

PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

Minutes

August 12, 2010

A meeting of the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG) was held on Thursday, August 12, 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:

Dr. Nolan Clark, Environmental; Janet Guthrie, Public; Dr. John Sweeten, Higher Education; Joe Baumgardner, Agriculture; Janet Tregellas, Agriculture; Steve Walthour, Water Districts; Cole Camp, Environmental; Vernon Cook, Counties; Rusty Gilmore, Small Business; Bill Hallerberg, Industries; Jim Derington, River Districts; Ben Weinheimer, Agriculture; C.E. Williams, Water Districts; John Williams, Water Districts; Beverly Stevens representing Denise Jett

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Landis, Municipalities; Grady Skaggs, Environmental; Kendal Harris, Agriculture; Charles Cooke, Water Utilities; Tom Baliff, Water Districts; Emmett Autrey, Municipalities; Gale Henslee, Electric Utility Generation;

OTHERS PRESENT:

Simone Kiel, FNI; Virginia Sabia, TWDB; Steve Stevens, Mesa Water; Marty Jones, Sprouse Law Firm; Bob Harden, R.W. Harden & Associates; Beverly Stephens, Conoco Phillips; Joyce Hinsley, Amarillo LWV; Cindy Cockerham, Senator Kel Seliger; Alan Abrahams, LWV

STAFF PRESENT:

Kyle Ingham, Local Government Services Director; Kyler Estes, Local Government Services Intern; Sharee Bailey, Administrative Program Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. C. E. Williams called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

2. ESTABLISH ATTENDANCE & RECOGNIZE DESIGNATED ALTERNATES

Designated Alternates were recognized:

3. **MINUTES**

Members reviewed the minutes from the February 22, 2010 meeting of the Committee. One correction was noted: to change the name of the Texas Agriculture Extension Station to Texas AgriLife Research Extension – Amarillo. Mr. Hallerberg made the motion to accept the minutes with noted corrections. Judge Cook seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. **APRIL 28, 2010 PWPG PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

Members considered minutes from the April 28, 2010 PWPG Public Hearing. Two corrections were noted: to change the name of the Texas Agriculture Extension Station to Texas AgriLife Research Extension – Amarillo and correct the spelling on Four Price's name. Mr. Baumgardner made a motion to accept the minutes with noted corrections. Mr. Weinheimer seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. **INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING REPORT SURVEY RESPONSES**

Members heard a report from Mr. Kyle Ingham regarding the survey responses. He stated that the surveys were issued to each of the 19 municipal water suppliers showing water deficits in the next 50 years in order to identify the time frame and expenditure types anticipated to be sought from the TWDB. Only 18 of the 19 suppliers had responded. The City of Amarillo was in the process of completing their survey and it should be submitted by the July 31 deadline. No action by the Group was required.

6. **PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP (PWPG) FISCAL REPORT AND UPDATE**

Members considered an update on the PWPG fiscal report by Dr. Nolan Clark. Through June 30, 72% of the \$510,030 had been spent. Currently, invoices from Freese & Nichols were two to three months behind and the budget items are on track. Tasks 8, 9 & 10 are included in the billings and by the end of September all monies will be drawn. On the local water planning grant, there is a balance of \$105,231 and \$68,638 was earned. Notices for 2011 will be sent out before September. Dr. Clark made a motion to accept the report. Mr. John Williams seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. **TWDB RESPONSE TO CITY OF AMARILLO'S INQUIRY REGARDING THE POTTER COUNTY WELL FIELD AND OSAGE WATER PLANT'S INCLUSION IN THE REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

Mr. Kyle Ingham stated that on May 27, 2010, the TWDB issued a response indicating that on May 12, 2010 the TWDB Board voted to allow projects included in the 2011 IPP to be considered consistent with the regional plan. The City of Amarillo's inquiry was addressed with a favorable response. No action by the Group was required.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES RELATED TO THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN SUBMITTED BY THE PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP IN FEBRUARY 2010**

Ms. Simone Kiel stated many comments were received from individuals, municipalities, and interest groups and they have all been adequately addressed. Specifically noted was that: Mr. Marty Jones requested the PWPG adopt 50/50 standard for the Ogallala

Aquifer. The response from the PWPG was that the Group follow general standard adopted by GMA#1. Mr. Kyle Ingham received another comment from Mr. Marty Jones regarding Mesa Water Inc.'s strategies relating to the purchase and or sale of water rights. Ms. Kiel noted that all public comments would be included as an attachment to the final adopted plan.

Section 4.9.7 – Mr. C.E. Williams stated to strike excess, increase minimum export, add beneficial use

Dr. Nolan Clark moved to approve the comments and responses. Mr. Bill Hallerburg seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

9. ADOPTION OF THE 2011 PANHANDLE REGIONAL (REGION A) WATER PLAN

Dr. Clark discussed budget changes and it was also suggested to add Virginia Sabia instead of Angela Masloff. Mr. Steve Walthour questioned the available water supply section in Chapter 3. Judge Cook made a motion to change the language in Section 3.24 & 3.25 to state “currently developed supply” instead of “currently available supply.” Mr. John Williams seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote. Mr. C.E. Williams suggested that the footnote be expanded to elaborate upon the “current supply question”. Mr. Steve Walthour – requested clarification on conclusions definition of 3.2 p. 48 “available groundwater based on table 3.42 or 3.18. Mr. Steve Walthour made a motion; to use baseline numbers for calculation. Motion was withdrawn and included in subsequent plan adoption motion. Dr. Nolan Clark moved to accept the plan with noted corrections. Mr. Bill Hallerburg seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

10. ACCEPTANCE OF PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP MEMBER RESIGNATION

Due to a change in job assignments, Mr. Cole Camp resigned from the Panhandle Water Planning Group. Judge Cook moved to accept the resignation. Ms. Tregellas seconded the motion; the motion carried.

11. UPCOMING PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP PROCESSES

Mr. Steve Walthour complimented the efforts of having the PWPG information available on the website and Mr. John Sweeten thank the PRPC staff. Mr. C.E. Williams also thanked PRPC staff, members of the PWPG and Ms. Simone Kiel. Ms. Kiel thanked the PWPG for their time effort committed to the Planning Group. It was noted that there are no interim studies anticipate at this time and that the legislative session will dictate the upcoming regional water planning cycle. No action by the Group was required.

12. REGIONAL REPORTS – REGION B AND REGION O

None were presented.

13. REPORT OR COMMENTS FROM TWDB PERSONNEL

None.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

None

15. SCHEDULING OF NEXT PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING

TBA

16. **PUBLIC COMMENT – RELATING TO PWPG ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Al Alford commented on an article that he had seen in the Amarillo Globe News concerning nuke waste being placed on top of the aquifer. Responses from the Group were they were not aware of anything in our area. Mr. Al Alford also asked what the current price of water is. An unidentifiable voice answered approximately \$400 per surface acre.

17. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.