

**Agenda Items #5**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BRAZOS G REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP**

November 12, 2003

In accordance with notice sent to each member of the Regional Water Planning Group and posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act (copy attached as Exhibit A), a meeting of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group convened at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 12, 2003, in the central office of the Brazos River Authority, 4600 Cobbs Drive, Waco, Texas. Attendance was as follows:

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tony Jones, Chair  
David Bell (alternate for Mike Morrison, Vice Chair)  
Phil Ford, Secretary/Treasurer  
Truman Blum  
Mark Bryson  
Jon Burrows  
Tom Clark (alternate for Jim Nuse)  
Tim Fambrough  
Horace Grace  
A.V. Jones  
Brent Locke (alternate for Terry Kelley)  
Scott Mack  
Joe Simecek (alternate for Scott Diermann)  
Stephen Stark  
Wiley Stem  
Kent Watson

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT**

Scott Diermann  
Terry Kelley  
Mike Morrison  
Jim Nuse  
Steve Sanford  
Chaunce Thompson

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Amador Hernandez  
Terry Lopas  
Mike McGuire  
David Meesey  
Melissa Mullins

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ron Glenn  
James Clarno  
John Grant  
Julia Marsden  
Susan Morgan  
Paul Zweiacker

**OTHERS PARTICIPATING**

Teresa Clark, Brazos River Authority  
David Dunn, HDR  
Larry Land, HDR  
Grady Reed, HDR  
Marcia Russo, Brazos River Authority  
Lisa Tschirhart, Brazos River Authority  
David Wheelock, Brazos River Authority

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

See attached sign-in sheet (Exhibit B)

**Invocation** – Scott Mack gave the invocation.

**Notice of Meeting** –

Chair Jones said that each member of the Regional Water Planning Group received notice of this meeting and a copy of the meeting agenda by e-mail dated November 3, 2003 (copy of agenda attached as Exhibit C). He noted that the public meeting notice had been properly posted as required by law and that confirmations of timely posting were received.

**Attendance and Announcements** –

Chair Jones stated that Chaunce Thompson would not be able to attend the meeting. Chair Jones also noted that Mike Morrison had designated David Bell as his alternate, Scott Diermann had designated Joe Simecek as his alternate, Terry Kelley had designated Brent Locke as his alternate and Jim Nuse had designated Tom Clark as his alternate.

Chair Jones noted that a quorum was present.

Chair Jones also noted that there was a complete packet of the meeting materials and all back up information available for public review.

Chair Jones asked to take Chair's privilege and recess the meeting for fifteen minutes. He stated that each member of the Group had in front of them a resume submitted by Frank Salvato, City Manager of Taylor, Texas. Mr. Salvato was nominated at the Executive Committee meeting, pursuant to the bylaws, to replace Jim Nuse. Chair Jones asked that the Group review the information and come back prepared with comments or questions for discussion.

The meeting was called back to order at 10:15 a.m. Chair Jones said it was suggested that the Group table this item until the next meeting in order that the Executive Committee can further review the nominees and come back with a recommendation.

It was then moved by Jon Burrows and seconded by Tim Fambrough:

**THAT THE NOMINEE POSITION BE TABLED**  
until the Executive Committee can further review  
and decide upon a recommendation to present to  
the full Group at the next regularly scheduled  
meeting.

The **MOTION CARRIED** with no dissenting votes.

**Consider Approval of Draft Minutes of August 13, 2003 meeting**

– Chair Jones stated that each member of the Group received a copy of the minutes from the August 13, 2003, quarterly meeting (copy attached as Exhibit C) as prepared in preliminary form by e-mail dated November 3, 2003. He asked if there were any comments or corrections.

There were no corrections made by the Group.

It was then moved by Tom Clark and seconded by Truman Blum:

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning  
Group held on August 13, 2003, be approved  
as prepared in preliminary form.

The **MOTION CARRIED** with no dissenting votes.

**Present Independent Financial Report and consider approval –**

Chair Jones called on Stephen Stark, Chair of the Finance and Cost Committee, to present the report.

Mr. Stark explained the recent financial summary as presented (see attached Exhibit E). Mr. Stark asked the Group for any comments or concerns.

Chair Jones then asked for a motion.

It was then moved by Stephen Stark and seconded by Tim Fambrough:

**THAT THE GROUP ACCEPT** the  
Brazos G RWPG Financial Summary  
for the 2006 Water Plan as presented.

The **MOTION CARRIED** with no dissenting votes.

**Public Input –****Public questions and comments on agenda items or water planning issues (limited to 5 minutes each) –**

Chair Jones reminded everyone of the Open Meetings Act limitations. He noted that the Regional Water Planning Group is limited in its ability to participate in discussions or deliberations by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

He stated the Group could not deliberate or discuss issues that are not posted on the meeting notice.

There were two members of the public that requested to speak. Chair Jones first called on Susan Kaderka of the National Wildlife Federation.

Ms. Kaderka stated that she would like to comment on a number of agenda items. She first mentioned **Agenda Item 7.1**, "Request member participation for the Water Policy Workgroup". She urged the Group to solicit input and participation from the public during this process. Ms. Kaderka then mentioned **Agenda Item 7.2**, "Consideration of establishment of Regional meetings to gather input on the development of the initially prepared plan". She encouraged the Group to have those meetings and gather as much input as possible. She stated the National Wildlife Federation would endeavor to let their members and constituents know if these meetings are going to take place in their area and that it would be an opportunity for them to participate and give input. Ms. Kaderka then discussed **Agenda Item 7.6**, "Report from HDR regarding Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's offer to provide support for environmental assessments of water management strategies". She said the TPWD has been conducting a river study to establish base line river flows to be used as guidance in the planning process. She stated that this information was on the TPWD website and she encouraged the planning groups to take advantage of this information. Ms. Kaderka then made a final comment on public input and the importance it has on the planning process. She stated that the public should be made aware of any background materials ahead of time in order to make a more informative opinion and be better prepared to participate in discussions. She suggested that this information be posted on the website prior to the meeting for members of the public to review. She also recommended that Region G expand the public input by allowing the public to comment prior to any decision.

Keith Hansberger, Chair of the Lost Pines GCD, requested to speak on **Agenda Item 7.3**. Chair Jones stated that this item had been tabled and asked whether Mr. Hansberger still wanted to speak. Mr. Hansberger said he would like to address the entire Group on behalf of Michele Gangnes. He stated that the city of Lexington had a proposed water ranch pending and that Ms. Gangnes was the only nominee that would be affected by this water ranch. Mr. Hansberger said he recommended Michele Gangnes because she would bring diversification to the Group. Ms. Gangnes represents Williamson County; she would be the only woman on the Group, as well as the only attorney.

### **Request member participation for the Water Policy Workgroup –**

Chair Jones stated that the Surface Water Availability Workgroup chose not to continue as a Water Policy Workgroup. Chair Jones then asked David Meeseey to explain the purpose for creating a Water Policy workgroup.

Mr. Meesey stated that the TWDB is working on getting policy information on their website. He stated that this was an interactive website where members could look at policies written by the TWDB and use that background for their own policy recommendations. He further stated that these were general topics explaining issues and background concerning policy topics. He said it would save the Group time in investigating topics. Mr. Meesey said this information should be available on the website this week.

Chair Jones stated that there was still a need to participate in Workgroups for all future studies. He mentioned creating a new Water Policy Workgroup in the future. The Group decided to include the original members of the Surface Water Availability Workgroup, i.e.; Scott Mack, Terry Kelley, Mark Bryson, Jon Burrows, Wiley Stem and Truman Blum. Joe Simecek volunteered Scott Diermann. Horace Grace, Mike McGuire and Melissa Mullins volunteered to be part of the workgroup as well. The Group recommended Scott Mack as the chair of the Water Policy Workgroup.

**Consideration of establishments of Regional meetings to gather input on the development of the initially prepared plan** –

Chair Jones stated the Group would be in the process of completing water supply plans for each county by late 2004 or early 2005. He said the purpose of regional meetings would be to roll out the initial plans and receive feedback from entities affected in those areas of the region. Chair Jones recommended they divide the Brazos G Region into three areas; upper, central and lower (see attached Exhibit F for regional map) for the purpose of holding public hearings and establishing liaisons from the Group to attend these meetings. Chair Jones recommended Mike Morrison serve as liaison for the upper region, Jon Burrows serve as liaison for the central region, and Kent Watson serve as liaison for the lower region.

It was then moved by Tim Fambrough and seconded by Tom Clark:

**THAT THE GROUP ESTABLISH**  
Regional meetings to gather input  
on the development of the initially  
prepared plan.

The **MOTION CARRIED** with no dissenting votes.

**Consider recommendation from the Executive Committee for appointment of a new voting member representing Municipalities** – Chair Jones stated that action was taken and this item was tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Consider designation of Brazos G voting members as liaisons to adjacent regions**

– Chair Jones stated there were three open positions. Chair Jones made the following recommendations; that A.V. Jones be appointed to Region B, and Terry Kelley be appointed to Region C. Chair Jones suggested the Group wait to appoint someone to Region K pending the replacement of Jim Nuse.

It was then moved by Kent Watson and seconded by Scott Mack:

**THAT THE FOLLOWING LIAISONS**

be appointed: A.V. Jones to Region B, Terry Kelley to Region C, and that the Group hold off on appointing someone to Region K until another member is selected to replace Jim Nuse.

The **MOTION CARRIED** with no dissenting votes.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

**Agency Update** – Chair Jones called on Melissa Mullins with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to provide an update.

Ms. Mullins stated that HDR would be presenting information on the TPWD in the next agenda item so she would be brief. She wanted to reiterate that the TPWD was committed to providing the Regional Water Planning Groups any technical assistance available. She also gave an update on the tri-agency group that is working on in-stream flows study recommendations. She said there was a public meeting held in Austin and information from this meeting was posted on the TPWD website for anyone interested in reviewing.

**HDR –**

**Report from HDR regarding Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's offer to provide support for environmental assessments of water management strategies –**

David Dunn, with HDR presented this information. Mr. Dunn stated the reason the TPWD offered their assistance was due to the fact that there was a vast difference in the amount of effort the sixteen regions gave to environmental considerations in the last round of planning.

Mr. Bryson asked whether the TPWD would work with HDR and bring the results to the RWPG or work directly with the Group. Mr. Dunn said the TWDB was currently working on the best way approach that process.

## Texas Water Development Board

**Report on TWDB Water Conservation Task Force** – Chair Jones introduced David Wheelock to present this information.

Mr. Wheelock said that recent legislation created a state-wide task force to evaluate matters of water conservation. He said the task force consisted of thirty-two members. The lead agency is the TWDB and it is chaired by the Executive Director of the TWDB. Mr. Wheelock said the main purpose of the task force was to review and evaluate water conservation measures and recommend levels of water conservation. He mentioned the various tasks assigned to the group, including; to identify and evaluate best management practices for municipal, industrial and agricultural uses; evaluate the cost and benefits for select best management practices (BMP's); create standardized methodologies for reporting per capita water use and establishing per capita water use goals, evaluate and implement water conservation strategies recommended in the regional water plans; consider the need to establish a state-wide public awareness of water conservation, evaluate the proper role, if any, for state funding of incentive programs for water conservation; and, evaluate the appropriate state oversight and support of conservation initiatives that may be considered or adopted by the legislature. He also mentioned that three sub-groups had been formed, one for municipal, industrial and agricultural. Mr. Wheelock asked the Group if they would like to have a meeting to review the BMP's once published. He said there would be a twenty to thirty day review period. Mr. Wheelock stated he welcomed input from cities or other interest groups that would like to give input on water conservation. He also asked for input from the Group on whether or not a state-wide awareness program is needed for water conservation.

**Report from TWDB staff including status of supplemental funding** – Chair Jones called on David Meesey to present this matter.

Mr. Meesey stated that there was still not a process in place to distribute supplemental funding. He said he believed the TWDB will have 1.6 million dollars of additional funds to distribute state-wide for regional water planning. That figure is based on money left from unexpended funds and what the TWDB will request from the legislature in the last year of the planning cycle. The Group agreed to review the list previously drawn up for allocation of funds and re-evaluate it based on the new funding figures.

**HDR –****Report from HDR on the status of surface water availability estimates; discussion of methodologies for calculating surface water supplies in the Brazos G Region** – Chair Jones called on David

Dunn to present this matter (see attached Exhibit G for PowerPoint presentation and handouts).

Mr. Dunn proceeded to present the surface water availability estimates. He explained the water availability model (WAM) run assumptions and the preliminary results. The Group discussed the impact of sedimentation, return flows and re-use on the WAM's. Mr. Dunn said HDR's goal was to have both the groundwater and surface water availability estimates adopted by the Group at the February meeting.

**The Group recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and resumed at 1:00 p.m.**

The Group continued their discussion on the surface water availability workgroup and discussed ratifying the following issues presented by the workgroup. First, to include the subordination agreements as per the TWDB letter, and second, to re-compute irrigation water availability using 75/75 convention.

It was then moved by Tim Fambrough and seconded by Mark Bryson:

**THAT THE GROUP RATIFY** the Surface Water Availability Workgroup issues of subordination and using the 75/75 convention.

The **MOTION CARRIED** with no dissenting votes.

Chair Jones then asked the Group whether they wanted to give HDR direction on the return flow issue. He asked if the Group wanted to authorize HDR to draft a letter and submit it to the TWDB. Mr. Dunn said he hoped the Group would agree to draft a letter for the TWDB to reconsider using return flows in the WAM's.

It was then moved by Horace Grace and seconded by Tim Fambrough:

**THAT THE GROUP REQUEST** HDR to draft a letter to the TWDB to reconsider using return flows in the water availability models.

The **MOTION CARRIED** with no dissenting votes.

**Report from the Groundwater Availability Workgroup; recommendation from the Groundwater Availability Workgroup to adopt groundwater availability estimates for specific counties and aquifers** – Chair Jones called on Kent Watson, Chair of the Groundwater Availability Workgroup, to address the full Group.

Mr. Watson stated that the workgroup had met several times recently and had received a lot of good input and public participation. Mr. Watson then called on David Dunn and Larry Land with HDR to present the findings of the Workgroup (see attached Exhibit H for supporting materials).

Mr. Dunn stated that at the first Groundwater Availability Workgroup meeting HDR presented the Group with background on the different aquifer systems and hydrogeology of the aquifer systems within the Brazos G Region. Also presented at the first workgroup meeting were different estimates of groundwater availability used for the 2001 plan. Mr. Dunn said that at the second workgroup meeting HDR presented the results from the initial test runs of the Carrizo-Wilcox groundwater availability model (GAM). Also presented were recommendations to the workgroup on which counties and aquifer systems to adopt availability estimates for now versus waiting until HDR gets further information. Mr. Dunn stated the workgroup directed HDR to send a letter to all Groundwater Conservation Districts in the Brazos G Region asking them to review the current groundwater availability estimates for their area. The Groundwater Conservation Districts were asked to submit comments to HDR no later than November 12, 2003. Mr. Dunn said if the Groundwater Conservation Districts requested any changes, their supporting information must be submitted to HDR no later than December 10, 2003. Therefore, the Group would hold off on adopting any numbers for those areas where there was a question until the next workgroup meeting so HDR would have time to review those estimates. Mr. Dunn said that HDR had not received any letters back asking for refined estimates. Mr. Dunn then requested that the Group adopt the Groundwater availability estimates for the aquifers marked 'accept' and direct HDR to further review the ones that say 'review'.

It was then moved by Kent Watson and seconded by Scott Mack:

**THAT THE GROUP ACCEPT** the recommendations from the Groundwater Availability Workgroup on the aquifers that are marked 'accept' and continue to review the ones that are marked 'review'.

The **MOTION CARRIED** with no dissenting votes.

**HDR –**

**Presentation by HDR on process for identification of potentially feasible water management strategies that will be evaluated by HDR** – Chair Jones called on David Dunn to present this matter (see attached Exhibit I for handouts).

Mr. Dunn stated that this was a formality required by 357 Guidelines that the Group, as a whole, present the process by which potentially feasible water management strategies will be identified by the Group and the process by which the Group will direct HDR Engineering to evaluate those water management strategies. He stated there were a large number of water management strategies that the Group may want HDR to review. He also stated that some of those strategies may never be considered by the Group, regardless of technical or economic viability, due to political issues. Therefore the TWDB and the state do not want to utilize state resources to have consultants evaluate water management strategies if the Group is not going to accept them anyway. Mr. Dunn discussed the previous action taken to identify water management strategies as well as his suggestions for the remainder of the process. Mr. Dunn asked for direction from the Group as to whether this process seems logical and whether this was a process the Group would like to approach to identify any water management strategies HDR hasn't thought of yet and direct HDR on how to evaluate those.

It was then moved by Truman Blum and seconded by Mark Bryson:

**THAT THE GROUP RATIFY** the  
process proposed by HDR

The **MOTION CARRIED** with no dissenting votes.

**Consideration of future meeting dates through 2004 –**  
(see attached Exhibit I for 2004 schedule)

Chair Jones mentioned the proposed dates for the 2004 schedule and asked the Group if they were in agreement with these dates.

It was then moved by Tim Fambrough and seconded by Truman Blum:

**TO ACCEPT THE 2004 DATES**  
for the Brazos G Regional Water  
Planning Group's regularly scheduled  
meetings as presented.

The **MOTION CARRIED** with no dissenting votes.

**New business to be considered at next meeting** – Chair Jones mentioned that David Bell had a letter concerning a reservoir site which he would like to present to the Group for their consideration at the next scheduled meeting.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business before the Group, Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

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**PHILLIP J. FORD**  
Secretary/Treasurer

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**TONY JONES**  
Chair

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