

Minutes
Plateau Water Planning Group
REGULAR MEETING
Initiated and Chaired at
Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center (GBNRC)
125 Lehmann Drive - Auditorium
Kerrville, Texas
October 17, 2024
10:00 AM

Notice having duly been given the Plateau Water Planning Group (PWPG) conducted a Regular Meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2024, beginning at 10:00 A.M. The meeting was initiated and chaired at GBNRC, 125 Lehmann Drive, Auditorium, Kerrville, TX 78028. **Present in person:** Jonathan Letz, Kerr County; Tara Bushnoe, Kerr County; Jerry Simpton, Val Verde County; Tony Smith, Carollo Engineering; Lann Bookout, Texas Water Development Board; Matthew Wilkinson, UGRA (hosted the meeting); Jody Grinstead, Admin. Asst.; Tammy Thompson, UGRA; Carlos Velarde, Val Verde County; Gene Williams, Kerr County; Jess Erlund, Kerr County; David Jeffery; Bandera County/GMA9; Jerry Simpton, Val Verde County; Stuart Barron, Kerr County (arrived after roll call); Chris Clark, Kerr County (arrived after roll call) and Tim Martin. **Present via Zoom:** Jennifer Jackson, Carollo Engineering; Dell Dickinson, Val Verde County; Max Martin, Edward/Val Verde/Kinney County; Feather Wilson, Bandera County; Wes Robinson, Kinney County; Darlene Shahan for Tully Shahan, Kinney County; Representative from KCGD; Becky Gates.

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Certification of Quorum in Compliance with Texas Open Meetings Law.

Chairman Letz determined that a quorum was present.

II. Public Comments.

No public comments were given.

III. Approval of minutes from the August 8, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Motion by Jerry Simpton to approve the August 8, 2024 meeting minutes; second by David Jeffery. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

IV. Reports.

a. Report from Chair.

Chairman Letz stated that the balance in the account is \$10,755.12.

He reminded the group that we currently have 2 vacancies for the PWPG and nominations are due by November 1st.

b. Report from Secretary.

Ms. Bushnoe stated that they have been processing and reviewing invoices as well as keeping the website updated.

c. Report from Political Entity.

No report was given

d. Report from Liaisons.

No report was given

e. Report from GMA representatives.

No report was given

V. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to approve new invoices.

Motion by Tara Bushnoe to approve the following invoices: GMR Transcription for \$255.75, Carollo Engineers for \$11,295.59 and Carollo Engineers for \$19,349.12; second by Gene Williams. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

VI. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to approve administrative expenses, and certify that the expenses are eligible for reimbursements and are correct and necessary.

Motion by David Jeffery to approve administrative expenses in the amount of \$1,013.66; second by Gene Williams. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

VII. Texas Water Development Board Updates.

Mr. Bookout stated they have a new Board Member, Tanya Miller and Brian McMath is now the Executive Administrator.

VIII. Report from Carollo on the schedule of regional water planning.

Ms. Jackson reviewed what was addressed at the previous meeting. She reminded the group that the IPP will be due on March 3, 2025.

IX. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to approve the draft IPP Chapters 1 and 2, and authorize Carollo to work with WUGs and/or the TWDB on any final modifications.

Ms. Jackson briefly reviewed the water loss audit data. She stated that she hadn't received any additional feedback on Chapters 1 and 2 since the last meeting. **Motion by Jerry Simpton to approve the draft IPP Chapters 1 and 2 and authorize Carollo to work with WUGs and/or the TWDB on any final modifications; second by David Jeffery. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

X. Consider, discuss and review draft Chapters 3, 4 and 7 of the 2026 Plateau Region Water Plan.

Ms. Jackson noted that Chapter 3 explores the current and future availability of all water supply resources in the region, including surface water, groundwater, and reuse. She explained the difference between water supply availability and existing water supply. She spoke briefly regarding various people she is working with in the different counties to get the most current data. A brief discussion ensued regarding groundwater availability. Ms. Jackson noted that the data being used came from the groundwater availability models (GAMs) that were submitted to TWDB. Ms. Shahan asked if they considered any recent input from the hydrologists that are helping Kinney County. Ms. Jackson noted that the MAG's being used were the ones submitted to TWDB 3-4 years ago. She noted that any new information would be considered in the next planning cycle.

Mr. Smith explained the joint planning process that groundwater goes through: establishing DFCs, that establish modelled available groundwater (MAGs), that set the cap for planning the sources that are available – those being the aquifers. He went on to discuss the difference between supply and source. Ms. Jackson said that TWDB wants the planning groups to plan for the drought of record.

Ms. Jackson stated that Chapter 3 is all about water sources, existing availability, surface water, groundwater and reuse. She reviewed the various tables that are being used in Chapter 3 and noted that all the analyses include the consideration of four basic components, recharge to the aquifer, recoverable storage capacity within the aquifer, lateral movement into and out of the aquifer, and withdrawals from the aquifer.

Ms. Jackson noted that with the help of Feather Wilson, TWDB and an associate with Carollo they have overhauled the brackish groundwater desal discussion. She asked the group to review it and get back to her with any feedback. She stated that she is working with the TWDB bracks team as well.

Mr. Smith reviewed the updates that were made to the surface water discussion in Chapter 3. He noted that the discussion encompassed source availability and supply availability (similar to the groundwater side). For this plan, the water availability models that are established by TCEQ are utilized and adjustments are made to those models. Those adjustments were approved by the group,

and submitted to the Water Development Board for approval in our hydrologic variance request last year. That information is used to look at firm supply to determine what can get through the drought of record. He briefly spoke about TCEQ permitting and the Run 3 WAM.

Ms. Jackson noted that this chapter contains small write-ups about water reuse, local supply and the methodology that was used when estimating our non-municipal (livestock, irrigation and mining) categories.

Ms. Jackson stated that Chapter 4 provides projections of water supply surpluses or water deficits for all water user groups by decade, based on a comparison of projected water demands by decade for each water-use entity from Chapter 2, compared to our water supplies that are available to meet those demands. She briefly reviewed some of the Tables listed in Chapter 4. She noted that a water supply deficit may develop for individual water use estimates for numerous reasons (supply availability limits, infrastructure limitations, or legal limits etc.).

Ms. Jackson reviewed Chapter 7 – the drought chapter. She stated that many of the tables had not been updated in the previous plan but they have been updated now. She reviewed some of the tables from Chapter 7 with the planning group.

Mr. Smith informed the group that the section 358.3 of the Texas Administrative Code states that “Planning groups may, at their discretion, plan for drought conditions worse than the drought of record.” So there is now a capability, should the planning group decide to, to plan for conditions worse than the drought of record. The Water Development Board then offers guidance on this, that the planning groups can choose to consider scenarios or qualitatively address the uncertainty and droughts worse than the drought of record in their region. He noted the group is required to have a new subsection summarizing how the region included planning for uncertainty and the region’s basis or policy for including planning for uncertainty was addressed. That subsection will be in this chapter. He requested that the members review this section and give them feedback on any changes they would like to make.

Ms. Jackson stated that they are looking for any updated drought contingency plans that members are able to submit to them so they complete the tables in Chapter 7. She stressed that they are seeking input from the planning group members in order to complete the work.

Mr. Barron asked if there was any consistency across the state with regards to projections for worse than the drought of record. Ms. Smith said he was not aware of any and that each regional planning group was allowed to set their own path in that regard.

Mr. Wilson spoke briefly regarding regional geology. Mr. Letz agreed that would be beneficial information to have, but it was too late for this planning cycle. He noted that it should be done state-wide, but definitely should be mentioned in the next planning cycle. A brief discussion ensued regarding brackish water and the costs involved with that.

XI. Report from Carollo on other regional planning efforts.

Ms. Jackson noted that TWDB has a template/checklist planning groups are asked to use to look at the water management strategies in the 2021 plan and determine if they are feasible or not feasible. This group has 24 potentially feasible water management strategy types in our evaluation. She explained the process they used to determine if they were feasible or not. She noted that some regions want this table at the end of Chapter 4 as a segue to Chapter 5. She stated that it was up to the planning group as to whether they wanted to leave it as a digital submittal only, or include it in the plan.

XII. Set next meeting.

The next meeting was set for December 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Kerrville.