

Minutes of Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group
May 6, 2024
Edna, Texas

A meeting of the Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group was held on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at the Texana Community Education Center, located in Texana Park, 344 Park Road 2, located approximately seven (7) miles east of Edna, Jackson County, Texas off FM3131 and was also available through audio/video teleconference.

Voting Group Members present were Chairman Spenrath, Vice-Chair Neil Hudgins, Secretary Patrick Brzozowski, Members Jim Coleman, Steve Cooper, Lee Hafernicks, Jack Maloney, James Migl, Vance Mitchell, Robert Shoemate, and Ed Weinheimer. Also in attendance was Jaime Burke and Lauren Gonzalez of Black and Veatch, John Mauer of Texas Water Development Board, Gary Broz of the City of Edna, Grace Ward of the City of Hallettsville, Jami McCool of the Texas Department of Agriculture, LNRA Board President Jerry Adelman, LNRA Deputy General Manager Karen Gregory, LNRA Deputy General Manager, Operations Doug Anders, and LNRA Recreation Manager Liz Stuhrenberg. Joining via audio/video teleconference were Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group voting members, Marie Day and Richard Ottis, Tim Andruss of Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District, and Katie Snyder and Alicia Smiley of Black & Veatch.

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

Chairman Spenrath called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes

The minutes of the February 5, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Weinheimer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Brzozowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nominations for New Voting Members

Brzozowski introduced Grace Ward, City of Hallettsville as a nominee for Lavaca County, Public, voting member.

Brzozowski moved to approve Grace Ward as a voting member, Lavaca County, Public. Weinheimer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Group will continue to seek a new member to fill the remaining vacancy, Lavaca County, Small Business.

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 as follows: Brzozowski, Secretary, Hudgins, Vice Chairman, and Spenrath, Chairman. Hafernicks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cooper moved to re-elect the current Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group Executive Committee as follows: Spenrath, Hudgins, Brzozowski, Coleman, Day, Maloney, and Weinheimer. Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports from Regional Liaisons and Interregional Planning Council Representative

There were no report updates from Regional Liaisons. Brzozowski reported that the Interregional Planning Council adopted their final report to Texas Water Development Board on February 8, 2024.

Briefing and Update from Texas Water Development Board

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

- County Summary and Rural Entities Documents
- Uniform Costing Model
- Drought Management Costing Tool
- Water Conservation Advisory Council Survey Results
- Water Service Boundary Viewer
- Technical Memorandum
- RWPG Chairs Call – May 10th at 10:00 a.m.
- Texas Water Fund
- TCEQ 180-day List
- Water Loss Audits, Water Conservation Plans and Annual Reports
- Drought Preparedness Council Recommendations
- Conservation Resources for Development of the 2026 RWPs
- Interregional Planning Council Report to TWDB

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

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. New or ongoing efforts include:

- Beginning water management strategy evaluations
- Sending Communication out to defined “rural entities” within the region to provide information from TWDB and encourage engagement in the regional water planning process
- Review of Drought Contingency Plans and beginning work on Chapter 7
- Beginning updates on policy recommendations for Chapter 8

Burke also briefed the Group as follows:

- Briefing of Summaries of Chapters 1-4:
 - Chapter 1 – RWP Area Description
 - Chapter 2 – Population and Water Demands
 - Chapter 3 – Analysis of Current Water Supplies
 - Chapter 4 – Identification of Water Needs

Burke informed the Group that she would be sending out the draft Chapters 1-4 for RWPG members’ review.

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- Briefing and Discussion of Irrigation Conservation Measures
Those considered in the 2021 Plan and which to consider for the 2026 Plan
- Briefing of 2021 Plan Chapter 8 and discussion of the path forward for Legislative and Policy recommendations to be included in Chapter 8 of the 2026 Plan

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 tentatively scheduled a meeting for August 12, 2024 at noon (12:00 p.m.)

Receive Public Comments

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Phillip Spenrath
Chairman