

**Minutes of Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group
July 24, 2023
Edna, Texas**

A meeting of the Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group was held on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of the Lavaca Navidad River Authority Office Complex, 4631 FM 3131, located approximately seven (7) miles east of Edna, Jackson County, Texas off FM 3131 and was also available through audio/video teleconference.

Voting Group Members present were Chairman Spenrath, Vice-Chair Neil Hudgins, Secretary Patrick Brzozowski, Jim Coleman, Steve Cooper, Lee Hafernick, Jack Maloney, Vance Mitchell, Dick Ottis, Robert Shoemate, and Ed Weinheimer. Also in attendance was Jaime Burke and Lauren Gonzalez of Black and Veatch, Ron Ellis of Texas Water Development Board, LNRA Board President Jerry Adelman, LNRA Deputy General Manager, Administration Karen Gregory, and LNRA Deputy General Manager, Operations, Doug Anders. Attending via audio/video teleconference were Jami McCool of Texas Department of Agriculture, Leslie Hartman of Texas Parks and Wildlife, Alicia Smiley of Black and Veatch, and Marie Day, Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group.

Absent Voting Group Members were Tom Chandler, Bart McBeth, Edward Pustka, Michael Sklalicky, and Jill Sklar.

Chairman Spenrath called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Brzozowski moved to approve the minutes as presented. Cooper seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Nominations for New Voting Members

Brzozowski informed the Group that there are three (3) vacancies in Lavaca County, Small Business, Municipalities.

The Group will continue to seek new members to fill the vacancies.

Briefing and Update from Texas Water Development Board

Ron Ellis, Texas Water Development Board, presented an update to the Group as follows:

1. New one-pager: Population Revision Summary (available on TWDB website)
2. Interregional Planning Council Update: IPC met on 11/19/22, 3/9/23, and 5/30/23. Future meetings are 8/15/23 and 11/30/23. Resources are posted on TWDB IPC web page.
3. Upcoming critical deadlines and upcoming activities (prior to 3/4/2024 tech memo deadline):

- Approve projections revision requests
- Assess availability and supplies
- Approve and submit hydrologic variance requests
- Present process for identifying potentially feasible strategies for the 2026 RWG
- Identify infeasible strategies and projects from 2021 RWG

88th Legislature: Bills of Interest that Passed

- HB 1565 – TWDB Sunset Bill
 - RWPGs will report on implementation of large projects
 - RWPGs may plan for conditions worse than drought of record
 - These provisions are in planning contract
- SB 28/SJR 75 – Texas Water Fund
 - Establishes \$1 billion Texas Water Fund, subject to voter approval, which can provide additional funding for existing TWDB financial assistance programs.
 - Can also fund the New Water Supply for Texas Fund for water supply projects from new sources.
 - At least \$250 million of funds appropriated to the Texas Water Fund must be used for the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.
 - The Texas Water Fund will take effect January 2, 2024, if SJR 75 is approved by the voters. All other provisions of SB 28 take effect September 1, 2023.
- HB 1 – Budget Bill
 - Passed budget includes additional funding for RWPGs.
 - Specific region amount to be determined and planning contracts amended in Fall 2023.

88th Legislature: Bill of Interest that did NOT Pass

- HB 4373/SB 2108
 - TWDB Legislative priority bills for Regional Water Planning
 - Original bill text would have removed the requirement to place a printed copy of the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) in each county courthouse and one public library in each county in the planning area.
 - Would have also allowed notice of the IPP hearing to be posted on the planning group's website instead of published in newspapers.

Information regarding the above topics is an attachment to these official minutes.

Reports from Regional Liaisons and Interregional Planning Council Representative

Judge Spennath read correspondence received from Tim Andruss Region L liaison. A copy of the correspondence is an attachment to these official minutes.

Brzozowski, Interregional Planning Council representative reported that the IPC was reviewing recommendations from the prior IPC, discussing how to proceed, and discussing possible new recommendations.

Briefing and Update from Black and Veatch

Jaime Burke, Black and Veatch, briefed the Group on the following:

- A. Schedule and Progress Update
- B. Presentation and Discussion on Draft Projections for Population and Municipal Demands and potential revisions. The only request is for the Wharton County WUGs to use the .05 migration scenario.

Hudgins moved to approve the population and municipal demand request and submit to TWDB. Brzozowski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Brzozowski moved to approve authorizing LRWPG consultant (Black and Veatch) to continue working with TWDB regarding the revisions on behalf of LRWPG. Ottis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- C. Presentation and Discussion on potential assumptions for hydrologic variance for surface water modeling. Consider action to approve assumptions and submit hydrologic variance request to TWDB. No action was taken.

The Group was presented with informational handouts for each of the above and discussed each.

Amendment to TWDB Contract

The Group discussed authorizing LNRA to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract.

Weinheimer moved to authorize LNRA to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract to increase the total project cost and committed funds for the 2026 Regional Water Plan. Hudgins seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Schedule Future Meetings

The Group tentatively scheduled a meeting for October 23, 2023 at noon (12:00 p.m.)

Receive Public Comments

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.