



**REGIONAL
WATER
ALLIANCE**

**Council of Representatives
MEETING MINUTES**

9:00 a.m. – August 13, 2008
San Antonio River Authority – Salado Room
100 E. Guenther
San Antonio, Texas 78204

The August 13th, 2008 meeting of the Regional Water Alliance (Alliance) was called to order by Chairman Alan Cockerell at 9:08 a.m. in the San Antonio River Authority's Salado Room, 100 E. Guenther, San Antonio, Texas.

Council of Representatives Present:

Cockerell, Alan	Schertz-Seguin LGC
Larrison, John	SS Water Supply Corporation
Raabe, Steve	San Antonio River Authority (SARA)
Ramos, Humberto	BexarMet Water District
Thompson, Darren	SAWS
Willoughby, Sam	City of Schertz
Davenport, David	Canyon Regional Water Authority
Allen, Pat	Green Valley SUD
Strzelczyk, Albert	East Central SUD
Walker, Ken	City of Elmendorf
Ellis, Clint	Cibolo Creek Municipal Authority

Members, Guests & Administrative:

Farias, Rudy	SARA
Bryant, Melissa	SARA
Yosko, Landon	SARA
Guardiola, Lisa	SAWS
Williams, Herb	SS WSC

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Certification of a Quorum by the Secretary

Alan Cockerell stated a quorum was not present.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of the Minutes from May 14, 2008 Meetings

The May 14th, 2008 Meeting Minutes were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Visit From Congressman John Linder’s Office (R-GA) – Staffer Valentina Valenta

Ms. Valentina Valenta, Legislative Assistant for Representative John Linder (R-GA), along with Mr. Ray Russo, Program Manager, Civil Programs Division, US Army Corps of Engineers and Mr. Dave Mitamura, Government Relations, Texas Water Development Board, visited with members regarding Congressman Linder’s long standing interest in water issues and his concern for water issues on a national level. Congressman Linder has a bill before Congress, H.R. 135. The bill, titled “Twenty-First Century Water Act”, establishes a commission to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs for all states. Ms. Valenta is visiting Texas seeking ways they can best help the states with this bill.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Report on Study Group/Committee Activities – Rudy Farias

i. Brackish Groundwater Desalination Committee

Rudy Farias briefed on the activities undertaken by the committee. The committee committed matching grant funds and submitted a grant to the Texas Water Development Board. The grant was not funded, however, SS WSC proposed using existing wells to gather similar information proposed in the grant. Mr. Larrison volunteered to chair the committee and asked for names of members who would like to continue discussing this issue. Mr. Larrison will contact these members and coordinate a meeting within the next few weeks.

ii. Conservation Committee

Rudy Farias gave an update on the Conservation Committee and the four areas identified on the survey as possible conservation programs. The idea is to develop one of the above proposals. Humberto Ramos also stated that a leak detection program be added to the list. Allan Cockerell suggested that the planning for the Conservation Committee be done by the Executive Committee and then brought before the regular meeting. He also stated that the website be used as the tool to disseminate this information on whatever plans for conservation the committee comes up with. Allan Cockerell asked for SARA to coordinate an Executive Committee Meeting in September to discuss the Committee Activities and have presentations prepared for the quarterly meeting.

iii. RWA Website

Allan Cockerell recommended that the Executive Committee meet to tackle the website/communication issues.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Briefing on Regional Water Resources Activities – Steve Raabe

i. Region L

Mr. Steve Raabe updated the Alliance on the Region L meeting, highlighting Replacement of SCTRWPG Voting Members. Region L expanded the Planning Group by two members (one to Water Utilities and one to Water Districts), reappointed the members who had applied for reappointment, reappointed Bill Jones to Agriculture, appointed Steve Ramsey to the new Water Utilities slot and appointed Gil Olivares and Garrett Engelking to Water Districts. There is currently still a vacant position in Municipalities (large) and one vacant slot in Small Business Enterprises (SBE). Nominations will be taken for Municipalities (large) and individuals previously nominated for SBE will have their nominations re-evaluated by the Executive Committee with a recommendation taken before the Planning Group at the November meeting.

Steve Raabe then updated the Alliance on HDR's schedule for Studies 1 – 5. These reports will be available on the Region L website in September for public viewing and comments.

ii. Groundwater Management Area 13 (GMA 13)

Mr. Steve Raabe reported that GMA 13 submitted three Groundwater Availability Models (GAM) to the TWDB (high, medium and low pumping scenarios). The TWDB had a significant turnover in their modeling staff and are running behind. It was still hopeful that the runs could be made and GMA 13 Planning Committee could adopt their Desired Future Conditions (DFC) and have the TWDB make that final run before November. GMA 13 Planning Committee will have to hold a meeting to adopt the DFC's.

iii. Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP)

Mr. Steve Raabe updated the Alliance on the EARIP and will attend the meeting on August 14th, along with the initial meeting of the Recharge Committee. In response to some of the state requirements, at the last meeting, the RIP Steering Committee authorized entering into an agreement with Texas State University and Tom Hardy, who is on loan from Utah State, to do biological modeling of the species at the Comal and San Marcos Springs. The purpose of which is to determine the water needs of those species. This information will be used for the science team to make recommendations back to the Legislator and the development of the Environmental Impact Statement.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Set Date, Time, and Location on Next Meeting

Mr. Rudy Farias stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12th, 2008 at 9:00 am at San Antonio River Authority.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Other Issues

Humberto Ramos stated that a presentation or briefing of the pipeline in Uvalde be brought before the Alliance at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.

MINUTES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY.

HUMBERTO RAMOS, Secretary