

**Minutes of Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group
October 23, 2023
Edna, Texas**

A meeting of the Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group was held on Monday, October 23, 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, Members Tom Chandler, Jim Coleman, Steve Cooper, Jack Maloney, Dick Ottis, Robert Shoemate, Jill Sklar, and Ed Weinheimer. Also in attendance was Jaime Burke and Lauren Gonzalez of Black and Veatch, Ron Ellis of Texas Water Development Board, Jami McCool of Texas Department of Agriculture, Gary Broz of the City of Edna, Tim Andruss of Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District, LNRA Board President Jerry Adelman, and LNRA Deputy General Manager, Administration, Karen Gregory. Joining via audio/video teleconference were Leslie Hartman of Texas Parks and Wildlife, Alicia Smiley of Black and Veatch, Grace Ward of the City of Hallettsville, and Marie Day, Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group.

Absent Voting Group Members were Lee Hafernack, Bart McBeth, Vance Mitchell, Edward Pustka, and Michael Sklalicky.

Chairman Spenrath called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 24, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Ottis moved to approve the minutes as presented. Weinheimer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Nominations for New Voting Members

Brzozowski informed the Group that there were no nominations for new voting members for the three (3) vacancies in Lavaca County, Small Business and 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) **Interregional Planning Council Update:** IPC's next meeting is November 30, 2023. Resources are posted on TWDB IPC page: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc/index.asp>
- 2) **New One-Pager:** Uncertainty in Regional Water Planning
https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/education/Uncertainty_RegionalWaterPlanning.pdf

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 regional water plan
- Identify infeasible strategies and projects from 2021 regional water plan

4) **Marvin Nichols Feasibility Review:** Request for Information published on 9/29/2023; responses requested by 12/1/2023. <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/feasibility/index.asp>

Reports from Regional Liaisons and Interregional Planning Council Representative

Tim Andruss, Region L liaison and General Manager of Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District, introduced himself to the Group and offered his support to the Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group.

Briefing and Update from Black and Veatch

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

- 7a. Schedule and Progress Update
- 7b. Presentation and discussion on potential assumptions for hydrologic variance for surface water modeling. Consider action to approve assumptions and submit hydrologic variance request to Texas Water Development Board.

The Group was presented with information regarding Surface Water Modeling, Hydrologic Variance-Last Cycle, Hydrologic Assumptions – Current Cycle, and the Drought Worse than Drought of Record (DWDOR). The Group discussed the assumptions regarding DWDOR.

Brzowski moved to recognize the Drought Worse than Drought of Record, but to continue with Drought of Record. Cooper seconded the motion. Motion passed.

8. Burke presented the methodology to identify infeasible water management strategies in the 2021 Lavaca Regional Water Plan and the analysis of results.

Chairman Spenrath requested Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Sklar moved to approve the results of the analysis as presented. Ottis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

9. Burke presented the process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies for the 2026 Lavaca Regional Water Plan.

Chairman Spenrath requested Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Weinheimer moved to approve the process as presented. Brzozowski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Group was presented with information (via power point presentation) for each of the above and discussed each.

Schedule Future Meetings

The Group tentatively scheduled a meeting for February 5, 2024 at noon (12:00 p.m.)

Receive Public Comments

Grace Ward of the City of Hallettsville stated that she was working on recruiting members of the Hallettsville community for possible membership of Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Phillip Spenrath
Chairman