

Minutes
July 7, 2007

Joint Ogallala Recharge Sub-Committee meeting of the Panhandle Water Planning Group (Region A) and the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (Region O) held on July 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the basement of the Unger Memorial Library at 825 Austin St., Plainview, Texas.

Attendance: Ben Weinheimer, Bo Brown, C.E. Williams, Chris Coffman, Gale Henslee, Janet Guthrie, Jim Conkwright, Jim Steiert, John Williams, Ken Rainwater, Kent Satterwhite, Richard Bowers, Gene Montgomery, Carmon McCain and Temple McKinnon.

Item 1. Region A & O Chairmen agreed to co-chair the committee meeting.

Item 2. Roll call was made and those in attendance were documented.

Item 3. Discuss and review previous, current and future Ogallala recharge studies. At this point in the meeting, Chairman Brown discussed the upcoming planning deadlines and asked Temple McKinnon to elaborate on the upcoming planning process.

Mrs. McKinnon reviewed the June 13th TWDB memo that was issued to the regions concerning the requirements and deadlines for filing an application for funding with the TWDB. The available funding is for a two year study for changed conditions in the region. She discussed the 30 day notice requirements and expressed the need for both regions to make sure these notices were observed. The deadline for the application submission is September 14, 2006.

Discussion from various members of the committee began and it was determined that not much information was available on the recharge of the Ogallala was available in the area in and around Roberts County.

Chairman Williams stated that Panhandle Water Conservation District had recently employed BEG to study recharge in some of the area in his district and noted that the information was not yet available. He suggested that we utilize the data gathered in this current study with any additional information and data acquired in a new study.

Item 4. Discuss and consider recommendations concerning future study of the Ogallala recharges to the Region A&O Water Planning Groups.

Mrs. McKinnon reviewed the 8 activities that the TWDB would consider for funding. The approved activities are as listed;

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. Re-evaluations of population and demand projections only under the presence of changed conditions;
7. Interregional coordination; and
8. Administration and public participation activities.

Mrs. McKinnon stated that a recharge study of the Ogallala in Region A would be beneficial to both regions because of the common supply of water for both regions are supplied from the Ogallala. Furthermore, the study meets many of the approved listed activities. The application would need to be from one region as the lead agency and the other region would need to illustrate support for the project. The total funding available of approximately \$5.6 million is on a statewide competitive basis.

Committee discussion followed and it was suggested that Region A take the lead and be the funding agent in the project and Region O would seek their Board approval for support of the project.

Ken Rainwater discussed various aspects of what needed to be considered and reminded the committee that the two year study timeframe may limit many details of the study. He suggested collecting any existing data that may be available, GIS mapping of the area with the various type of soils, collecting any drilling data, utilizing any records of pumping, the use of stock tanks and the possibility of using isotopes for tracing water movement and seepage. In an expanded timeframe, more study could be accomplished by observing what is happening. Mr. Rainwater stated that it would be difficult to conduct much field work study in the short amount of time. Variable amounts of rainfall would be a key element in determining the recharge rate over a longer period of time.

Chairman Williams asked the committee if the project should include just Roberts County or be more inclusive and include sites that were recently drilled and data gathered.

Mrs. McKinnon stated that the TWDB would not fund drilling test holes for the study and Kent Satterwhite stated that CRMWA was willing to budget approximately \$50,000 toward the project and that could be used for the drilling. Chairman Williams stated that it might be possible for his water district to budget some funding and possibly the other water districts could contribute toward the project.

It was agreed that at least all of the CRMWA area of Roberts County should be included and depending on the topography, could include more area around Roberts County.

The projected cost of the study was discussed and was determined that the study would be approximately 10% of the total funds available making it imperative that the study be a number one priority for both regions.

Chairman Williams requested Ken Rainwater to contact Bridgett Scanlon with BEG and see if they could work together to develop a scope of work for a recharge study so both of the Regions could consider the proposed joint study.

Mr. Rainwater agreed and will develop a scope of work for the group.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned.