

PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

Minutes

January 19, 2010

A meeting of the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG) was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 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:

Nolan Clark, USDA-ARS; David Landis, City of Perryton; Janet Guthrie, Hemphill County UWCD; Grady Skaggs, County of Oldham; John Sweeten, Texas Ag. Experiment Station – TAMU Ag. Res & Ext; Joe Baumgardner; Janet Tregellas; Steve Walthour, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District; Cole Camp, Pika International Inc.; Vernon Cook, County of Roberts; Bill Hallerburg; Emmett Autrey, City of Amarillo; Jim Derrington, Palo Duro River Authority; Gale Henslee, Xcel Energy; Ben Weinheimer, Texas Cattle Feeders Association; C.E. Williams, Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District; John Williams, CRMWA; Victoria Sabia, Texas Water Development Board; Simone Kiel, Freese & Nichols; Van Kelly, Intera; Kent Satterwhite, CRMWA; Denise Jett, ConocoPhillips;

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charles Cooke, TCW Supply, Inc.; Kendall Harris, Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District; Rusty Gilmore, Rita Blanca Well Service; Tom Bailiff, Greenbelt Municipal & Industrial Water Authority; Steve Jones, TDA; Mickey Black, USDA; Charles Munger, TWPD;

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mick Beldys, USGS; Glendon Jett; Steve Stevens, Mesa Water; Cleon Namken, USDA – NRCS; Charlie Clark, TalonLPE; Kirk Welch, NPGCD; Alan Abraham, LWV; Jennifer Ashley; Jennifer Foster, Sen. Duncan; Sarah Clifton, Sen. Duncan; Spencer Schnier, Freese & Nichols

STAFF PRESENT:

Kyle Ingham, Local Government Services Director; Jonathan Ellis, Local Government Services Program Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. C. E. Williams called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and took roll call.

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

It was noted that a quorum was present. There were no Designated Alternates to be recognized.

3. **CONSIDER – THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 19, 2009**

There were three proposed changes: change the time from 1:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Remove a duplicated passage pertaining to the legislative committee; remove the “I” from CRIMWA in all instances. Mr. Hallerberg made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Cole Camp seconded; motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. **DISCUSS – REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Nolan Clark, Treasurer, presented the most current PWPG financials for review of the entire PWPG. Dr. Clark indicated that the grant which funded the regional water study was completed all necessary billings had been completed. He detailed the 2009 local contributions to date as well as the November 2009 local water report and the November 2009 state water report. In his description, Dr. Clark detailed where the funds were going as well as for what purposes. Dr. Clark continued onto the overall balance with the Texas Water Development Board planning monies. Dr. Clark further indicated that Texas Agri-life should send a bill in for their work. Finally Dr. Clark spoke to the local water planning grant monies. After his presentation was complete, Dr. Clark recommended that the Group accept this financial report. John Williams seconded in the form of a motion. The report was approved and adopted by unanimous vote.

5. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FROM DECEMBER 17, 2009**

Kyle Ingham gave a summary of the legislative committee meeting held on December 17, 2009 as well as conclusions, findings, and results from that meeting. The meeting included updating the legislative recommendations from the previous plan. Mr. Ingham went line by line through the updated legislative recommendations section and presented the Committee’s reasoning on each change. Mr. Ingham indicated that the changes are accessible on www.panhandlewater.org for further review. There were several questions of clarification on such topics as: creating metrics for gauging industrial, residential, agriculture demands to account for population differences between areas; including consideration of fluorides in sections involving contaminants. There was a proposed change regarding implementing general wording like contaminants in relevant sections so that previously un-thought of items like fluoride might be included in consideration. There was a further suggestion to recommend generalizing certain recognized definitions so that there might be better communication across the state. Kendall Harris made a motion to amend and accept the legislative recommendations. Janet Guthrie seconded, motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – WATER USER GROUP SURVEY RESPONSES AND REVISIONS TO WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.**

Mr. Ingham gave a description of this effort. Letters were sent out to WUGs which were expected to have shortages and they were asked to verify the numbers which the shortages were based off of and if they wanted to correct those numbers, offer additional info, or offer additional strategies for conservation. Mr. Ingham indicated that they had 10 responses. Mr. Ingham stated that two of those had changes and that he

had spoken with two other entities which had both anticipated changes. Ms. Kiel spoke to the need for this effort. No action was needed on this item.

7. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – NORTHERN OGALLALA GAM UPDATE REPORT.**

Van Kelly went over the updates to the Northern Ogallala GAM. Specifically he spoke of updates to the structure on a model-wide basis as well as updated hydraulic properties. Mr. Kelly also spoke on updated pumping numbers both historical numbers and predictive pumping numbers. Pumping numbers have further been divided into specific demand areas such as municipal, irrigation, industrial, etc. Mr. Kelly proceeded to speak on updates to the model in regard to recharge. Previously the model had been on a “stead-state” conditions. Mr. Kelly modified the model to account for “transient” conditions. This based off of BEG’s recharge work using CMB methodology and Isotope studies and estimate travel times. Mr. Kelly stated that since the last meeting some points which were kept in mind were that: Calibration would start with a review of residuals and an assessment of model calibration against previous GAM; Initial parameter exploration would start with hydraulic conductivity; and it would include flow balance and stream targets as calibration targets. There was an extensive amount of discussion over the steady state and transient calibrations and several strengths and weaknesses were discussed. Several hydrographs of various sample counties were presented and discussed.

Mr. Kelly proceeded to speak on forward simulations of which there were three possibilities with three distinct purposes: Baseline – which would estimate groundwater availability with current locations; Regional Availability – which would determine available groundwater given regional availability criteria; and Available Supplies which would estimate groundwater available to IRR and MUN. Mr. Kelly proceeded to overview each. The Baseline Simulation was performed with the 2010 GAM, it included new historical pumping demands from 1999 to 2008 and new projected pumping demands from 2010 to 2060. Mr. Kelly continued on to inform on the Regional Availability simulation which utilized the 50/40/80 adopted DFC. Finally Mr. Kelly informed on the Availability versus Baseline simulation.

Finally, Mr. Kelly informed on the remaining schedule of activities. He stated that the pumping updates; updated model base; review/update of recharge and properties; performing a post-audit; planning simulations; recalibration; and prediction were all completed activities. The primary remaining activity was regarding reporting of findings. Mr. Kelly indicated that the Draft Report should be done on January 31, 2010.

There was an extensive period of question and answering for clarification. Simone Kiel spoke to the timeframe involved for integrating this report in the IPP. Judge Cook had a question regarding the cancellation of CRP contracts. Steve Walthour and C.E. Williams spoke to possible impacts and elements involved in renewing those contracts. Mr. Walthour asked if this CRP item could be further investigated and discussed and possibly take action on it at the next meeting perhaps in the form of a legislative recommendation. Ms. Kiel indicated a willingness to do so.

At this point in the meeting Mr. Walthour left and Dale Hallmark was left as his authorized representative.

8. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – LAKE MEREDITH STUDY**

Spencer Schnier from Freese & Nichols presented an update on the Surface Water Study. Mr. Schnier gave a brief recap of his presentation at the November 19, 2009 meeting and stated that this was a continuation of that research. At the November meeting he discussed his findings regarding the impact of water balance and temperature trends on Lake Meredith. Mr. Schnier indicated that at this meeting he would be presenting his findings regarding the impact of groundwater and land covering. Mr. Schnier presented several trends as a background including graphs which show a steady decrease in the Lake's levels over the past 60 years. It was determined that the primary contributor to this is decreased stream flow, thus Mr. Schnier's indicated that his research revolved around the causes for this decrease in stream flow. As with the Lake levels, with stream flow there has been an overall and steady decrease. Mr. Schnier began to speak on his research into the contributing factor of groundwater, his findings were that spring flow and infiltration were being affected by decreasing groundwater levels. Regarding land covering, Mr. Schnier indicated that there has been a marked increase in shrub land between 1992 and 2001. Mr. Schnier stated that this can have an impact on stream flow due to land cover's affect on infiltration, transpiration, and interception. Mr. Schier presented research on the impact of the dam at Lake Meredith and the lack of high intensity rainfall in the area and found the effect of both to be less than substantially significant. Mr. Schnier elaborated on these four issues; there were some questions for clarification. Mr. Schnier's conclusions for the entire hydrologic cycle came down to three pieces: decreased stream flow does not appear to be meteorological in origin; Groundwater-surface water interactions are likely playing a significant role; and land use change may be a factor. There was extensive further discussion on points for clarification.

9. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING REPORT SURVEY PROCESS**

Mr. Ingham informed on this item. He stated that it was initially his understanding that this should be included in the IPP but has since spoken with the TWDB and they have stated that once the IPP is submitted they will send a form to complete this task. Mr. Ingham stated that once this form is received documentation can begin to discover funding sources for infrastructure. Mr. Ingham reiterated that currently it is not know what that survey form will look like but that he would inform members as soon as it became available.

10. **DISCUSS AND ACTION AS NEEDED – REVISIONS TO DRAFT CHAPTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE INITIALLY PREPARED 2011 REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

Ms. Kiel informed on this item. Ms. Kiel stated that draft versions were completed for chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 and would be available for review on www.panhandlewater.org at members' convenience. Ms. Kiel recognized that there were some missing components from some of these chapters and those issues were being addressed. Ms. Kiel stated that two major pieces still missing were an updated Meredith study and an update on the Northern Ogallala GAM the status of both having been presented today to the Group. Ms. Kiel stated that there were some minor issues as well such as updating the brush control activities. Ms. Kiel stated that these issues were being addressed. Ms. Kiel invited members to review these draft chapters and report any issues observed to either herself or Mr. Ingham for remedy. Ms. Kiel indicated a desire to have the substance of the IPP wrapped up by the first of February

so that a final copy might be available for members for final review before final submittal to the TWDB on March 1st. Mr. Ingham stated that all the draft chapters would be available on the website by the end of business today.

11. DISCUSS – POSSIBLE REVISION TO 2006 REGIONAL WATER PLAN PERTAINING TO AMARILLO’ POTTER COUNTY WELL FIELD AND OSAGE WATER PLANT.

Emmett Autrey informed on this item. Mr. Autrey indicated that Amarillo had been awarded some monies by TWDB in order to work on the Potter County Well field and accompanying pipe system. Mr. Autrey informed that there was an additional project which would help add on to the Potter County Well project and that a member of the Amarillo Staff had been informed by someone at the TWDB that further funding might be available. Mr. Autrey said that his reason in bringing this before the Group was in order to get assistance and information in seeking those funds. Mr. Autrey proceeded to describe the proposed project in more detail. The diagrams of this proposed project are included in PowerPoint presentation form on www.panhandlewater.org. There were some questions asked for clarification. Mr. Autrey on behalf of the City of Amarillo requested that the PWPG add this project in the 2006 Regional Water Plan. The City of Amarillo indicated a willingness to pay all costs associated with the amendment process. John Williams made a motion that the request be approved. Judge Cook seconded, motion passed by unanimous assent.

12. REGIONAL REPORTS – REGION B AND REGION O

Kent Satterwhite gave a report on Region O. He indicated that there had been some staff changes. He further stated that Region O had begun review of their IPP. There was no presentation regarding Region B.

13. REPORT OR COMMENTS FROM TWDB PERSONNEL

Virgina Sabia the new representative from TWDB introduced herself and reminded members to keep in mind that soon after the IPP is submitted preparation should begin for a public hearing. Ms. Sabia also indicated that TWDB is available to help with the socio-economic analysis. Ms. Sabia made the comment that since that is the case at the next meeting there should perhaps be an agenda item to formally request that TWDB assist in that matter. Ms. Sabia indicated that the sooner they receive that letter the better.

Ms. Kiel indicated that it was her belief that the item was on the agenda for the November 19, 2009 meeting and it was tabled because some members wished to look over the needs analysis. John Williams agreed and cited in the minutes where the Group had determined to move the decision from that agenda item to the January meeting. Judge Cook made a motion to take the item off the table. Cole Camp seconded the motion, motion carried by unanimous assent.

14. OTHER BUSINESS, CLOSING COMMENT FROM CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS

The item being off the table, Cole Camp made a motion to submit a request for TWDB to do the socio-economic analysis. Judge Cook seconded. It was clarified that this motion authorizes either Kyle Ingham or Simone Kiel to formally request on behalf of the PWPG for TWDB to do the socio-economic analysis. Motion passed by unanimous assent.

C.E. Williams apologized for not recognizing the staff of Senator Duncan's office and Senator Selliger's office earlier. Further he wished to recognize Jennifer Ashley, the campaign manager for Victor Leal, and asked to send apologies to Mr. Leal for not being able to recognize him before he had to leave.

15. **ADJOURN**

Judge Cook made a motion to adjourn. Cole Camp seconded, motion passed by unanimous assent. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.