

**Minutes of Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group
January 27, 2025
Edna, Texas**

A meeting of the Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group was held on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 12:30 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, Steve Cooper, Lee Hafernick, Jack Maloney, Vance Mitchell, Dick Ottis, Robert Shoemate, and Ed Weinheimer. Also in attendance was Jaime Burke of Black and Veatch, John Mauer of Texas Water Development Board, LNRA Board President Jerry Adelman, LNRA Deputy General Manager Karen Gregory, Gary Broz of the City of Edna, Tim Andruss of Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District, and John Boone of the Texana Groundwater Conservation District. Joining via audio/video teleconference were Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group voting members Jim Coleman, Jill Sklar, and Grace Ward, and Alicia Smiley and Katie Snyder of Black and Veatch.

Absent Voting Group Members were Marie Day, Bart McBeth, Edward Pustka, and Michael Skalicky.

Chairman Spenrath called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 4, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Weinheimer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Shoemate seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nominations for New Voting Members

Andruss informed the Group that the Texana Groundwater Conservation District nominated John Boone to serve on the LRWPG replacing Michael Skalicky, Jackson County Water Districts.

Mitchell nominated John Boone from the Texana Groundwater Conservation District for the LRWPG Jackson County Water Districts to replace Michael Skalicky. Hafernick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Group will continue to seek new members to fill two (2) vacancies of Lavaca County Small Business and Jackson County Water Utilities.

Election of Officers

In accordance with Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group Bylaws, officers are to be elected annually.

Cooper moved to re-elect the current slate of officers of the Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group Brzozowski, Secretary, Hudgins, Vice Chairman, and Spenrath, Chairman, and Executive Committee of Spenrath, Hudgins, Brzozowski, Coleman, Day, Maloney, and Weinheimer. Ottis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Spennath, Hudgins, Brzozowski, Coleman, Day, Maloney, and Weinheimer. Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Briefing and Update from Texas Water Development Board

John Mauer, Texas Water Development Board, presented an update to the Group as follows:

- DB27 Water Right Data Collection Spreadsheet
 - Spreadsheet to list water rights for the regional water plans
 - Due along with the Initially Prepared Plan
- 2025 SWIFT Cycle
 - Abridged applications are due February 3rd.
- Other Funding Cycles
 - Project information forms for the drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds are due March 7th.
 - Agricultural Water Conservation Grant applications are due March 19th.
- Regional Water Plan Accessibility Requirements
 - Guidance sent October 28th
- Board Member Changes
 - Chairman Paup appointed to chair the TCEQ
 - Director Stepney to be new Chair of TWDB

A copy of the power point presentation was presented to the Group and made part of these official minutes.

Reports from Regional Liaisons and Interregional Planning Council Representative

There were no report updates from Regional Liaisons or Interregional Planning Council Representative.

Briefing and Update from Black and Veatch

Jaime Burke, Black and Veatch, briefed the Group on the Region P Schedule and progress since the last meeting.

Progress Since Last Meeting

- Finalized draft chapter updates and sent to RWPG for review
- DB27 Data Entry

Discussion of Draft Chapter Edits

- Chapter 5 – Water Management Strategy Selection and Evaluation
- Chapter 6 – Impacts of the RWP and Consistency with Protection of Natural Resources
- Chapter 7 – Drought Response, Information, Activities, and Recommendations
- Chapter 9 – Implementation and Comparison to the Previous RWP
- Chapter 10 – Public Participation and Plan Adoption
- Comments and Recommendations received were discussed

- Review of Legislative and Policy Recommendations from 2021 Plan Chapter 8 to identify any updates needed.
- Chapter 8 – Financial Policy Recommendations
 - 5. The LRWPG supports the placement of a five-cent state tax on the sale of all bottled water to be used for the funding of water related projects by TWDB. These would include municipal and agricultural conservation programs. *Spennath and Cooper asked that #5 be removed.*
 - 7. The LRWPG supports the Legislature reviewing private activity bonds to expand the authority beyond the current ~~\$50 million~~ cap. Private activity bonds provide areas with the opportunities to encourage economic growth.
 - New policy suggestion for supporting pasture management best practices. Burke said she would draft some language and send to Vance Mitchell for initial review before providing to the LRWPG.

The Group was presented with a copy of the Black and Veatch power point presentation and made part of these official minutes.

Schedule Future Meetings

The Group will meet on February 10, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.

Receive Public Comments

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Phillip Spennath
Chairman