

**Minutes of Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group
February 23, 2015
Edna, Texas**

A meeting of the Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group was held in the 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 on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 2:00 p.m..

Voting Group Members present were: Patrick Brzozowski, Gerald Clark, Neil Hudgins, Jack Maloney, Richard Ottis, Robert Shoemate, Michael Skalicky, Phillip Spenrath, Harrison Stafford II, David Wagner, and Ed Weinheimer.

Absent Voting Group Members were: John Butschek, Roy Griffin, Lester Little, Robert Martin, Edward Pustka, and L. G. Raun.

Also present was: Sarah Backhouse and Clay Schultz of Texas Water Development Board, Jaime Burke of AECOM, Joshua Harper of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Brooke Duever, Watermaster Specialist, Ronald Kubecka, LNRA Board President and Karen Gregory, LNRA staff.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 19, 2015 meeting were reviewed.

Weinheimer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Clark seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Voting Member Nominations

Brzozowski briefed the Group on his efforts to fill the vacant member positions. Contacts have been made to several candidates. Brzozowski will inform the Group at the next scheduled meeting of the progress.

Texas Water Development Board Update

Backhouse briefed the Group as follows:

- Applications for 5th Regional Water Planning Cycle funding due to TWDB March 3rd
- Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) due to TWDB – May 1
- Regional Water Planning Groups will hold public hearings on IPP
- Final Plan due to TWDB December 1
- Final 2016 project prioritization list due to TWDB December 1
- Regional Water Planning Group Chairs conference call with TWDB to be held March 9th

Backhouse introduced Clay Schultz, Regional Water Planning & Development Team 5 Manager, Texas Water Development Board. Schultz presented the Group with information on TWDB Financial Assistance Programs. Information was provided pertaining to the State Revolving Fund Programs and State Programs including Texas Water Development Fund (Dfund), Rural Water Assistance Fund (RWF), and State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT).

Authorization for Public Notice and Public Hearing

Backhouse informed the Group that authorization from the Planning Group was necessary for the political subdivision to post public notice and to hold a public hearing on the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) which is due to the Texas Water Development Board May 1, 2015.

Spenrath moved to approve to authorize the Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group political subdivision (LNRA) to post public notice and hold a public hearing on the Initially Prepared Plan. Skalicky seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Consultant Update

Burke briefed the Group.

Burke summarized agenda items previously discussed at the January 19, 2015 meeting.

Burke also summarized recent task work since January 19th LRWPG meeting which included strategy evaluation efforts and draft chapter work.

Burke requested that all comments/recommendations on the draft Chapters 1-4 be submitted by March 2nd. The Group discussed draft Chapter 8 – Unique Stream Segments, Reservoir Sites, and Legislative Recommendations. Comments regarding draft Chapter 8 should be submitted by the next meeting date of March 23rd.

Burke also presented information for the Group to discuss regarding draft water management strategies. Draft information regarding water management strategies will be sent to the Group prior to the March 23rd meeting for their review.

Discuss and Schedule Future Meeting Dates

The Group's next scheduled meeting is March 23, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

Public Comments

Wharton County Judge Spenrath addressed the Group regarding the City of Wharton water availability and potential water use and sale.

South Texas Watermaster Program

Brzozowski introduced Brooke Duever, Watermaster Specialist for the South Texas Watermaster Program. Duever is responsible for the Lavaca Basin. Duever informed the Group that the Watermaster Program informs individuals and groups as needed concerning water rights and other matters related to availability of surface water. The program also responds to complaints and may follow up with enforcement actions if necessary.

Watermaster deputies also provide services such as measuring reservoirs to insure compliance with state law requirements. They perform Doppler measurements on diversion water pipes and may set stream-flow markers to help water-right holders comply with guidelines. Databases are kept to document amounts of water authorized and used.

The Watermaster Program will also update and maintain water-right ownerships and assessments due on each water-right account.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Harrison Stafford II
Chairman