

## REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP – AREA B

### Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 4, 2016

The Regional Water Planning Group – Area B met in an open public meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of Red River Authority of Texas, 3000 Hammon Road, Wichita Falls, Texas, with the following members and guests present:

- RWPG Members:**
- Mr. Curtis W. Campbell, Chair, Red River Authority of Texas, Wichita Falls
  - Mr. Wilson Scaling, Vice Chair, Henrietta
  - Mr. Dean Myers, Secretary, Bowie Industries, Inc., Bowie
  - Ms. Tamela Armstrong, Alliance Power Company, Wichita Falls
  - Mr. J. K. (Rooter) Brite, Agribusiness, Bowie
  - Mr. Jack Campsey, Gateway Groundwater Conservation District, Quanah
  - Judge Mark Christopher, Foard County, Crowell
  - Mr. N. E. Deweber, Baylor Water Supply Corporation, Seymour
  - Mr. Joe Jarosek, City of Vernon
  - Judge Kenneth Liggett, Clay County, Henrietta
  - Mr. Mike McGuire, Rolling Plains Ground Water Conservation District, Munday
  - Mr. Monte McMahon, AEP Oklaunion Power Plant, Vernon
  - Mr. Tracy Mesler, Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Nocona
  - Mr. Kyle Miller, Wichita County Water Improvement District No. 2, Wichita Falls
  - Mr. Jerry Payne, Henrietta
  - Mr. Russell Schreiber, City of Wichita Falls
  - Mayor Gayle Simpson, City of Crowell
  - Mr. J. Todd Thomas, W. T. Waggoner Estate, Vernon
- RWPG Alternates:**
- Mr. Jimmy Banks, Iowa Park
  - Mr. Darell Kennon, City of Vernon
  - Mr. Doug Shaw, Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Springtown
- Consultants and Staff:**
- Ms. Stacey Green, Red River Authority of Texas, Wichita Falls
  - Mr. Kerry D. Maroney, Biggs and Mathews, Inc., Wichita Falls
  - Mr. Glen Hite, Red River Authority of Texas, Wichita Falls
  - Ms. Danna Prichard, Red River Authority of Texas, Wichita Falls
- Discretionary:**
- Mr. David Kercheval, Texas Department of Agriculture, Grandview
  - Mr. Robert Mauk, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wichita Falls

**Discretionary:** Ms. Temple McKinnon, Texas Water Development Board, Austin  
 (continued) Mr. Cliff Moore, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Abilene  
 Mr. Jack R. Stevens, Regional Water Planning Group – Area C, Azle

**Registered Guests:** Mr. Gary Burke, United States Geological Survey, Wichita Falls  
 Ms. Yun Cho, Texas Water Development Board, Austin  
 Mr. Joe W. Coufal, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Retired  
 Mr. Jerry Flemming, City of Iowa Park  
 Ms. Jennifer Foster, Senator Charles Perry’s Office, Childress  
 Mr. Ted Hartley, Mr. Lonnie Allsup Ranches, Baylor County  
 Mr. Jim Johnson, State Representative James Frank’s Office, Wichita Falls  
 Mr. Wayne Owen, Tarrant Regional Water District, Fort Worth  
 Mayor Howard Raeke, City of Henrietta  
 Mr. Gordon Smith, City of Burkburnett  
 Ms. Marisa Tole, W.T. Waggoner Estate Lake Division, Vernon

**Item One: Public Meeting Call to Order, Invocation, Roll Call and Introductions**

Mr. Curtis W. Campbell, Chair of the Regional Water Planning Group - Area B (RWPG – B), called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Jerry Payne gave the invocation. Following roll call and establishment of a quorum, Mr. Campbell noted the following absences: Mr. Bobbie Kidd, Mr. Dale Hughes, Dr. Rebecca Dodge and her alternate Dr. Jonathan Price. Introductions followed.

**Item Two: Review and Approval of Minutes of the February 10, 2016 RWPG – Area B Meeting**

Mr. Campbell presented a draft copy of the February 10, 2016 public meeting minutes to the group for approval. With no comments or discussion, Mayor Simpson motioned to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of **18 For** and **0 Against**.

**Item Three: Receive Public Input on Issues that Should be Addressed or Provisions that Should be Included in the Regional or State Water Plan for the Fifth Round of Regional Water Planning**

Mr. Campbell explained that the Region B Group is required by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to invite the public to submit input on the regional water plan and/or the state water plan at the beginning of each new planning cycle. He confirmed that legal notices announcing today’s meeting had been distributed in compliance with the Texas Administrative Code and Texas Open Meetings Act. Mr. Campbell then opened the floor to accept comments and suggestions from the public. Mr. Mesler initiated the discussion by informing the group that upon approval by the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (UTGCD) Board of Directors, Mr. Shaw submitted a letter to the TWDB requesting that the Paleozoic Aquifer be

**Item Three: Receive Public Input on Issues that Should be Addressed or Provisions that Should be Included in the Regional or State Water Plan for the Fifth Round of Regional Water Planning (continued)**

reclassified from “other aquifers” to “minor aquifers”. Mr. Mesler stated that the Draft *2017 State Water Plan* lists approximately 7,500 acre feet of current water supply attributed to “other aquifer” in Montague County. He added that the Paleozoic Formations are a viable water source for the region, and although the aquifer is slow to recharge, it supports about seventy-eight percent of the wells in Montague County. Mr. Mesler explained that recognizing the Paleozoic as a “minor aquifer” would qualify the formation for state funding to develop models and perform future studies of the aquifer. Additionally, Mr. Mesler requested that the Region B Group support this project by placing it on their next agenda to submit a request to the TWDB to consider designating the Paleozoic Aquifer as a “minor aquifer”. There was general discussion about the depth of the aquifer and the quality of the water supplied by the aquifer. Mr. Shaw reiterated that without support and funding, they cannot manage or determine the full potential of the Paleozoic Aquifer. Mr. Campbell agreed to place this matter on the agenda for discussion at the next RWPG-B Public Meeting.

Mr. Jarosek, with the City of Vernon, then addressed the group seeking assistance to develop a reservoir to meet the future needs in Wilbarger County. He stated that the Seymour Aquifer is currently the sole source of water for the City of Vernon and the alternative of purchasing additional water is not cost effective. Mr. Campbell noted that the proposed Pease River Reservoir near Vernon was never developed due to the expense of the project and the salt content of the river, which without the funding to complete the Chloride Control Project, could not be removed. Mr. Brite inquired about building small reservoirs to recharge the Seymour Aquifer and Mr. Campbell replied that although aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) worked well, the process presents many issues. He added that since evaporation is a concern, ASR may need to be further researched and included in the *2021 Region B Regional Water Plan*. Mr. Campbell recommended that the City of Vernon prepare a proposal and submit it to the Region B Group for consideration as a strategy. Furthermore, Mr. Schreiber advised Mr. Jarosek to contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) concerning the proposed reservoir, as he had been informed that Lake Ringgold was the last available reservoir site in this region.

Mr. McGuire, with the Rolling Plains Groundwater Conservation District, continued discussion on ASR, and said his Board has agreed to pursue the possibilities of recharging the Seymour Aquifer in Baylor County. He noted that the Bureau of Reclamation could become the lead agency for ASR, and they had cost share funds available to assist in the construction of a recharge structure. Discussion was then held in regards to construction of flood control structures over the aquifers as a source of recharge, and Mr. Campbell reminded the group that state laws require that the water be treated, prior to adding it to the aquifer. Mr. McGuire expressed that he would like to see ASR included in the *2021 Region B Regional Water Plan* as a strategy.

Mr. Joe Coufal, retired employee of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, took the floor and suggested that the City of Wichita Falls capture flood waters from the western side of the City, and use the water to supplement the City’s water supply. General discussion favored obtaining federal funding to remove the silt accumulation from the flood control structures, which would direct the flood waters to the reservoirs.

**Item Three: Receive Public Input on Issues that Should be Addressed or Provisions that Should be Included in the Regional or State Water Plan for the Fifth Round of Regional Water Planning (continued)**

With no further discussion, Mr. Campbell thanked everyone for their input, and noted that the suggested strategies would be discussed in further detail at upcoming Region B meetings.

**Item Four: A Presentation on Projections for the Fifth Round of Water Planning by the Texas Water Development Board**

Mr. Campbell introduced Ms. Yun Cho, with the Texas Water Development Board, who presented a presentation on population and water demand projections for the 2021 regional water plans. Ms. Cho provided a brief overview of the TWDB projection methodology for irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, steam-electric power, population and municipal demands in the *2017 State Water Plan*. She then proceeded to discuss some of the methodology changes being made by the TWDB for the development of the *2022 State Water Plan*. Ms. Cho noted that the methodology for irrigation, manufacturing and steam-electric power projections has not been changed from the 2017 plan, but the TWDB has requested input from planning groups. She stated that the TWDB has updated the per head usage for livestock projections, and is seeking advice from the planning groups for mining projection methodology, since hydraulic fracturing water use varies with the current oil and gas markets. Ms. Cho then explained that population and municipal water demand projections will be based on utility service areas rather than political boundaries in the 2021 regional water plans. She added that revising the methodology for these projections will provide continual updated information for the planning process. Ms. Cho completed her presentation with a review of a tentative timeline leading to the submittal of all population and water demand projections to the TWDB in March 2018, and the Initially Prepared Plans due in March 2020.

In closing, Ms. Cho opened the floor to questions and comments. Mr. Mesler expressed his concerns for the accuracy of the demand projections, using utility service areas as the methodology, when some of the population utilizes private well water. Ms. Cho replied that various sources of data are compiled to define municipal projections and county other projections. Additionally, Ms. McKinnon reminded the group that they will have the opportunity to review all the draft data and submit their comments to the TWDB.

**Item Five: Update on the Request for Updates to the Red River Water Availability Models for Planning Purposes**

Mr. Campbell reviewed a letter from the TWDB acknowledging receipt of the letter sent by the Region B Group expressing the need to update the Red River Water Availability Model (WAM) to reflect the impact of the recent drought of record on the available water supply. He noted that the letter stated other planning groups have raised similar concerns; therefore the TWDB scheduled a Regional Water Planning Stakeholder Meeting for May 2, 2016, to discuss the technical aspects of regional water plan development. Mr. Campbell explained that discussion at the stakeholder meeting included funding for TCEQ to perform the WAM updates, alternative sources of data, and changes in TWDB guidelines for the fifth cycle of planning. Ms. McKinnon added that the TWDB was in the process of amending the guidance, and the group will have the opportunity to review the updated draft guidance prior to approval by the TWDB.

**Item Six:                    Discuss and Consider Authorizing the Administrative Agency to Execute a Contract with the Consultant Group of Biggs and Mathews, Inc., Freese and Nichols, Inc., and Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., for the Fifth Round of Water Planning**

The members were informed by Mr. Campbell that a proposed contract had been prepared for the fifth round of planning allocating \$39,816.00 of the committed \$56,880.00 funds to the consultant team of Biggs and Mathews, Inc., Freese and Nichols, Inc., and Alan Plummer Associates, Inc. He included that the contract had been submitted to Ms. McKinnon for approval by the TWDB. With no further discussion, Mr. McGuire motioned to authorize the Authority to execute a contract with the consultant team following approval from the TWDB. Judge Christopher seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of **18 For** and **0 Against**.

**Item Seven:                Discuss and Consider Authorizing the Administrative Agency, the Red River Authority of Texas, to Provide Public Notice Soliciting Nominations for Membership to Replace Members Whose Terms Expire in August 2016**

Mr. Campbell reviewed a list of Region B members whose terms will expire on August 31, 2016, and discussed the nomination process as written in the Bylaws. He informed the group that if authorized, the Authority will publically solicit nominations for the interest groups with expiring terms on June 1, 2016. The deadline for submittal of nominations will be July 15, 2016, followed by an Executive Committee Meeting tentatively scheduled for August 10, 2016. The committee will review the nominations received and make recommendations to present to the Region B Group. With no further discussion, Mr. McGuire motioned to authorize the Authority to provide public notice soliciting nominations for membership. Judge Liggett seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of **18 For** and **0 Against**.

**Item Eight:                Update from the Texas Water Development Board Project Manager**

Ms McKinnon advised the group that the Executive Administrator with the TWDB had resigned and their Board will be announcing the appointed Interim at their meeting scheduled for May 5, 2016. She confirmed that the comment period for the Draft *2017 State Water Plan* ended on April 25, 2016 and the Final *2017 State Water Plan* will be presented to the TWDB Board for approval in the near future. Ms. McKinnon noted that phase one of the contract for the fifth cycle of planning only included the Population and Water Demand Projections (Tasks 2A and 2B), and Public Participation (Task 10) in the Scope of Work. Upon completion of the rule revisions and the guidance updates, the TWDB will request applications from the regions to complete the Scope of Work and receive the additional appropriated contract funds. She added that future legislative appropriations will be distributed as contract amendments.

**Item Nine:                Updates from the Liaisons from Other Regional Water Planning Groups**

Mr. Campbell opened the floor to updates from the liaisons of the surrounding regions. Ms. McKinnon spoke for Region A, noting that they would be meeting on May 18, 2016, and she included that Region D was meeting today. Mr. Stevens, representing Region C, reported that

**Item Nine: Updates from the Liaisons from Other Regional Water Planning Groups (continued)**

they were in the process of discussing some technical issues with the TWDB concerning unique reservoirs. Additionally, Mr. McGuire, liaison for Region G, stated that the group had met three times in the past month after receiving a request from the City of Waco to utilize the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) to update their meters. Consequently, on behalf of the request, Region G had to prepare a minor amendment to their regional plan in order for the City of Waco to be eligible for the funds. The conversation concluded with Mr. Campsey informing the group that Region O had met in February to elect officers, and they were scheduled to meet again next week.

**Item Ten: Consider Acceptance of the RWPG-B Financial Statements**

Mr. Campbell presented the Statement of Income and Expense to the group, which depicted billed expenses of \$21,389.88, covering the period of October 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016, leaving a contract balance of zero. The statement also confirmed the release of retainage in the amount of \$18,934.41 to finalize the fourth round of planning contract. He noted that the statement had been submitted to Mr. Dennis Wilde, with the Nortex Regional Planning Commission, for review and no comments have been received to date. Mr. Campbell pointed out that the statement listed a contract overage of \$6,954.40 which reflects a loss on supplies, but does not include the administrative agency's staff labor cost calculations. He informed the members that he intends to submit a statement of expenses, which were not covered by the appropriated contract funds, to the TWDB and the local State Representatives to convey the need for additional funding for regional water planning. With no further discussion, Mr. Scaling motioned to accept the financial statement as presented. Mr. Brite seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of **18 For** and **0 Against**.

**Item Eleven: Public Input and Comments to the Planning Group**

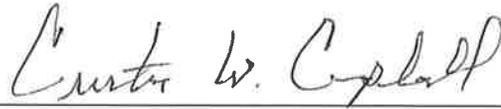
Mr. Campbell opened the floor to public input and comments, there were no comments presented.

**Item Twelve: Consider Date and Agenda Items for the Next Meeting (August 17, 2016)**

The group was informed by Mr. Campbell that the next meeting date had tentatively been scheduled for August 17, 2016. Mr. Campbell reminded the members that items on the agenda would include reviewing and considering nominations for expiring terms within the Region B Group, discussion of submitting a request to the TWDB for reclassification of the Paleozoic Formations based on information received from the UTGWCD, and possibly consider authorizing the Authority to submit an application to the TWDB for additional appropriated funds for the fifth round of planning. Ms. McKinnon added that she would like to share a presentation on the *2017 State Water Plan* with the group if time allowed. Mr. Campbell encouraged the group to contact him with any additional items they feel may need to be discussed at the meeting.

**Item Thirteen:       Adjourn**

With no further discussion, Mr. Campbell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Judge Liggett entered a motion to adjourn and Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



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Curtis W. Campbell, Chair



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Dean Myers, Secretary

