

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, John Bartos, Brad Brunett, Jun Chang, James Comin, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston, Ivan Langford, Byron Ryder, Michael Turco, Brandon Wade, and Kevin Ward.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Lloyd Smith for John Blount, Mike Uhl for Glenn Lord, Ken Kramer for Carl Masterson, Robert Thompson for Marvin Marcell, Tom Michel for William Teer, and Mike O'Connell for Bob Hebert.

MEMBERS ABSENT: W.R. Baker, Carl Burch, Caleb Cooper, Robert Istre, and James Morrison.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Lann Bookout

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were not introductions.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2021, MEETING

Mr. Chang made a motion to approve the minutes of July 7, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 13

Mr. John Graziano commented on property rights and environmental issues.

5. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO EXTEND THE TERM OF EXISTING REGION H VOTING MEMBERS FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE-YEAR TERM

Mr. Philip Taucer provided an overview of the existing terms for the voting members. Mr. Wade made a motion to extend the term of existing Region H Voting Members for an additional five-year term. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

6. DISCUSS VACANCY ON THE RHWPG FOR A VOTING MEMBER REPRESENTING AGRICULTURE AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO APPROVE MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANCY

Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the various vacant positions, in particular the member representing agriculture. Mr. Evans asked that a meeting of the Nominating Committee take place

prior to the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting and the Committee recommend members to be appointed to the various vacant positions within the Water Planning Group.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2026 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN (RWP)

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan.

8. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED OR PROVISIONS THAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE 2026 RWP AND 2027 STATE WATER PLAN

Mr. Taucer stated that one written comment had been provided by Mr. Hollingsworth of Gulf Coast Water Authority related to the restriction of non-agricultural Brazos River Alluvium well usage until such time that it is determined that pumping from the alluvium does not impact the availability of water of the Brazos River downstream users. He also suggested the plan address the opportunity for collaboration among Brazos G, Region H, the Brazos River Authority, and coastal wholesale providers to develop seawater desalination as a water portfolio option for the State of Texas. The public was invited to comment on the 2026 RWP and the 2027 State Water Plan. There were no further comments.

9. DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL PROCESS FOR CONDUCTING INTERREGIONAL COORDINATION REGARDING WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2026 RWP

Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the recommendations provided by the Interregional Planning Council related to improving the interregional coordination process for regional planning. He reviewed the current ongoing interregional coordination process and the recommendations of the Interregional Planning Council for same. He stated that the Texas Water Development Board recommended that the Planning Groups identify management strategies that develop or use a water resource in another region and to determine which strategies may create interregional coordination opportunities. Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the existing connections to other regions as well as the various water management strategies and corresponding infrastructure projects. He explained some potential actions for interregional coordination: utilize liaisons and sponsors to gather WMS data, meet with liaisons from potentially affected regions, and report to planning groups; form committee to meet with neighboring RWPGs or representatives; and authorize RWPG administrators or consultants to meet with neighboring regions or representatives. Discussion ensued related to the Brazos River Alluvium, seawater desalination, and the Lake Whitney reallocation projects as potential water management strategies.

10. CONSIDER THE IDENTIFICATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES WHICH MAY CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER PLANNING REGIONS

Various Water Management Strategies were discussed in agenda item 9.

11. CONSIDER A COURSE OF ACTION FOR INTERREGIONAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER RWPGS

No action was taken regarding this item.

12. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE RHWPG

Mr. Taucer provided an update of recently attended meetings: West Houston Association Water Resources Committee and the Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium.

13. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Lann Bookout provided various updates related to the Texas Water Development Board.

14. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

15. NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 2, 2022

Mr. Evans announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting would be February 2, 2022.

16. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.