

# Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Bylaws

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# **ARTICLE I. NAMES**

## **Section 1. Organization**

The official name of this organization shall be the “Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group” (hereinafter “LCRWPG”).

## **Section 2. Regional Water Planning Area**

The official name of the regional water planning area designated as “Region K” by the Texas Water Development Board (hereinafter “TWDB”) in accordance with 31 Texas Administrative Code (hereinafter “TAC”) Chapter 357 on February 19, 1998, and any amendments thereto, shall be the “Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Area” (hereinafter “LCRWPA”).

# **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the LCRWPG shall be to provide comprehensive regional water planning and to carry out the related responsibilities placed on regional water planning groups by applicable state law and TWDB rules in and for the LCRWPA.

# **ARTICLE III. PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

The principal administrative office of the LCRWPG is the principal business office of the Lower Colorado River Authority. The Chair of the LCRWPG shall ensure that the mailing address and physical address of the principal office and administrative officer are provided to all members of the LCRWPG and the Executive Administrator of the TWDB.

# **ARTICLE IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The LCRWPG shall have responsibility for performing the functions defined in applicable sections of the Texas Water Code, Chapter 16 and TWDB rules in 31 TAC Chapters 355, 357, and 358 related to

regional water planning groups for the LCRWPA. Foremost among those responsibilities shall be the development of and updates to a regional water plan for the LCRWPA that identifies both short and long-term water supply needs and recommends water management strategies for addressing them.

## **ARTICLE V. VOTING MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Composition**

The voting members of the LCRWPG shall ensure representation of the interests stated in Texas Water Code §16.053(c), if applicable to the region, and other interests determined by the LCRWPG. The number of voting members of the LCRWPG shall not exceed twenty-five (25) persons and the voting membership of the LCRWPG shall include at least one person who represents each of the fourteen (14) counties located within the area encompassed by the LCRWPG and strive to achieve geographic, ethnic and gender diversity. If the LCRWPG solicitation of representation from a county produces no qualified applicants, representation of the county's interests<sup>1</sup> may be fulfilled by a current member.

### **Section 2. Terms of Office**

Voting members serve for five-year staggered terms and are eligible to serve two consecutive terms. If a member desires to serve additional terms, that member may apply to the Executive Committee and the members of the LCRWPG for consideration of appointment by complying with the provisions of these bylaws. Outgoing voting members shall be given the opportunity to participate in the selection process for their successors and shall serve until their successors take office.

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<sup>1</sup> "Interest" does not refer to the interests named in the Texas Water Code, Section 16.053(c), but means the needs or concerns related to long term water supplies for the county

### **Section 3. Conditions of Membership**

In order to be eligible for voting membership on the LCRWPG, a person must represent the interest for which a member is sought, be willing to participate in the regional water planning process, and abide by these bylaws.

### **Section 4. Selection of Members**

Within forty-five calendar days after the removal or resignation of a voting member, the LCRWPG may post public notice of a solicitation of nominations in each county located in the LCRWPA by email notification to each County Clerk, and County Judge, soliciting nominations for a successor, identifying the particular interest for which nominations are sought, stating the conditions of membership, delineating the method for submitting nominations, and establishing a deadline for submission of nominations. Members of the LCRWPG may also submit nominations in the manner prescribed in the public notice.

Each groundwater management area within Region K will appoint a voting member to the planning group. The Planning Group shall notify each Groundwater Management Area of a vacancy created by resignation of its appointed member.

The Executive Committee shall review and process the nominations and shall recommend a nominee to the voting membership as a whole. The Executive Committee shall not be bound by the nominations received and may consider any person who meets the conditions of membership as a nominee. The voting membership as a whole shall not be bound by the recommendation of the Executive Committee and may consider any person who meets the conditions of membership as a nominee.

An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total voting membership of the LCRWPG shall be required to elect a nominee as a new voting member. If voting fails to select a new voting member, the voting

members shall consider other nominations until a new member can be selected by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting membership.

In addition to selecting new voting members to fill vacancies caused by removal, resignation or the expiration of a term, the voting members may add members to ensure adequate representation of the interests comprising the LCRWPA by generally utilizing the selection process set forth in this section, with the exception of the forty-five day posting deadlines which shall not apply. If such a new member is added, the existing voting members shall determine by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership, the exact applicability of the membership term provisions and restrictions to the new member at the time of the new member's selection. Outgoing voting members shall be given the opportunity to fully participate in the selection process for their successors and shall serve until their successors take office. However, no member shall participate in a vote in which he or she is a nominee.

### **Section 5. Attendance**

All members shall make a good faith effort to attend all LCRWPG meetings and hearings. Records of attendance shall be kept by the Secretary at all LCRWPG meetings and hearings and presented as part of the minutes. Voting members of the LCRWPG that have recorded absences from at least one-half of the sum of all regularly scheduled meetings and hearings in the preceding twelve months, shall be considered to have engaged in excessive absenteeism and shall be subject to removal from membership under Section 7 of this Article.

### **Section 6. Code of Conduct**

Members and designated alternates of the LCRWPG shall ethically conduct the business of the LCRWPG and shall avoid any form or appearance of a conflict of interest, real or apparent, by observing the following:

- (a) No member or designated alternate of the LCRWPG shall knowingly:
- (1) Solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from suppliers or potential suppliers of services, materials, or equipment, including subcontractors under recipient contracts; or
  - (2) Participate in the selection, award, or administration of a procurement where the member or designated alternate has a financial or other substantive interest in the organization being considered for award. Such conflict may be due to any of the following having a financial or familial relationship with the organization:
    - i) The member or designated alternate;
    - ii) The member's or designated alternate's immediate family;
    - iii) The member's or designated alternate's business partner(s); or
    - iv) A person or organization that employs, or is about to employ, any of the persons listed in (i)-(iii), above.
  - (3) Participate in any deliberation, decision, or vote that would constitute a conflict of interest under federal or state law.

(b) Potential conflicts of interest shall be clearly stated by the voting member or designated alternate prior to any deliberation or action on an agenda item with which the voting member or designated alternate may be in conflict. Where the potential conflict is restricted to a divisible portion of an agenda item, the Chair may divide the agenda item into parts, at the Chair's discretion, for deliberation and voting purposes. An abstention from participation in deliberations, decisions, or voting and the reasons therefor shall be noted in the minutes.

## **Section 7. Removal of Voting Members**

- (a) Grounds for Removal of Voting Members. The following shall constitute grounds for removal of a voting member:
- (1) Excessive absenteeism as defined under Section 5 of this Article;

- (2) Failure to abide by the code of conduct provisions set forth under Section 6 of this Article;
- (3) The member no longer represents the interest he or she was selected to represent;
- (4) Falsifying documents; or
- (5) Any other serious violation of these bylaws as may be determined by the voting members.

(b) Process for Removing Voting Members. Voting members may be removed at any time for any of the grounds for removal of voting members set forth in subsection (a) of this section. Any member with knowledge or suspicion that a voting member or designated alternate has engaged in acts or that events have occurred constituting grounds for removal under subsection (a) of this section may report such information or suspicion to the Chair. The Chair, upon discovering or receiving such information, shall notify the Executive Committee and shall make a written request to that member for an explanation. The member shall provide a written response to the Chair within fifteen calendar days from the date of receipt of the Chair's request. Within five calendar days of receipt of the member's response, the Chair shall forward copies of the response to the Executive Committee members. If the Executive Committee continues to suspect that grounds for removal may exist, if the member fails to make a timely response to the Executive Committee's request, or if the Executive Committee requests its inclusion on the agenda after reviewing the written response from the affected member, the Chair shall place an item on the next subsequent meeting agenda calling for the removal of the member. At the meeting, the member subject to the possible removal action may present evidence of why he or she should not be removed. The voting members shall remove a member by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership. The member subject to the removal action shall not participate in the vote, nor shall his or her membership count as part of the total voting membership for purposes of calculating a two-thirds vote.

## **ARTICLE VI. NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Mandatory Members**

The voting members of the LCRWPG shall add the non-voting members set forth in 31 TAC §357.4(g) and accept the designees appointed by the entities set forth therein. Such designees shall have no terms of office and shall serve until replaced by the designating entity. However, if the voting members decide by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting membership, that a particular designee is hindering the regional water planning efforts of the LCRWPG, the Chair shall make a written request within ten calendar days to the entity requesting the designation of another person to serve as the entity's designee.

### **Section 2. Discretionary Members**

The voting members of the LCRWPG may add or remove as a non-voting member an entity set forth in 31 TAC §357.4(h) by two-thirds vote of the voting membership. If an entity is added, the Chair shall make a written request within ten calendar days to the entity requesting the designation of a person to serve as the entity's designee. Such designees shall have no terms of office and shall serve until replaced by the designating entity or until the entity is removed as a non-voting member. However, if the voting members determine by an affirmative two-thirds vote of the voting membership that a particular designee is hindering the regional water planning efforts of the LCRWPG and that the entity should remain as a non-voting member, the Chair shall make a written request within ten calendar days to the entity requesting the designation of another person to serve as the entity's designee.

### **Section 3. Code of Conduct**

All non-voting members shall comply with the code of conduct provisions under Section 6 of Article V of these bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VII. DESIGNATED ALTERNATES**

Each member shall designate an alternate to represent him/her when he/she is unable to attend a meeting or hearing. Each member must notify the Chair in writing of the name and address of the member's

designated alternate at least forty-eight hours prior to the first meeting or hearing at which the designated alternate will appear on behalf of the member. If the member fails to provide such notice, the Chair may forbid the participation of the designated alternate at the meeting or hearing. The Chair shall not recognize the designation of more than one alternate per member at any given meeting. The Chair shall not recognize more than two alternate designations per member. In the absence of the member and the designated alternate, the second designated alternate shall be recognized by the Chair.

The designated alternate of a voting member shall have the same voting privileges and shall be bound by the same duties, terms, and conditions as the member they represent, except as otherwise provided in these bylaws. However, a designated alternate for a voting member who serves as the Chair or Vice Chair shall not be allowed to serve in the capacity as Chair or Vice Chair in the member's absence.

The LCRWPG shall regularly update the Region K website with a list of all members and their designated alternates.

## **ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. Officers, Restrictions, and Terms of Office**

Voting members of the LCRWPG shall select from the voting membership a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary to serve as officers. Each officer shall serve a term of one calendar year. Except as provided under Section 4 of this Article, an officer shall serve until his or her successor takes office. No two voting members representing the same interest shall serve as officers at the same time. Elections shall be held annually, with no restrictions on the number of consecutive terms an individual may serve as an officer other than those that apply because of his or her status as a voting member under these bylaws.

### **Section 2. Selection**

(a) Officers shall be selected at the first regular meeting of each calendar year. Written notice of the meeting to select officers shall be mailed, by first class U.S. Mail, facsimile, or electronic mail, to all members of the LCRWPG by the Secretary seven calendar days prior to the meeting.

(b) Nominating Committee. The Chair shall appoint a nominating committee, made up of five persons, chosen from those members not presently holding an elected office (chair, vice-chair, or secretary). The Nominating committee shall (1) determine which voting members are interested in holding an elected office, and (2) compile a list of nominees. A list of nominees shall be mailed, by first class U.S. Mail, facsimile, or electronic mail, to planning group members seven days prior to the meeting when the election will take place. The nominating committee shall present the list of nominees at the meeting at which the officers are to be elected. Before nominations are closed, the chair shall call for nominations from the floor.

Nominees for uncontested positions may be elected as a group. Contested positions shall be voted on individually.

Nominees shall be elected by a simple majority of the voting membership. If a nominee does not receive the necessary majority vote, then the current officer shall remain in office until the required majority vote is obtained.

### **Section 3. Removal of Officers**

Any officer may be removed from office for any of the grounds for removal of voting members set forth under Article V of these bylaws, or for repeated failure to carry out the duties of the office, by agreement of at least two-thirds of the voting membership. Removal of an officer shall be set as an agenda item at the next scheduled meeting upon written request signed by five voting members to the Chair or Secretary. The Chair or Secretary receiving the request shall notify the officer in writing that he or she shall be subject to a removal action at the next scheduled meeting. At the meeting, the officer subject to the possible removal action may present evidence of why he or she should not be removed. If the Chair is the subject of the

possible removal action, the Vice-Chair shall preside over the meeting during the agenda item concerning the Chair's removal. The officer subject to the removal action shall not participate in any way in the vote, nor shall his or her membership count as part of the total membership for purposes of calculating a two-thirds vote. The notice of the meeting shall be posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and shall state that the issue of possibly removing the officer will be on the agenda. Any vacancy caused by the removal shall be filled as provided under Section 4 of this Article.

#### **Section 4. Vacancies of Officers**

Whenever an officer vacancy exists because of death, resignation, or removal, the vacancy shall be filled at the next regular meeting following the thirty day notice of the event causing the vacancy. Nominations shall be made from the floor by voting members. The voting members shall select a replacement officer from among the nominees by a majority of the voting membership. The next highest ranking officer shall serve in the vacant position until a successor takes office, unless the office of the Secretary becomes vacant, in which case the Chair shall appoint a willing voting member to serve as interim Secretary until the successor to the Secretary takes office. The person selected to fill a vacancy for an officer shall serve for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office.

#### **Section 5. Duties of Each Officer**

(a) Chair. The Chair shall be the executive officer of the LCRWPG. The Chair will preside at all meetings of the LCRWPG and perform all duties provided by these bylaws. If the Chair is unable to carry out his/her duties, the Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair.

(b) Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the discharge of his/her duties and, in the absence of the Chair, shall assume the Chair's full responsibilities and duties. In the event the Chair is unable to carry out his/her duties, the Vice Chair shall serve as Chair until the LCRWPG elects a new Chair under Section 4 of this Article. The Vice-Chair shall perform other duties as assigned by the Chair, or these bylaws.

(c) Secretary. The Secretary shall maintain the minutes and take attendance of the LCRWPG meetings. The minutes and attendance shall be kept as part of the LCRWPG official records. The

Secretary shall ensure that all notices are properly posted as provided in the bylaws, as required by law, and as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act. The Secretary shall perform other duties as assigned by the Chair or these bylaws. If the Chair and Vice Chair are unable to carry out the duties of the Chair, the Secretary shall assume the duties of the Chair, unless the Secretary is absent in which case the Executive Committee will select a Chair from the members at large of the Executive Committee.

## **Section 6. Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall be composed of six LCRWPG members, including the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and three members-at-large. No two voting members representing the same interest shall serve as members of the Executive Committee at the same time. The three members-at-large shall be selected, for one-year terms, but may not serve consecutive terms. Members-at-large shall be removed and their vacancies filled in the manner prescribed for officers under this Article.

When an officer is absent or otherwise unable to serve, the next highest ranking officer shall serve for the officer. If no lower ranking officer exists or can serve, then a member designated by the Chair or acting Chair shall serve for the officer.

**In meetings of the Executive Committee, the Chair shall vote only when necessary to break tie votes.**

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for carrying out the duties imposed on it in these bylaws. The voting members of the LCRWPG may delegate any administrative decisions to the Executive Committee unless provided otherwise in these bylaws.

All meetings of the Executive Committee shall comply with the provisions related to meetings generally as set forth in Article IX, Section 1 of these bylaws.

## **ARTICLE IX. LCRWPG MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Open Meetings and Notice**

In the manner of a governmental body under the Texas Open Meetings Act and as set forth in TWDB rules, meetings of the LCRWPG shall be posted and open to the public. All actions of the LCRWPG shall be deliberated and undertaken in open meeting, unless otherwise authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act. The time and place of LCRWPG meetings shall be set to facilitate, to the extent possible, the participation of the public in the regional water planning process. Comments, feedback, and suggestions may be made during the public comment period of each meeting; each speaker is limited to 3 minutes. Written comments may also be submitted. Copies of all materials presented and submitted electronically or in written form to the Region K planning group shall be made available for public inspection on the Region K's web site (<http://regionk.org>), as directed by the Chair.

### **Section 2. Regular Meetings**

At least one regular meeting of the LCRWPG shall be scheduled per year. At the first meeting of each calendar year, the LCRWPG shall establish and adopt a regular meeting schedule for the ensuing year. The Secretary shall ensure that an advance notice and an agenda for regular meetings is provided to the full membership of the LCRWPG at least seven calendar days in advance of the meeting by first class U.S. Mail, facsimile, or electronic mail. In addition, material will be posted 72 hours in advance on the Region K website. Supporting information and member-requested materials shall be distributed to the full membership with the notice and agenda or at the meeting, as deemed appropriate by the Chair.

### **Section 3. Called (Special) Meetings**

The Chair or a simple majority of the voting members of the LCRWPG may call special meetings of the LCRWPG. The Secretary shall ensure that advance notice and an agenda for the called meeting is provided to the full membership of the LCRWPG at least seven calendar days in advance of the meeting by first class U.S. Mail, facsimile, or electronic mail. In addition, material will be posted 72 hours in advance on the Region K website. Supporting information and member-requested materials shall be distributed to the full membership with the notice and agenda or at the meeting, as deemed appropriate by the Chair.

### **Section 4. Agenda**

The Secretary of the LCRWPG shall ensure that an agenda is prepared and distributed for all meetings, in accordance with Sections 2 and 3 of this Article. Items shall be placed on the agenda by request of the Chair or by request of at least three voting members of the LCRWPG. Consideration for approval of the previous meeting's minutes, as applicable, shall always be among the first items on the agenda. Copies of the agenda and all supporting information provided to the full membership of the planning group shall be made available for public inspection on the Region K website.

### **Section 5. Quorum**

A quorum shall be a simple majority of the voting membership, including vacancies. A quorum is required to conduct any business of the LCRWPG. The requirement for a quorum at a meeting may be satisfied with voting members or their designated alternates.

### **Section 6. Applicability of Robert's Rules of Order**

Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, meetings of the LCRWPG shall be conducted under the provisions of the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. However, failure to follow such rules shall not constitute grounds for appeal of an action or a decision of the LCRWPG.

### **Section 7. Public Hearings/Meetings Required By Law**

The LCRWPG shall post notice and conduct public hearings and public meetings that are specifically required by statute and/or TWDB rule, including those set forth for preplanning, draft regional water

plan presentation, adoption of amendments to the regional water plan, and final regional water plan adoption, in accordance with the requirements of the relevant state law and/or TWDB rules. Notification requirements may be different than those specified in Section 1 of this Article and are specifically required by state law and/or TWDB rule.

## **Section 8. Minutes**

(a) The Secretary shall ensure that minutes of all meetings of the LCRWPG are prepared. The minutes shall:

- (1) State the subject of each deliberation;
- (2) Indicate the result of each vote, order, decision, or other action taken;
- (3) Indicate those members in attendance, noting the presence of a quorum, and noting the presence of those members of the public who participate in the course of the meeting;
- (4) Represent an accurate summary of the meeting's record; and
- (5) State any other information required by these bylaws to be included in the minutes.

(b) The Secretary shall ensure that a draft of the minutes of a meeting is provided to the full membership as soon as possible following the meeting, but no later than 72 hours prior to the next regular meeting of the LCRWPG.

# **ARTICLE X. MAKING DECISIONS**

## **Section 1. Applicability; No Written Proxies**

(a) Unless the method for making a particular decision is set forth in these bylaws, the LCRWPG, its committees, and subgroups shall make all decisions utilizing the process set forth in Section 2 of this Article.

(b) Written proxies shall not be allowed in any decision-making by the LCRWPG, its committees, or its subgroups. However, designated alternates shall be allowed to participate in decision making as set forth in these bylaws.

## **Section 2. Decision-Making Process**

(a) Use of Consensus. The LCRWPG shall attempt, where possible or determined by the planning group to be needed, to make decisions using a consensus decision-making process.

Consensus for the purpose of these bylaws is defined as an agreement built by identifying and exploring all members' interests and by assembling a package agreement which satisfies these interests to the greatest extent possible. A consensus is reached when all voting members agree that their major interests have been taken into consideration and addressed in a satisfactory manner so that they can support the decision of the group. The process of building consensus should involve the development of alternatives and the assessment of the impacts of those alternatives.

Consensus does not necessarily mean unanimity. Some members may strongly endorse a particular solution while others may accept it as a workable agreement. A member can participate in the consensus without embracing each element of the agreement with the same fervor as other members, or necessarily having each of his or her interests satisfied to the fullest extent. In a consensus agreement, the members recognize that, given the combination of gains and trade-offs in the decision package and given the current circumstances and alternatives, the resulting agreement is the best one the voting members can make at this time.

(b) Use of Committee Process. The LCRWPG may vote to submit an issue to a committee to study and provide the planning group with a recommendation on how best to resolve an issue.

(c) Majority Vote: Unless set forth differently in these bylaws or as determined by vote of the LCRWPG for a specific process or purpose, the LCRWPG, its committees, and subgroups shall make decisions utilizing a majority vote of voting members present.

### **Section 3. Final Adoption of Regional Water Plan; Amendments**

The voting members of the LCRWPG shall adopt the final regional water plan for the LCRWPA and any amendments thereto by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership.

## **ARTICLE XI. BOOKS AND RECORDS**

### **Section 1. Required Documents and Retainment**

The following records of the LCRWPG shall be maintained as follows:

- Secretary: The official minutes and resolutions of the planning group;
- Website: A current membership list with addresses, interest affiliations, and phone numbers, if not unlisted; the current roster of officers, agendas, approved minutes, notices, bylaws, and the draft and final approved plans;
- Political Subdivision: A copy of the written record of designation of the political subdivision(s) as representative(s) of the LCRWPG; contracts, subcontracts, annual financial statements, and any and all financial records and supporting information; and appropriate records associated with public hearings conducted by the LCRWPG;
- Consultant of the LCRWPG: Any studies conducted on behalf of the LCRWPG; and any data and models used by the consultant in the regional planning process.

### **Section 2. Inspection and Copying**

Records of the LCRWPG shall be available for inspection and copying at the principal place of business of the representative political subdivision during normal business hours. Procedures and fees for copying and inspection shall be the same as those used by the political subdivision housing the principal office of the LCRWPG for inspection and copying of its own public records.

### **Section 3. Availability of Reports**

All reports, planning documents, and work products resulting from projects funded by the TWDB shall be made available to the TWDB, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or their successor agencies. At least one copy of the approved regional water plan shall be placed in the county clerk's office for each county and in at least one public library of each county having land within the LCRWPA, in accordance with TWDB rules.

## **ARTICLE XII. COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Establishment**

The Chair of the LCRWPG may establish committees and subgroups and appoint members to such committees and subgroups as necessary to assist and advise the LCRWPG in the development of the regional water management plan. The Chair of the LCRWPG shall appoint a chair or co-chairs for each committee or subgroup. A committee or subgroup may be formed to address specific issues assigned by the LCRWPG Chair and may have a specified term of membership.

### **Section 2. Membership**

Membership in the committees and subgroups shall generally follow the requirements and procedures of Article V of these bylaws; membership of the committees and subgroups should be inclusive, rather than exclusive in nature; the interests identified in statute and TWDB rules will be invited to participate, as well as other interests that have been identified. The terms of office for all members of committees and subgroups shall be either upon the expiration of the term, if any, specified by the LCRWPG Chair, or upon expiration of membership in the LCRWPG.

### **Section 3. Meetings**

Committees or subgroups may adopt their own rules of procedure, if the rules are not in conflict with state law, Chapter 551 Open Meetings of the Government Code, TWDB rules, or these bylaws.

## **Section 4. Reports**

Each committee or subgroup shall report its findings and recommendations to the full planning group either verbally or in writing.

## **Section 5. Code of Conduct**

Members of a committee or subgroup are subject to the requirements of Article V, Section 6 of these bylaws.

# **ARTICLE XIII. COMPENSATION**

Members of the LCRWPG are not to be compensated for their services by the State of Texas.

# **ARTICLE XIV. SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

The voting members of the LCRWPG may maintain an account with funds from outside sources, including but not limited to contributions from tax-exempt organizations with which LCRWPG members are affiliated, other tax-exempt organizations, as well as outside foundations. Contributions or the absence of contributions from an organization will not influence decisions of the LCRWPG.

# **ARTICLE XIV. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES**

The voting members of the LCRWPG shall make all decisions related to final approval of persons or entities selected to provide contractual services for the LCRWPG, including all services related to preparation, development, or revisions of the regional water plan for the LCRWPA. However, the voting members may delegate to the Executive Committee the authority to make all administrative decisions concerning amendments to TWDB Research and Planning Fund grant contracts for services related to regional water planning, except those decisions concerning amendments related to scopes of work and budgets.

## **ARTICLE XV. AMENDING THE BYLAWS**

The voting members may amend these bylaws by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership.