

PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

Minutes

July 14, 2009

A meeting of the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG) was held on Monday, July 14, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. in the PRPC Board Room, 415 West Eighth Avenue, Amarillo, Potter County, Texas.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Grady Skaggs, County of Oldham; 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; Gale Henslee, Xcel Energy; C.E. Williams, Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District; John Williams; Denise Jett, ConocoPhillips; Steve Walthour, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District; Ben Weinheimer, Texas Cattle Feeders Association; Steve Jones, Texas Department of Agriculture;

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Emmett Autrey, City of Amarillo; Nolan Clark, USDA-ARS; Janet Tregellas; Rusty Gilmore, Rita Blanca Well Service; Mickey Black, USDA-NRCS; John Sweeten, Texas Ag. Experiment Station – TAMU Ag. Res & Ext; Jim Derrington, Palo Duro River Authority; Charles Munger, TWPD Canyon Fisheries Lab

OTHERS PRESENT:

Angela Masloff, Texas Water Development Board; Simone Kiel, Freese & Nichols; Kent Satterwhite, CRMWA; Steve Stevens, Mesa Water; Bob Hardin, R.W. Hardin & Assoc.; Fran Brett, Texas Agri-life Research; Cleon Namken, USDA – NRCS; Joyce Hensley, League of Women Voters; Steves Jones, TDA; Van Kelly, Intera;

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Caldwell, Local Government Services Coordinator; Jonathan Ellis, Local Government Services Intern; Kyle Ingham, Local Government Services Director; Julie Lyles, Accountant; Cindy Boone, Finance Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. C. E. Williams called the meeting to order at 10:30 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, Lynn Wauer for Mickey Black, Cole Camp for Rusty Gilmore, David Brauer for Nolan Clark, and Steve Miller for Emmitt Autrey.

3. **MINUTES**

Judge Vernon Cook made the motion to accept the minutes. Charles Cooke seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. **DISCUSS – SUBMISSION OF DEMAND REVISIONS**

Kyle Ingham reviewed the purpose of the revisions and the process. Additionally, he spoke of the time line of submission, and the attachments which were submitted with the revisions, among them: the minutes and agenda showing the process. Mr. Ingham spoke of his conversation with the Texas Water Development Board in which they stated that no additional information would be necessary and that the demand revision requests would be placed on the August 2009 TWDB Board Meeting Agenda.

5. **DISCUSS – REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE QUARTERS ENDING ON DECEMBER 30TH 2008, MARCH 30TH 2009 AND POTENTIALLY JUNE 30, 2009**

Kyle Ingham spoke on behalf of Nolan Clark, and presented the financial reports. Mr. Ingham spoke to the absence of absence of billings by the Bureau of Economic Geology, and said that Julie Lyles would speak more on this issue later in the meeting. Charles Cooke had several questions regarding time periods involved with the billing process. Steve Walthour made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Bill Hallerberg seconded; motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS APPROPRIATE – UPDATE ON PWPG BILLING FOR 2008/2009 WITH CONSIDERATION OF INCLUDING REMINDER OF NON-PAYMENT IN 2009/2010 BILLS OF LACK OF CONTRIBUTION FOR PREVIOUS YEAR AS APPROPRIATE**

Kyle Ingham spoke to which payments had been received and which had not. Passing on input from Dr. Clark, Mr. Ingham suggested calling each entity which had not paid to discuss the matter and include in their upcoming bill, the bill from the previous year. Several questions were asked about the process in the past of billing and the time periods involved. Vernon Cook made a motion to include additional billing from the previous cycle in this upcoming billing cycle. David Landis seconded; motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. **DISCUSS – NOMINATION OF C.E. WILLIAMS TO THE TEXAS WATER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL TO REPRESENT REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS**

Vernon Cook detailed what had led up to this nomination, including the solicitation for nominations to the Water Conservation Advisory Council, received late April 2009. Judge Cook submitted a letter in mid June 2009 nominating Mr. Williams to serve another term on the Council. C.E. Williams expressed appreciation for the nomination.

8. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – MODIFICATIONS TO DRAFT INTERMIM OGALLAL RECHARGE STUDY REPORT ADDRESSING TWDB COMMENTS**

Kyle Ingham spoke to the various needs and comments of TWDB regarding the Recharge Study, additionally the tasks which would be completed in order to meet those needs. He spoke briefly of Appendix A and Appendix B which would meet several needs of TWDB. Additionally Mr. Ingham spoke to the Tridium-Helium Analysis which was the cause of the three month extension. Mr. Ingham also spoke to the scope of the work and issues of interregional coordination. No action needed be taken on this item.

9. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – FINANCIAL STATUS OF INTERIM OGALLALA RECHARGE STUDY**

Julie Lyles spoke to the issue of outstanding billings from the BEG and spoke to amounts owned and a time frame involved. Kyle Ingham spoke to an alternative method of paying for services in the absence of billings which involved allocating the remaining money which was directed for the purpose of drilling. Several questions were asked and possible alternative actions discussed. No action was taken

10. **ACTION – ADOPTION OF INTERIM OGALLALA RECHARGE STUDY REPORT**

Discussion from the previous item, involved several concerns of members for the adoption and were addressed in previous discussion as such C.E. Williams clarified the issue before the group. Mr. Williams called for a motion to adopt the Recharge Study Report and allow Kyle Ingham to submit it. William Hallerberg so moved. Charles Cooke seconded; motion passed by unanimous vote.

11. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – LOCAL CONSERVATION PLANS RECEIVED TO PWPG TO DATE**

Kyle Ingham briefly spoke of HB4 and in accordance with its provisions, which water conservation plans had been submitted. In response to questions, Mr. Ingham spoke to the states of preparedness, format, and purposes of the local conservation plans. Simone Kiel further spoke to their purpose and spoke briefly to the process of review and acceptance on the part of TWDB. No action was required on this item.

12. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – CHAPTER 2: POPULATION DEMAND**

Simone Kiel spoke to the purpose and structure of the chapter. Contributions from the PWPG and from former rounds of planning. Ms. Kiel went section by section through the chapter and pointed out where no changes had been made from the last round of planning and where changes had been made and addressed why. Ms. Kiel detailed the demands according to region, and made the comment that the depiction presented showed where water is being used, not the demand on the water resource in the county. Ms. Kiel spoke to population projections in the various regions and that impact on water usage. In the same vein she spoke to projections in both municipal and irrigation demand usage. Due to the fact that the demands had been subject to discussion at the last meeting Ms. Kiel did not speak at length on the issue. Ms. Kiel moved onto the issue of wholesale water providers. Ms. Kiel said that on that issue there was some measure of uncertainty regarding Dumas she had been unable to contact them to clarify the issue. John Williams had a question about the impact of the population increases on overall municipal demand. There was some discussion over where some numbers in the projections came from. Gale Henslee had a question about surface water use in some counties where he was unaware there was surface water. Through discussion it was determined that an acceptable explanation was that of reused water from industries as contributing to this number, this resolved the discrepancy. Furthermore, it was determined that additional description should be

added to prevent misconception on this particular issue. Additional discussion between C.E. Williams, Steve Walthour, Janet Guthrie, and Ms. Kiel took place. When no more questions were asked, Ms. Kiel moved to chapter 3.

13. DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – CHAPTER 3: WATER SUPPLY ANALYSIS

Simone Kiel made comment that this is a working draft and that the focus is on analysis and description of water supplies in the region. Additionally there was description and comparison of water available to specific water groups. Ms. Kiel spoke of the three primary aquifers: the Ogallala, the Rita Blanca, and the Greenbelt. Ms. Kiel went on to speak to specifics of various terms used such as reused water, and breakdowns of water in municipal regions. Ms. Kiel spoke of surface water supplies the primary river basins being the Canadian river basin and Red River basin. Ms. Kiel proceeded to elaborate on further points from both surface water and ground water supplies. Specifically she spoke to the adoption of desired future conditions (DFC) by the Groundwater Management Area #1 (GMA) and the impact it would have on regional water sources due to impacts on predictions of water consumption, the breakdown was done on a county by county basis. Steve Walthour asked a question about the BEG draft from the 2006 plan having some different numbers from those presented today. Ms. Kiel said that the demand numbers had been adjusted. Mr. Walthour asked a question about how the water left numbers in table 3-1 were derived. Ms. Kiel explained, that the numbers were based upon pumpage amounts not percentage volume left. Mr. Walthour spoke to some positives in measuring in terms of percentage volume remaining. Regarding discrepancies, Ms. Kiel summarized there were three sets of numbers: 2006 plan numbers, unofficial draft MAG numbers utilizing the DFC, and Intera model update w/resulting new numbers, she asked the group how they wished to proceed. John Williams suggested waiting until the model update was complete before taking any sort of action. C.E. Williams suggested listening to Van's presentation and then coming back to this item. Before moving on, Ms. Kiel asked about adopting the new Dockum GAM which is currently being done or utilizing 2006 numbers.

14. DISCUSS – UPDATE ON OGALLALA GAM STUDY

Van Kelly from Intera spoke to the purpose and scope of their work. He had a brief presentation to update the group on their work. Intera has been working on the Ogallala GAM study as a subcontractor to Freese and Nichols. Primarily Mr. Kelly and Ms. Kiel spoke to model revisions and adjustments to numbers from the 2006 plan, and where the data for the adjustments came from: previously collected data; newly collected data; where data came from; how it was collected; etc. Several questions of clarification were asked and addressed. At the conclusion of Mr. Kelly's presentation, C.E. Williams sought to return to items 12 and 13 for any possible action that might need to be taken.

ITEM 12 AND 13 CONTINUED

Simone Kiel said that no item needed to be taken on chapter 2 thus no action was taken on item 12.

Regarding item 13, and chapter 3, Ms. Kiel asked for direction regarding the supply availability by source for the Ogallala, the Dockum, and the Rita Blanca. Ms. Kiel made comment that according to the most recent GAM the Rita Blanca was included in the Ogallala. Ms. Kiel said that their organization viewed and treated them in past studies

and efforts as separate entities. Steve Walthour made a motion to include the Rita Blanca in with the Ogallala, due to the fact that the GMA just recently had in the language of their DFC resolution done so, and was instructed as such by the TWDB. John Williams seconded; motion passed by unanimous vote. Angela Masloff spoke about the possibility of parsing out what portion of the finalized numbers could be attributed to the Rita Blanca and what portion to the Ogallala. Mr. Walthour expressed that whatever the resultant numbers of such an action were, he would not have a high amount of confidence in them. It was suggested that when referring to the overall picture, to simply use the term "Ogallala and Rita Blanca Aquifers," Ms. Masloff said that TWDB could work with that.

Ms. Kiel said that the next concern was regarding the Dockum, she asked if she should adapt numbers from the 2006 plan or initiate an additional study. Mr. Walthour made comment that the TWDB hasn't yet completed their Dockum Run and that it was scheduled to be seen and considered by the GMA in September. As such, Mr. Walthour recommended sticking to the numbers from the last plan. Mr. Walthour moved as such. Ben Weinheimer seconded; motion passed by unanimous vote.

John Williams expressed concern about available supply numbers vs. available volume numbers. Several members discussed the areas affected by this and various contributing factors. The question became one of continuing using the 1.25% decline or use new numbers from the GMA adopted DFC. Mr. Walthour made a motion to send the question to the modeling committee. William Hallerberg seconded. Ms. Kiel expressed concerns of the time frames involved, and asked for a decision on what numbers to use by mid-August. After discussion, Mr. Walthour amended his motion. Mr. Walthour moved to send the question to the modeling committee and empower them to make a selection after they review the options. Mr. Hallerberg seconded; motion carried by unanimous vote.

15. DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – PWPG MEMBER TERMS, REAPPOINTMENTS, AND SOLICITATIONS.

C.E. Williams spoke to the members whose terms would expire on September 1, 2009. They were as follows: Steve Walthour, Jenny Pluhar, Vernon Cook, Charles Cooke, John Schmucker, Rusty Gilmore, Bill Hallerberg, and Tom Baliff. Additionally, Jenny Pluhar and John Schmucker were not going to seek another term. This left two openings, Kyle Ingham spoke to the bylaws governance of such an issue and spoke to the process by which he had enacted the solicitation process. The solicitation process resulted in three nominees: one agriculture nominee, Kendall Harris; and two environmental nominees, Joyce Hinsley and Cole Camp. C.E. Williams reported the recommendation of the executive committee. For the agriculture seat, the executive committee selected Kendall Harris. For the environmental seat, the executive committee selected Cole Camp. John Williams made a motion to accept the recommendation of the executive committee and appoint Cole Camp and Kendall Harris to the PWPG as well as reappoint those whose terms were to expire on the 1st of September. Grady Skaggs seconded; motion passed by unanimous vote.

16. DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – PWPG OFFICER SELECTION

Kyle Ingham spoke to the governance of this issue according to the bylaws, including the provision that there is no limitation on officer tenure. Charles Cooke made a motion

to elect the current officers to their current positions for an additional term. William Hallerberg seconded, motion passed by unanimous vote.

17. **REGIONAL REPORTS – B AND O**

It was reported by Kent Satterwhite and Angela Masloff that both regions would not be meeting until October, as such there was nothing to report at this time.

18. **REPORT OR COMMENTS FROM TWDB PERSONNEL**

Ms. Masloff did offer some information on the water infrastructure fund (WIF) and its purpose.

19. **OTHER BUSINESS, CLOSING COMMENT FROM CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS**

Kyle Ingham asked each member how they would like to receive the draft of chapter 6 when it was completed. Additionally Mr. Ingham spoke to how members could be reimbursed their travel costs for this meeting. Several members asked to receive a hardcopy of the chapter 6 draft, including: William Hallerberg, Charles Cooke, David Landis, Grady Skaggs. All others were satisfied receiving it via email.

20. **ADJOURN**

C.E. Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.