and the designated alternates. A quorum was established. Three Designated Alternates were recognized: Randy Criswell representing David Landis; Chad Parnell representing John Williams; and Cleon Namkin representing Mickey Black.

### **3. Presentation by the Texas Water Development Board on eligible funding programs.**

Temple McKinnon reviewed the status of the current time line for Round three of the water planning cycle. A time line was given to both Chairmen and the lead agencies for review. Mrs. McKinnon reviewed a TWDB memo that discussed the available funding of \$6.6 million for upcoming planning projects that would be on a statewide competition and 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 355 rules will apply to the funding requests.

Mrs. McKinnon stated that the TWDB had recently hired a consulting firm to study the Dockum Aquifer and the Edwards/Trinity Basin. Meetings were scheduled for both sometime in July for any and all stakeholders to attend. The scope of work contract was to provide up to date Ground water availability models and other important information. The data gathered will be integrated in the same format as the Ogallala study had been performed.

Jim Conkwright stated that the meetings would be held at High Plains conservation District offices on the 12<sup>th</sup> for the Edwards and on the 20<sup>th</sup> for the Dockum at 1:00 pm.

Ben Weinheimer asked if the study would include water quality in addition to the water quantity. Mrs. McKinnon responded that the scope of work included water quality analysis.

Chairman Williams asked what step should be taken to begin the next round of planning and Mrs. McKinnon suggested the following:

- a. Identify the projects of importance
- b. Be sure to allow for the 30 day public notice and comment period before the submission of a funding request.
- c. Groups will need to meet again to approve the scope of work that is to be done.
- d. September 12, 2006 is the deadline for the application. June 21<sup>st</sup> will be the day that the TWDB will issue Request for Proposals.

Mrs. McKinnon reviewed the components of the types of activities that would be funded under the RFP for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 biennial appropriation for a two year period.

1. Evaluation of new water management strategies in response to changed conditions.
2. Studies that will further implementation of recommended water management strategies;
3. Refinement of water supply information or water management strategies;
4. Activities that will help overcome problems from the last round of planning;
5. Further evaluation of water management strategies, especially regional solutions, to meet needs in small communities or rural areas;
6. Reevaluation of population and demand projections only under the presence of changed conditions;
7. Interregional coordination; and
8. Administrative and public participation activities.

Bruce Crawford and Susanne Lucignani made a presentation to the group on various funding sources available from the Texas Water Development Board for infrastructure projects related to water and waste water.

#### **4. Discuss current and future needs of Canadian River Municipal Water Authority – Kent Satterwhite**

Kent Satterwhite illustrated the need to study the recharge of the Ogallala Aquifer in the area of land that the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority has 300,000 acres of water rights. Production of water from this area began in 2001 and recharge information for the aquifer is an issue that CRMWA is interested in obtaining. Mainly the Canadian River Breaks were the area of potential recharge and had never been studied in the past. Mr. Satterwhite stated that the recharge information is needed to determine the amount water that could be expected in CRMWA's area. The study of recharge is important because the difference between  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch of recharge compared to 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches of recharge was a large amount of water. Upon gathering the needed information, CRMWA would be able to determine if they need more water rights or do they have enough, the study would fit well with the outlined areas of funding by TWDB and CRMWA would be able to determine when the time was proper to install a CRMWA II pipeline.

Chairman Brown asked Mr. Satterwhite, "What is the request?"

Mr. Satterwhite responded that he would like to see a two year project to perform the study and that the drilling of the test holes would be funded by CRMWA because the TWDB would not fund the boring.

Chairman Williams suggested that the study be broadened to include a larger portion of the Ogallala Aquifer and include the bore site that his district has completed. Chairman Williams stated that Panhandle Water Conservation District has just completed 13 bore drillings and is waiting on the results of the data. He stated that his district has invested significant funding and is willing to invest more towards a project with this type of information and that both regions need this information because of the dependence on the Ogallala.

Chairman Williams asked for the blessing from both Regions to pursue the Ogallala as a whole utilizing the existing bore holes and branch out regionally from there.

Dr. Nolan Clark stated that additional studies are currently being done with GIS mapping and the effects of E.T. This global water balance study is underway and we need to take advantage of the newer technology.

Mrs. McKinnon cautioned the groups that duplication of efforts will be considered with a critical eye in the RFP process.

Chairman Williams suggested that a committee be formed with members from both regions to further discuss and determine the scope of work that needed to be submitted to the TWDB for the next round of planning.

Chairman Brown asked Mrs. McKinnon if it would enhance or hurt the funding request that CRMWA is requesting by broadening the scope to include a larger area.

Mrs. McKinnon responded that it would not but there is limited funding.

Gale Henslee noted that nothing reliable has been done on recharge and our GAM depends on the recharge of the Ogallala. Both regions would benefit from the study and it makes sense to expand. He cautioned that newer methods have been identified for this type of study and it would be a costly process.

Melanie Barnes stated that it makes sense to cover more area and a broader more regional approach should be done.

Chairman Williams reminded the groups that a committee could further discuss what has been done, what is being done and what should be done to determine the course of action for the Regions.

A motion for Region O was made by Chairman Brown and a second by Bill Harbin to create a joint committee to discuss and make a recommendation to each Region concerning the Ogallala Aquifer recharge study. The motion passed unanimously.

Vernon Cooke made the same motion on behalf of Region A and a second by Richard Bowers. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Discuss and consider further study of recharge of the Ogallala Aquifer.**

This item was fully discussed and considered during the discussion of item 4.

#### **6. Discuss and consider further study of the quality and quantity of the Dockum Aquifer.**

This item was fully discussed and considered during the discussion of item 3.

#### **7. Discuss, review and consider interregional coordination needs of Regions A&O.**

Chairman Williams solicited comments from the members as to any ideas or suggestions they might have to provide for improved interregional coordination between the planning groups.

Chairman Brown suggested that the minutes and agendas be shared to each group.

Melanie Barnes suggested a mutual web site be developed and maintained.

Mrs. McKinnon mentioned that a lack of coordination was common throughout the state among regions and this was one of the reasons this is a priority for funding in the next round of planning.

Harvey Everheart asked to form a committee between the two groups to discuss and make recommendations to the groups to improve the interregional coordination efforts.

Chairman Williams requested that Mr. Everheart be the chairman of this new interregional coordination committee and requested anyone interested in serving on the committee to sign up after the meeting.

#### **8. Discuss, review and consider preparations of application for off-census planning cycle funds.**

Mrs. McKinnon's presentation eliminated the need to discuss this item and no action was taken.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Brown was invited to make closing statements and he welcomed any comments from the groups.

Gene Montgomery suggested that the next joint meeting should include a microphone to improve the group's ability to hear the speakers better.

## **10. Closing Comments**

Chairman Brown thanked everyone for their participation and attendance and the meeting was adjourned.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Planning Groups, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.