

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, John Bartos, Brad Brunett, Jun Chang, James Comin, Mark Evans, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Ken Kramer, Ivan Langford, Marvin Marcell, Byron Ryder, and Michael Turco.

ALTERNATES: Mrs. Bruner for Danny Pierce, Mike Uhl for Glenn Lord, Jake Hollingsworth for Brandon Wade, and Jim Sims for Kevin Ward.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

W.R. Baker, Carl Burch, Caleb Cooper, Yvonne Forrest, and Loyd Smith.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Lann Bookout

CONSULTANT TEAM:

Philip Taucer and Jason Afinowicz

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2022, MEETING

Mr. Langford made a motion to approve the minutes of May 4, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 8

There were no public comments.

5. PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

- a. Receive Nominating Committee report and consider taking action to approve members to fill vacancies on the Region H Water Planning Group.**

Mr. Evans stated that the Nominating Committee met at 9:30 a.m., on August 3, 2022, and recommended Mike O’Connell to fill the vacancy for Small Business and Arthur Bredehoft to fill the vacancy for Water Utility. Mr. Chang made a motion to accept the resignation of Judge Bob Hebert, to declare the vacancies of Small Business and Water Utility positions, and to approve Mike O’Connell and Arthur Bredehoft to fill the positions of Small Business and Water Utility, respectively. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marcell and carried unanimously.

6. SPECIAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Receive presentation from the City of Houston regarding the City’s water conservation and efficiency initiatives.

Ms. Paula Paciorek, Division Manager for Houston Public Works, presented information relative to the evolution of the City of Houston’s water conservation initiatives through education, incentive programs, rebate programs, etc. She explained the various upcoming campaigns that will continue to educate the public about water conservation and drought response.

b. Receive presentation from consultant team regarding the proposed application by Brazosport Water Authority to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan and consider approving the submittal of the application package to the Texas Water Development Board for the determination of minor amendment status.

Mr. John Nyland of Invenergy spoke about a request to amend both the 2021 Region H Water Plan and the 2022 State Water Plan to reflect the most updated project information and details to the Freeport Seawater Desalination Project that were previously listed in both documents. He explained that the project was listed as a dormant project, however Brazosport Water Authority (“BWA”) and its partners have been actively advancing it and are now seeking to sponsor the project. Mr. Nyland stated that BWA partnered with Invenergy Clean Water (“Invenergy”) and IDE Technologies to develop the desalination plant in Freeport’s industrial park. He explained that the desalination capacity of the project is listed in the 2021 Region H Water Plan and the 2022 State Water Plan as 11,200 acre-feet per year or 10 million gallons a day (“MGD”), with the potential to scale to 100 MGD. He stated that BWA is requesting to change the acre-feet per year to 28,000-56,000 AFY or 25-50 MGD as a result of the new information indicating considerably larger and more diverse water needs than previously expected due to growth in the region and expansion into other areas. Furthermore, Mr. Nyland stated that BWA is interested in the benefits of additional resilient capacity that can replace ground and surface water withdrawals and mitigate the drought and subsidence conditions of the State. Discussion ensued. Mr. Houston made a motion to approve the submittal of the application package to the Texas Water Development Board to determine if the request is considered a minor amendment or a major amendment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

7. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. Receive update from consultant team regarding TWDB funding of the sixth round of regional water planning for Region H and take action authorizing the San Jacinto River Authority to execute amended contracts with subconsultants.**

Mr. Taucer explained the process of amending the contact with the subconsultants and outlined the various tasks that would be affected. Mr. Chang moved approval to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to execute the amended contracts with subconsultants. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

- b. Receive update from Consultant Team and Non-Population Demands Committee regarding data and projections for the 2026 Region H RWP.**

Mr. Taucer provided an update to the data and projections related to the non-municipal water demand. He stated that committee activities would include detailed review of the historical data and demand basis and recommendation of proposed changes to the projections as appropriate. Further, Mr. Taucer explained efforts related to the 2026 Regional Water Plan WUG survey and the Major Water Provider list evaluation.

- c. Receive update from Consultant Team and Population Demands Committee regarding data and projections for the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan.**

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to the Population Demands Committee's review of the WUG list, stating only minor changes were determined. He stated that the committee was engaged in coordination with Subsidence Districts, TWDB, and RWPGs to review historical data and demand basis, and to provide recommendations of proposed changes to projections.

- d. Receive update from Consultant Team and Population Demands Committee regarding the sub-WUG planning option and consider taking action to authorize the Population Demands Committee to evaluate potential sub-WUGs and submit requests for sub-WUGs to TWDB.**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to sub-WUG planning options that were requested by several RWPGs. He stated that they are primarily for rural areas or small entities that are buried in "County-other". He stated that the regions will develop and track the data with information support from TWDB. Mr. Taucer provided an outline of the benefits and potential applications. Mr. Kramer made a motion to authorize the Population Demands Committee to evaluate potential sub-WUGs and submit requests for sub-WUGs to TWDB. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

8. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH

a. Receive update regarding the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP

Mr. Taucer provided an overview related to the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan by providing dates of scheduled events/tasks.

b. Receive updated from liaisons to other groups.

It was reported that TWDB met in July and accepted Mark Evans and Jace Houston as representative and alternate on the Interregional Planning Council.

c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG.

There were no recent activities to report.

d. Agency communications and general information.

Mr. Bookout provided an overview of the 2026 Regional Water Plans Projections Methodology.

9. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was announced that the next meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group will take place on November 2, 2022.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.