

Minutes
Plateau Water Planning Group
REGULAR MEETING
Initiated and Chaired at
Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center (GBNRC)
125 Lehmann Drive, Ste. 100
Kerrville, Texas
March 17, 2022

Notice having been given, a Regular Meeting of the Plateau Water Planning Group (PWP) was held on Thursday, March 17, 2022, beginning at 10:00 A.M. The meeting was initiated and chaired at GBNRC, 125 Lehmann Drive, Ste. 100, Kerrville, Texas. **Present in person:** Ray Buck, Kerr County; Jonathan Letz, Kerr County; Charlie Wiedenfeld, Kerr County; Gene Williams, Kerr County; Brian Leiker, Real County; Dell Dickinson, Val Verde County; Max Martin, Edward/Val Verde/Kinney County; Scott Loveland, Kerr County; Hayli Phillips, Bandera County; David Mauk, Bandera County; David Jeffery, Bandera County; William Alfaro, Texas Water Development Board; Evan Strickland, Texas Water Development Board ; Katie Dahlberg, Texas Water Development Board; Jennifer Herrera, WSP; Andrew Feigenbaum; Alyson McDonald; Sarah Robertson, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Monica Thibodeaux, HGCD and Tara Bushnoe, UGRA (hosted the meeting); **Present via Zoom:** Diane McMahan, France Lovett and Julie Lewey.

- I. **Call to Order, Roll Call, Certification of Quorum in Compliance with Texas Open Meetings Law.**
Mr. Letz determined that a quorum was present.

- II. **Public Comments.**
No public comments were received.

- III. **Approval of minutes from the July 27, 2021 Pre-Planning Meeting and Regular Meeting.**
Motion by Dell Dickinson to approve the minutes from the Pre-Planning Meeting and Regular Meeting from July 27, 2021; second by Charlie Wiedenfeld. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- IV. **Reports.**
 - a. **Report from Chair.**
Mr. Letz stated that he participated in a Chairs Conference in the prior months and they were told that demand projections will be out to the planning groups over the next months.

Mr. Letz stated that as of January 31, 2022 the balance in the administrative account was \$12,455.22. He noted that there was a \$3,035.00 deposit in the account due to a change with TWDB; they are now reimbursing planning groups for some administrative expenses.
 - b. **Report from Secretary.**
No report was given.
 - 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 invoices.**
Motion by Charlie Wiedenfeld to approve the following invoices: Hill Country Community Journal for Pre-Planning Meeting Notice (\$60.75); GMR Transcripts for 7/27/21 meeting (\$151.25); WSP – 3 invoices (\$2,728.73; \$2,039.25; \$694.87); second by Max Martin. The motion passed by a unanimous

vote.

VI. Texas Water Development Board Updates.

Mr. Alfaro briefly discussed the following items:

Interregional Planning Council. The deadline for each Regional Planning Group to nominate a representative was extended; the item will be addressed later in the agenda.

Changes TWDB made related to funding allocations for this planning cycle to cover the scope of work. A contract amendment is needed to incorporate the total cost for the development of the plan for this planning cycle. In the past planning groups needed to prepare another application for additional funding, but with this planning cycle TWDB will incorporate the funding.

Changes made related to administrative costs. Previously administrative costs were not allowed but now they can now be charged to Task 10. The planning group must decide if they want to approve all the administrative costs through the entire planning cycle or if they want to approve them as needed when invoices are presented. There are specific costs that need to be certified including: travel expenses, postage, maintenance of the website and political subdivision administrative personnel costs. Ray Buck informed the planning group that \$10,000 has been budgeted in Task 10 for this planning cycle. Mr. Alfaro stated that certain criterion is required to request reimbursement including: name of person, type of work, and hours spent on the project. That information would then need to be certified prior to requesting reimbursement.

Proposed amendments/changes to the Rules were approved by the Board on December 16th. Comments were accepted until January 31st. He shared a link the members could use if they wanted details regarding the changes (<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/about/rules/index.asp>). It is anticipated that the Board will approve the final Rules in the spring of this year.

There is a page on the TWDB website for this planning cycle. It includes information related to the development of the planned communications, the working schedule, some contract documents, and the original planning newsletters. The page can be located at: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/index.asp>

VII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to fill Industries vacancy left by Joseph McDaniel.

Mr. Letz stated that the Aqua Texas representative for this area, Joseph McDaniel, has been transferred to a different area. Jess Erlund is Joseph's replacement at Aqua Texas and he has expressed interest in being appointed to fill Mr. McDaniel's position. No other nominations were received. **Motion by Max Martin to appoint Jess Erlund to fill the Industries vacancy; second by Gene Williams. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

VIII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to announce resignation of Otila Gonzalez and approve posting Municipalities vacancy.

Mr. Letz stated that he received an email from Otila Gonzalez announcing her resignation from the planning group. Ms. Gonzalez represented the city of Del Rio and was one of the original members. He announced that her vacancy will be posted.

IX. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to nominate representative for the next Interregional Planning Council.

Mr. Letz stated that Ray Buck was the previous representative for PWPG, and that most planning groups had their Chairs as their representatives. **Motion by Ray Buck to appoint Jonathan Letz as the PWPG representative on the Interregional Planning Cycle and Ray Buck as the alternate; second by Charlie Wiedenfeld. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.** Mr. Alfaro briefly described the function of the Interregional Planning Council.

X. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to approve certification allowing for reimbursement of administrative costs from the regional water planning contract.

Mr. Letz stated that as discussed earlier, the planning group could give a blanket approval to allow the Chairperson to approve these costs as they come up throughout the planning cycle, or they can be included with the other invoices and approved at every meeting by the planning group members. Mr. Alfaro said that most regions approve them when they approve the invoices. **Motion by Charlie Wiedenfeld to certify reimbursement requests along with the invoices at each meeting for the previous period; second by David Jeffery. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

XI. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to authorize the Upper Guadalupe River Authority to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract to incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 Regional Water Plan.

Motion by Max Martin to authorize the Upper Guadalupe River Authority to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract to incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 Regional Water Plan; second by Dell Dickinson. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

XII. Discuss potential updates to the Bylaws and appoint Committee to review changes prior to approval by the Planning Group.

Mr. Letz stated that the Bylaws had not been updated since 2017 and that some changes needed to be made. He suggested that a committee be formed to review them and suggest changes to the planning group. It was agreed that Mr. Letz would appoint the committee and members were encouraged to email him if they were interested in serving on the committee.

XIII. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action to reappoint members whose terms expired on 12/31/21.

Mr. Letz stated that all members serve two-year terms, and many of those terms expired on 12/31/21. Motion by Dell Dickinson to reappoint Lee Sweeten, Scott Loveland, Feather Wilson, Dell Dickinson, Ray Buck, Jonathan Letz, Gene Williams, David Mauk, Rene Villareal and Charlie Wiedenfeld; second by David Jeffery. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

XIV. WSP Update on Regional Water Planning Schedule.

Mr. Feiganbaum provided a brief overview of the planning schedule for the 2026 cycle. He stated that the TWDB released draft water demand projections for livestock, manufacturing, and steam/electric power water use categories in January. The TWDB is expected to distribute the WUG lists, historical population, and GPCD for the municipal WUGs later this month. July will be the deadline for the planning groups to request changes to the WUG lists and any historical data for the municipal WUGs. In August the TWDB plans to distribute the draft irrigation and mining water demand projections.

XV. Consider and discuss draft non-municipal water demand projections: Livestock; Manufacturing; and Steam-Electric Power.

Ms. Herrera stated that TWDB delivered three of the non-municipal water demands (manufacturing, your livestock, and your steam/electric) to the consultants in January. She reviewed various handouts which showed what the final demand numbers were in the 2021 plan as well as TWDB's suggested numbers

There were no key changes for livestock with regards to how TWDB approached how they were going to derive those demand numbers from the previous cycle to this cycle. TWDB projects less demand on water for livestock in each county than we had in the previous planning cycle except for Kinney County.

There were changes with how TWDB plans to look at the demand projections for manufacturing during this planning cycle than for the previous plan. The new methodology treats it as a linear. There is a 7-acre foot increase from the previous plan to our current plan. She emphasized that these are draft demand projections (provided by TWDB). The Regional Water Planning Groups have until July of 2023 to request modifications/edits. Two counties did not have demand values in the previous cycle; Real County and Val Verde County.

There were no steam/electric power demands within our region. They weren't there in the past plan, and they aren't there in this cycle.

XVI. Presentation from TWDB Projections & Socioeconomic Analysis team regarding water demand projections methodologies.

Presentation by Katie Dahlberg. A copy of the presentation can be found at: <http://www.ugra.org/images/pdf/2022-03-17PWPGMeetingMaterials.pdf>

XVII. Presentation from TWDB Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Brackish Groundwater Study project manager regarding an update on their study.

Presentation by Evan Strickland. A copy of the presentation can be found at: <http://www.ugra.org/images/pdf/2022-03-17PWPGMeetingMaterials.pdf>

XVIII. Update from TWDB on Edwards Aquifer in Val Verde County and Edwards County.

Mr. Alfaro stated that there is not much information that can be found regarding studies for Val Verde County. In 2018, the Water Development Board conducted an assessment overview of the well conditions in Val Verde County (https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/special_projects/valverde/docs/Groundwater-Resources-of-Val-Verde-County-86th-legislature.pdf) A report was done based on that study and the Legislature directed TWDB to summarize the information and provide information for best management practices in Val Verde County (http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/special_projects/valverde/index.asp). He noted they are still working on that summary of the best management practices, but the full report is on the TWDB website. TWDB does not plan to develop a separate/specific well model for Val Verde County because Val Verde County has now been incorporated in the new region of Edwards-Trinity that will include that information. There is a draft report online currently, and they accepting comments on the report until March 21st of this year. A final report is expected in early 2023. Mr. Dickinson expressed his concerns with that plan.

XIX. Set next meeting date.

Ms. Herrera stated that data is scheduled to be released in March and there will be a July deadline tied to that data. She suggested that a meeting be set in May to review the March data.