

PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

Minutes

May 15, 2009

A meeting of the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG) was held on Monday, May 13, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the PRPC Board Room, 415 West Eighth Avenue, Amarillo, Potter County, Texas.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nolan Clark, USDA-ARS; David Landis, City of Perryton; Janet Guthrie, Hemphill County UWCD; Joe Baumgardner; Vernon Cook, County of Roberts; Charles Cooke, TCW Supply, Inc.; Bill Hallerberg; Tom Bailiff, Greenbelt Municipal & Industrial Water Authority; Emmett Autrey, City of Amarillo; Jim Derington, Palo Duro River Authority; Gale Henslee, Xcel Energy; C.E. Williams, Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District; John Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Grady Skaggs; Janet Tregellas; Jenny Pluhar, Enercon Services, Inc.; John Schmucker, Moore County Development, Inc.; Rusty Gilmore, Rita Blanca Well Service; Ben Weinheimer, Texas Cattle Feeders Association; Denise Jett, Phillips Petroleum; Steve Walthour, Norrth Plains Groundwater Conservation District; Mickey Black, USDA-NRCS; John Sweeten, Texas Ag. Experiment Station – TAMU Ag. Res & Ext

OTHERS PRESENT:

Angela Masloff (telephone), Texas Water Development Board; Simone Kiel, Freese & Nichols; Kent Satterwhite, CRMWA; Steve Stevens, Mesa Water; Cindy Cockerham, Senator Seliger; Bob Hardin, R.W. Hardin & Assoc.; Steve Amosson, Texas Agri-life; Fran Brett, Texas Agri-life Research; Cleon Namken, USDA – NRCS; Joyce Hensley, League of Women Voters; Charles Munger, TPWD; Steves James, TDA

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Caldwell, Local Government Services Coordinator; Jonathan Ellis, Local Government Services Intern; Kyle Ingham, Local Government Services Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. C. E. Williams called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and took roll call, it was noted that a quorum was present.

2. **ESTABLISH ATTENDANCE & RECOGNIZE DESIGNATED ALTERNATES**

Four Designated Alternates were recognized: Thomas Marek for Dr. John Sweeten, Beverly Stephens for Denise Jett, Dale Hallmark for Steve Walthour, and Lynn Wauer for Mickey Black

3. **MINUTES**

Judge Vernon Cook made the motion to accept the minutes with noted corrections. Item # 11 – “Docum” should be “Dockum.” David Landis seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

At this point member Ben Weinheimer joined the meeting.

4. **DISCUSS – LISTING OF ACRONYMS USED IN REGIONAL WATER PLANNING**

Kyle Ingham spoke to the preparation of this list and briefly spoke to each item on the list. There was discussion over the difference between PGMA and GMA. John Williams suggested adding Palo Duro River Authority, Red River Authority, and Greenbelt Water Authority

5. **DISCUSS – EXTENSION REQUEST OF THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE INTERIM OGALLALA RECHARGE STUDY**

Kyle Ingham reviewed the progression up to this point in time, and provided a brief explanation on the actions taken. The extension request and TWDB Contract Amendment Number 1 to contract #0704830686 were attached.

6. **DISCUSS – CLARIFICATIONS AND COMMENTS BY THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD IN RELATION TO THE INTERIM OGALLALA RECHARGE STUDY.**

Kyle Ingham reviewed comments by the Texas Water Development Board regarding the Interim Ogallala Recharge Study. There were 7 comments in all. Mr. Ingham spoke to each, their primarily clerical nature, and how they might be addressed.

7. **DISCUSS – PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA #1**

C.E. Williams spoke to the hope of adopting the DFC at the afternoon GMA #1 meeting. Nolan Clark had a question about which was the most current draft. John Williams made a comment regarding the data and recommendation of the Interim Ogallala Study as it might apply to three separate divisions. He questioned if perhaps a study should be conducted for each division. Simone Kiel spoke to the fact that currently the Interim is gathering data not analyzing it. Kyle Ingham made the point that if the DFC is not established by the December 2008 deadline then PWPG is not required to use them until the 2011 plan. Simone Kiel spoke to her understanding of the DFC in that it would translate into a MAG for all parties concerned. Emmett Autrey asked if there would be a full term target and annual readings. John Williams asked for confirmation that the MAG would be the framework for individual districts to meet the DFC. C.E. Williams confirmed yes. There was further discussion on what exactly the roles were of several of the groups involved and their recommendations.

8. **DISCUSS – SUB-CONTRACTORS INCLUDING INTERA AND TEXAS AGRILIFE**

Kyle Ingham spoke to the process by which sub contractors were identified and selected for assistance in developing the 2011 Panhandle Regional Water Plan. Sub-Contract Agreement documents with both Intera and Texas AgriLife were attached.

9. **ACTION – MINING DEMANDS REVISION – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AVAILABLE**

Mining demand revisions as prepared by Texas Agrilife Extension and Freese and Nichols were presented as an attachment and discussed by Simone Kiel. There was a question and answer period and some further discussion between members regarding the findings and methodology involved. C.E. Williams opened the floor for public comment regarding mining demand revisions. Kyle Ingham made known that if anyone wished to see or make revisions to any of the reports they would be available for 14 days. Charles Cook made a motion to accept the proposed mining demand revisions. Janet Guthrie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

10. **ACTION – LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION DEMAND REVISIONS – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AVAILABLE**

Livestock and irrigation demand revisions as prepared by Texas Agrilife Extension and Freese and Nichols were presented as an attachment and discussed by Steve Amosson and Simone Kiel. Kyle Ingham made known that these revisions had gone through the Agriculture Committee. Methodology and findings were discussed among members, questions were asked and answered. C.E. Williams opened the floor for public comment regarding livestock and irrigation demand revisions. Nolan Clark made a motion to accept the proposed livestock and irrigation demand revisions. Emmett Autrey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

11. **ACTION – STEAM ELECTRIC POWER DEMAND REVISION – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AVAILABLE**

Kyle Ingham spoke to the fact that the Bureau of Economic Geology had helped Texas Water Development Board in developing the numbers used. Simone Kiel spoke specifically to the presented steam electric power demand revisions. Methodology and findings were discussed among members, questions were asked and answered. C.E. Williams opened the floor for public comment regarding steam electric power demand revisions. Bill Hallerberg made a motion to accept the proposed steam electric power demand revisions. Jim Derrington seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

12. **ACTION – FORMALIZING STRATEGY IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**

Simone Kiel had been working on establishing a textual depiction of the strategy identification process utilized in the previous two planning cycles. She presented her finished set of guidelines for the process. In TAC 357.5: “Before a regional water planning group begins the process of identifying potentially feasible water management strategies, it shall document the process by which it will list all possible water management strategies and identify the water management strategies that are potentially feasible for meeting a need in the region.” Ms. Kiel proceeded to speak to specific points in the process. Regarding the identification process she spoke to the points of identifying entities with needs, reviewing recommended strategies in the 2006 plan, determining if new or changed strategies are needed, contacting entities for input, and verification of recommendations. Regarding feasible strategies she spoke to several specific considerations: a strategy must use proven technology; a strategy should be appropriate for regional planning; a strategy should have an identifiable

sponsor; one must consider end use; one must meet existing regulations. Several feasible conservations strategies were examined and elaborated on. Regarding water conservation, she spoke concerns of reviewing applicability for WUGs and updating information on all WUGs with a need. Regarding Drought management, there should be emergency measures and should not be recommended for the long term. Regarding wastewater reuse updates should be based on current practices. Regarding expanding use of existing supplies, one should consider new groundwater wells; conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water; and new infrastructure. Regarding voluntary transfer one must consider contracts, sales, leases, and options. Regarding yield enhancement issues such as brush management, precipitation enhancement, and recharge enhancement should be considered. Finally, regarding evaluations several factors must be considered: quantity, cost and reliability; environmental factors; Impacts on water resources and other WMS; impacts on agriculture/rural; impacts on natural resources; impacts on key water quality parameters; other relevant considerations. With this presentation as a loose representation of previous identification cycles C.E. Williams asked for a motion to adopt it as a formal strategy identification process. Charles Cooke so moved. Bill Hallerberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

13. DISCUSS – PLAN DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

Kyle Ingham spoke briefly to the timeline which was required by the 2011 Regional Planning Cycle. Simone Kiel had prepared an attached visual representation with checkpoints for progress both past and future.

14. DISCUSS – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - AN OPEN FORUM FOR PWPG MEMBERS TO DISCUSS BILLS BEING TRACKED BY MEMBER AGENCIES

C.E. Williams spoke to several bills by Senator Watson Shapleigh, specifically SB 1405 and SB 1406. He spoke to the provisions of the bills and what they might mean for water planning in the area. Kyle Ingham spoke to HB 2589 by Representative Joe Pickett.

15. REGIONAL REPORTS – B AND O

Kent Satterwhite gave a report on Region O, and spoke to issues being considered, changes, and meeting dates. Angela Masloff gave a report on Region B. She spoke to actions by the region. Additionally she gave the next meeting date: September 23rd

16. REPORT OR COMMENTS FROM TWDB PERSONNEL

Angela Masloff spoke to several contracts which were under work. Two payments had been made on the Ogallala contract and the amendment to extend the study until July 31st had been received. She also spoke to the progress on the Region A Water Planning Contract.

17. OTHER BUSINESS, CLOSING COMMENTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS

C.E. Williams invited members of the board and audience to make any additional comments. Nolan Clark spoke of the process for reimbursing members for travel expenses, and reinstating such a process. C.E. Williams made known that GMA #1 was meeting today at 1:30 pm.

18. ADJOURN

C.E. Williams adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.