

# MINUTES

## MEETING OF THE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG) (REGION "M")

10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012  
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER BOARD ROOM  
510 S. PLEASANTVIEW DR., TX  
PRESIDING: GLENN JARIVS, CHAIR

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Glenn Jarvis called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and announced that the meeting had been posted as required by statute and a quorum was present. The following voting members were in attendance:

#### Board Members

Glenn Jarvis, Chairman  
Jim Darling, Vice Chairman  
Tomas Rodriguez, Executive Committee  
John Bruciak  
Dennis Goldsberry  
Ella de la Rosa  
Sonny Hinojosa  
Sonia Lambert  
Donald K. McGhee  
Ray Prewett  
Carlos Garza  
Jorge Barrera  
Commissioner Joel Quintanilla  
Jaime Flores  
Armando Vela  
Frank Schuster

#### Category

Other  
River Authorities  
Municipalities  
Municipalities  
Water Utilities  
Electric Generating Utility  
Water Districts  
Water Districts  
Industries  
Agriculture  
Small Business  
Municipalities  
Counties  
Environmental  
Groundwater Management Areas  
Other

#### The following members were not in attendance:

Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary	Public
Robert E. Fulbright, Executive Committee	Agriculture
Judge Joe Rathmell	Counties

### 2. Consider Nominating Committee Recommendation RE: Voting Member Vacancy in the "Other" Category

Mr. Don McGhee nominated Mr. Frank Schuster, Valverde Vegetable Company, to fill the vacancy in the "Other" category created by the resignation of Mr. Gary Wittington last year; the Nominating Committee unanimously approved Mr. Schuster's nomination. **Mr. Dennis Goldsberry made a motion of approval for Mr. Schuster's nomination. Mr. Carlos Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

### **3. Consider Approval RE: Minutes of the October 5, 2011 Meeting**

*Ms. Sonia Lambert made a motion to approve the October 5, 2011 minutes as presented. Mr. Don McGhee seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

### **4. Hear Public Comment**

No Public Comments were received.

### **5. Consider Action RE: Election of Officers & Executive Committee**

*Mr. Sonny Hinojosa made a motion to accept the same slate of officers continue service: Mr. Glenn Jarvis as Chair, Com. Jim Darling as Vice Chair, Ms. Mary Lou Campbell as Secretary, Mr. Robert Fulbright as Executive Committee Member and Mr. Tomas Rodriguez as Executive Committee Member, to continue service in 2012. Mr. John Bruciak seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

### **6. Presentation RE: Regional Water Planning 101**

Ms. Connie Townsend requested this item be held over until the next meeting.

### **7. Status Report on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Funded Project: Lower Rio Grande Valley Basin & Regional Water Supply Feasibility Study**

Mr. Stefan Schuster, Daniel B. Stevens & Associates, was recognized and informed the Group that there was a project kick-off meeting in Austin in December 2011 with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the consulting team. The BOR outlined the project schedule, which has a projected completion date of February 2013. The general scope of the project is to introduce climate variability into the Water Availability Model (WAM) and consider the feasibility of the regional water supply based on those adjustments to complete the availability model. Once the models are run, staff will compare the water availabilities that are projected by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) through the traditional WAMs and Groundwater Availability Models (GAMs) and look at the introduction of the variables for that availability and present that to the RGRWA and the Region M Group to determine which models to use. Staff is currently in the data acquisition stage.

Chairman Jarvis asked if the drought of record issue would be considered for this project because in the past the drought from the 1950s had been used for comparison, however there have been discussions about using the drought from the 1990's as the drought of record instead, and asked if that would be involved in this study. Mr. Schuster responded that this was one of the concerns staff had identified: the WAM had never really been updated; it had been re-run several times, but not updated. Staff plans to try to update the hydrological records from the 1990's through 2010 or 2011. Chairman Jarvis mentioned that a standing agenda item is the WAM for Mexico and Texas that is currently under development by Mexican engineers. Mr. Schuster stated that staff planned to distribute the same variables to the Mexican model as well.

## **8. Status Reports**

### **A. Status on Current TWDB Contract Activities**

Mr. Dave Anderson, Black & Veatch (B&V) was recognized and stated that Mr. Chris Kurtz who is also an engineer for B&V would be called on shortly to provide a status report on the current contract. Mr. Anderson informed the Group that staff expected to have draft comments on non-municipal demands by the middle or end of February. This time line would provide the Group enough time to evaluate a draft technical memorandum on what changes, if any, B&V would recommend the Group consider

bringing to the State during the next meeting. Mr. Anderson stated his intent was to build on what will be presented today, continue with data analysis, write up the information, provide it to the Group by mid-February to give the Group a couple of weeks for review, present the information at the March meeting and be prepared to respond to questions the Group may have.

Mr. Anderson stated that the information staff has received was on demand projections from TWDB that reflect the last 5 years worth of data. B&V's scope of work is to go back and evaluate data they have put together as being representative of non-irrigation demands and make recommendations that might be in the Group's best interest regarding what that data looks like. Mr. Ray Prewett asked if the Group was to consider the data and make suggestions and, if so, was there real potential for changing the numbers. Ms. Townsend answered that there is real potential for changing the numbers and that TWDB staff that are in charge of these numbers have indicated that if there is a change the Group would like to make, it would be very easily made, as long as there was a valid reason and back up documentation for the change. Ms. Townsend explained that what TWDB would like to do is to break up the water usage categories; staff was addressing non-municipal numbers at this time, and then will release the population and the municipal water demands. Part of the reason for this split was because of the timing of getting the State Data Center data from the new census, which has been slightly delayed. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa suggested using 2011 as a model year for the WAM because the reservoirs were full, the conditions were dry, and there were high crop values.

At this time Mr. Chris Kurtz was recognized and gave a presentation on the contract progress so far. Upon conclusion of the presentation Ms. Townsend stated that the difference between the last planning cycle and this planning cycle was the technology of how these demands were determined. In the last cycle they were accomplished using a single dry year, the year 2000, but the current methodology will use an average over a 5-year span, and that in its self will create a difference in projections.

Mr. Anderson suggested that the formation of a subcommittee may be beneficial as a point of contact between meetings. Chairman Jarvis agreed and stated that the goal is to determine the numbers the Group could use for what the region's water demand could be and to determine what the supply will be and if it could meet the demand or not. It was the consensus of the Group to form two subcommittees, one for non-municipal demand and one for municipal demand. The Non-Municipal Demand Work Group will consist of Mr. Ray Prewett, Ms. Sonia Lambert, Mr. Sonny Hinojosa, and Mr. Frank Schuster. The Municipal Demand Work Group will consist of Com. Jim Darling, Mr. Tomas Rodriguez and Mr. John Bruciak.

## **B. Financial Report**

Ms. Marcie Oviedo was recognized and reported that a little more than \$37,000 of the requested \$57,349 Local Fund Contribution Match funds had been received to date. Staff planned to send out second notices to those entities who have not contributed to the Local Fund Contribution Match. Mr. Prewett suggested including with the invoices, information on the Group and how it would benefit contributors. Mr. Jones stated that this information had been included in the past, but staff could updated it to include the current progress the Group has made.

**C. Discussion RE: Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA's 4, 5, 7, 13 & 16 Under HB 1763 (2005)**

Mr. Armando Vela was recognized and reported on the Desired Future Conditions being developed by GMA 16 and touched on information in a presentation that illustrated those projections.

**D. Discussion of IBWC Water Accounting at Fort Quitman**

There was no new information to report at this time.

**E. Reports RE: Other Water Planning Groups**

1. Reports from Liaisons with Regions E, J, L, & N

There was no new information to report.

**F. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region**

Segundo Navarro Drilling, Ltd submitted their Water Conservation Plan on November 25, 2011.

**9. Reports from Federal and State Agencies**

**A. TWDB**

Ms. Connie Townsend was recognized and stated most of the TWDB topics had been covered under previous items. The only other item was that TWDB staff continued work on the rules revision for State Water Planning process, which should be completed in the next couple of months.

**B. IBWC**

Mr. Rodolfo Montero was recognized and was happy to report that CONAGUA had transferred operation of El Morillo Drain to CILA after five years of negotiations. Mr. Montero also informed that Group that IBWC staff will be working on the capital improvement plan to upgrade the electrical system of El Morillo Drain and would be updating the operational agreement. The El Morillo Drain was shut down briefly at the time of this meeting for canal maintenance; this time was selected to shut down because there were high flows that would not impact the salinity levels. Mr. Montero continued his report with an update on the status of the various ARRA project currently underway.

**C. TCEQ**

Mr. Erasmo Yarrito reported on the water deliveries from Mexico, the Mexican and U.S. Reservoir levels, and noted that the Palmer Drought Index indicated that this region was in an extraordinary to exceptional drought at this time.

1. Status of Water Availability Model (WAM) for Mexico

There was no new information to report at this time.

**D. TPWD**

Mr. Willie Cupit was recognized and informed the Group that red tide was still present but it was reduced significantly.

**9. Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule**

It was the consensus of the Group to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at the LRGVDC Transit Center in Weslaco, no meeting will be scheduled in February.

**10. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Group the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 a.m.

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Glenn Jarvis, Chairman

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Mary Lou Campbell, Secretary