



**REGIONAL
WATER
ALLIANCE**

**Council of Representatives
Meeting Minutes**

May 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
200 South Main
Cibolo, TX 78108

Council of Representatives Present:

Humberto Ramos, Vice Chair, Canyon Regional Water Authority
James Hooks, City of Schertz
Michal Urrutia, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority
Brandon Rohan, for Albert Strzelczyk, East Central SUD
Mike Taylor, Combined Consumer Water Supply
Timothy Fousse, City of Cibolo
Chris Wright, City of Cibolo
Jason Biemer for Graham Moore, Alliance Regional Water Authority
Micaela Bandel, City of Marion
Steven Siebert, SAWS
Stephen MayField for Cody Dailey, City of Elmendorf

Guests and Administrative:

Steve Raabe, San Antonio River Authority
Hillary Lilly, San Antonio River Authority
Caitlin Heller, San Antonio River Authority
Alan Cockerell, Region L

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

Mr. Humberto Ramos opened the meeting at 10:00 AM, there was not a quorum.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of the Minutes from the March 15, 2019 meeting

Minutes were unable to be approved due to lack of quorum.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
(SCTRWPG) Administrative Update and Recap of May 2, 2019 Meeting**

Mr. Steve Raabe introduced himself and reviewed the Region L agenda from the May 2, 2019 meeting. Mr. Raabe briefed the group on Con Mims retirement and the business of filling his position with John Byrum from the Nueces River Authority.

Mr. Raabe updated the group on Scott Stormant's report on the Edwards Aquifer plan. There are potential changes being considered for the voluntary habitat conservation plan. The Edwards Aquifer Authority is suggesting an Ac-ft forbearance change before their stakeholder committee meeting on May 23, 2019 10:00 A.M. at the New Braunfels City Hall. Mr. Raabe stated that if this change does not occur then Region L will meet all of the requirements of the habitat conservation plan until 2027.

Mr. Raabe then informed the group that there are multiple vacancies for the Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) and that the organization is seeking nominations. He listed two vacancies that would have particular relevance to the group: Municipalities and Recreational Water Users.

Mr. Raabe then reviewed the Black & Veatch consultant's work schedule and shared that the Planning Group is right in the middle of evaluation of potential water management strategies. He goes on to say that the Planning Group is starting drought response and policy recommendations. The IPP is due to the TWDB on Oct. 14, 2020 and public meetings will be hosted in April 2021. He explained that the Chapter 8 Policy Recommendations from the 2016 plan need to be reviewed so that appropriate changes may be made. The Planning Group has created a workgroup to start this summer with a first draft of changes to the chapter 8 policy recommendations due to the group by the August 2019 meeting and a final draft due at the November 2019 meeting.

Mr. Raabe then reviewed the evaluation of water management strategies that were presented to the Planning Group by the Black & Veatch consultant. Six water management strategies were reviewed at the May 2, 2019 meeting and the rest will be reviewed at the later meetings. Mr. Raabe began with Brackish Wilcox for SS WSC which takes Brackish Wilcox Groundwater from Wilson County and the delivery point being Sutherland Springs Road Plant. The groundwater is available within the modeled available groundwater (MAG) and the total projected firm yield is 1,120 Ac-ft/yr. The next water management strategy (WMS) was Facilities Expansion which will bring new supplies to facilities up to the point of a distribution plan. Mr. Raabe explained that if anyone from the group had the need to expand any facility that it should be on the supply side so that the Planning Group can fit it into the plan. He then discussed the next WMS, Expanded Local Carrizo for SAWS. He explained that it is not in the groundwater conservation district but that they are in the MAG still. This strategy will have three phases with the decade of need for all three being 2040. Mr. Raabe stated that SAWS is still reviewing the write up due to the need for iron and manganese treatment of 21,000 Ac-ft/yr. He went on to the next presentation, Expanded Brackish Wilcox Water for SAWS. He explained that there are five phases to this strategy and that phase one is currently online. The wells are intended to have an average flow of 800gpm and a peaking factor of 1. There will be required injection wells for brine disposal. Mr. Raabe stated that there will be large cost for this project as it is focusing on seventy two wells. He then progressed to CRWA Wells Ranch Phase 3, which will be working on existing and new permits for the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer Groundwater in Guadalupe County. The groundwater is available within the MAG with the delivery point being CRWA Wells Ranch WTP. Mr. Raabe then proceeded to speak on Advanced Water Conservation for Municipalities. He stated that the Planning Group will be using five specific

conservation strategies and twenty one best management practices. Every water user group will have a plan for advanced water conservation that will be generalized. Mr. Raabe encouraged the group to share specific strategies that they want to employ, especially if they would like to use TWDB funds. He proceeded to explain the water conservation process as such: if an entity has a per capita usage over 140 gallons per person per day, it is assumed that there will be water conservation practices that will reduce that number by 1% per year till it is at that 140 number. After that, water conservation practices may change to a reduction of 0.25% per year. Mr. Ramos asked what happens if water user groups don't abide by these conservation strategies. Mr. Raabe replied that water user groups can refuse to do conservation as long as they don't want funding. He explained to the group that if the plan feels too onerous that a water user group can reach out to Region L to let them know and the Planning Group will work to make a specific plan for that water user.

Mr. Raabe then updated the group on Block #3 of the Region L IPP. He stated that the Planning Group approved Martindale Water Supply Corporation, Maxwell Water Supply, and County Line Water Supply. Looking at the scope and fees, after these projects are completed there will be a remaining ~\$33,000 in unallocated funds. Mr. Raabe went on to say that the TWDB will allow up to 10% of funds to remain unallocated which means that the Planning Group was able to get this authorized without a contract amendment. He stated that there are some other projects that these funds could go towards and encouraged the group to bring up strategies they believe should be put in the plan. Mr. Raabe continued to say that all of the different strategies have been approved along with their scope and fees. He explained that the Planning Group authorized the San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) to submit all of these to the TWDB and that anyone is able to check the Region L website for the agenda pack with all of the presentations. Mr. Raabe ended this update by stating that the Planning Group has several new members who would benefit from a presentation on the Water Management Process so there will be one held 30 minutes prior to the next Planning Group meeting. He encouraged the group to attend if anyone wants to learn more about the groundwater management area (GMA) process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Financial Update

Ms. Hillary Lilly proceeded to give the group a financial update. She stated that member dues are \$200 per year and those monies go into a fund that helps with all the work done at the Regional Water Alliance. She explained that typically \$4,625 goes into labor, meeting expenses, contracts, or other services. Ms. Lilly said that she would be happy to answer any questions on how those funds are used. Mr. Steven Siebert asked whether that amount had grown or shrunk throughout the years. Ms. Lilly replied that the number had gone down a great deal. Mr. Raabe stated that the funds can be used to bring in a workshop or a consultant if that is something the group wants to do. Mr. Lilly agreed and explained that invoices for member dues have already gone out at the end of March, but the financial collector has not received all of the funds yet. Ms. Lilly stated that she will double check on where they were sent and who has responded.

Ms. Lilly then gave a brief legislative update to the group on the Water Availability Model Bill. She explained that the Guadalupe and San Antonio River basins were dropped from the bill because they were not considered to have as great a need as others. Ms. Lilly stated that the River Authority will be pushing to get those included in the next session. She mentioned that this bill had gone through the Texas House and Senate with a small committee substitute to add a fiscal responsibility, and is now sitting on the House Items Eligible Calendar. Mr. Siebert ask if the Regional Water Alliance meeting had been posted because they were currently talking about

things that may have interest to the public. Ms. Lilly said that she would check on what the group had done in the past and that she can post the meetings in the future. Mr. Raabe said that he will look at the interlocal agreement for that but that it was never supposed to be subject to that.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Briefing on Freshwater Mussel Project

Mr. Urrutia updated the group on how the Texas Fish and Wildlife Department wants to list four species of mussels in the Guadalupe River which impacts environmental flows and water treatment plants. He explained that TFWD says that the Guadalupe River has unique species now and that if the group wants to have a formal presentation at the next meeting he could arrange it. Mr. Ramos then replied that the group would benefit from a presentation on the freshwater mussels and habitat conservation project, which includes mussels. Mr. Urrutia stated that Zebra Mussels are being found in other lakes and that they are adults. He expressed concern for their intakes and hydroelectric dams and stated that they will be hiring a consultant to look at dealing with them. He explained that they had cleaned out groundwater tanks and found mussels there where they had not previously. Mr. Raabe stated that the San Antonio River Authority was not aware of any Zebra Mussels yet in the San Antonio River Basin but that they are participating with TFWD who are doing sampling. He explained that the River Authority is doing its best to educate the public on the importance disinfecting. Mr. Raabe went on to say that originally the San Antonio River was found to have three native mussel species but that the Comptroller's office went through some old records and found that two may have been misidentified. He explained that the new species occurrence maps no longer includes the San Antonio River for the Texas Fat Bucket and the Texas Pimple Back Mussels on the species range. Mr. Raabe stated that the TFWD has moved the listing date to 2022 and that the River Authority is doing a lot of their own work on their side of the basin in order to prevent the spread of Zebra mussels to their water supply equipment.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Location and Date of Next Regional Water Alliance Meeting

Recommended to hold the next meeting on August 16, 2019 at 200 South Main Cibolo, TX 78108.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Future Items for Consideration

No items were brought up for future consideration.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.