

# FAR WEST TEXAS WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING

## REGION E

**Thursday, November 17, 2011**  
**1:00 P.M. (MST) at:**  
**El Paso Water Utilities, Tech2O Center**  
**10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, TX 79935**

## MINUTES

<b>VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT</b>
Janet Adams, Groundwater Districts	Mike Landis, Bureau of Reclamation
Ann Allen, Industries	Ari Michelsen, TXA&M Agriculture
Randy Barker, Groundwater Districts	Connie Townsend, TWDB
Becky Brewster, Municipalities EX Com Alt	
Roger Chacon, Environmental, Alt Carlos Zuazua	
Robert Coleman, Water Utilities, Alt Albert Miller	
Michael Davison, BBNP Travel/Tourism	
David Etzold, Building/Real Estate	
Sylvia Firth, Municipalities	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>
Dave Hall, Public	Michael Ada, RGCOG
Jim Ed Miller, Water Districts	Martha Arambula, RGCOG
Ken Norris, Counties	John Ashworth, LB Guyton
Arlina Palacios, Public	Rudy Garcia, Marfa, TX
Scott Reinert, Alt for Tom Beard, Chairman	Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG
Teresa Todd, Legislative Reps, Ex Com Mbr	Allen Haines, Western Refining
Paige Waggoner, Econ Develop Ex Com Secty	Korina Navarro, RGCOG
	William Patton, El Paso Electric
	Kit Thomas, Horizon Regional MUD
<b>VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Teddy Trujillo, Public
Ed Archuleta, Municipalities, Vice Chairman	Kevin Urbanizk, SRSU
Tom Beard, Agriculture, Chairman	
Jeff Bennett, BBNP Science & Resource	
Sterry Butcher, Public	
Willie Gandara, Counties	
Michael Livingston, Small Business	
Albert Miller, Water Utilities	
Chuy Reyes, Water District	
Rick Tate, Agriculture	
Carlos Zuazua, Electric Generating Utilities	

### I. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Alt. Chairman Scott Reinert called the meeting to order at 1:15 P.M. MST. Quorum was determined for execution of WPG business.

### II. Recognition of Guests and Designated Alternates

Introductions were made by all present.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **III. Approval of the Minutes of the WPG Meeting of June 16, 2011**

Alt. Chairman Reinert requested a motion to change the spelling on the minutes for the previous meeting from Waco to Hueco Bolson on page two (2). Alt. Chairman Reinert requested a motion to approve the minutes with the correction being made. Ms. Janet Adams made the motion. No Discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

WPG Administrator will update minutes.

#### **IV. Certification of Allowable Administrative Expenses.**

Alt. Chairman Reinert requested a motion to accept the Certification of Allowable Expenses of \$929.56 for member travel expenses. Mr. Dave Hall made the motion. No Discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Regular Agenda**

#### **V. Member and Consultant Updates**

Alt. Chairman Reinert opened discussion and updated group on EPWU activities.

Ms. Townsend updated WPG on Senate Bill 660 about GMA Representatives. GMA 4 requires a voting member position on the Region E WPG. Terrell County's GCD is pending and once it is confirmed GMA 7 will be added, but until then GMA 4 is the only GMA requiring voting membership representation. It is a WPG's discretion whether to have the GMA representative replace the water district interest category current voting membership. A formal letter should come from the GMA to the WPG stating who the appointee is.

Ms. Townsend notified the WPG that there will be a chair's conference call for all the 16 planning groups on December 8, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The consultants and subdivisions can join the phone call to address and start taking initial input on the upcoming agencies regional and state water planning processes rural revisions.

Proposition 2, which is TWDB's Bonding Authority proposition, passed on November 08, 2011. It changed from being a fixed amount that has to go to the legislature for renewal, to a Revolving Bonding Authority with a AAA borrowing rate and the ability to provide loans to entities at a reduced rate.

The TWDB is in the process of approving sub-contracts for the regional water planning process; Region E is pending the Freese & Nichols certification of procurement forms.

The TWDB is trying to accelerate the process of obtaining water use data for 2011 now due from all the water use entities so that planning groups can use that information. The TWDB is taking a survey in December and requesting a submittal date of March 1, 2012. Ms. Townsend brought up that the TWDB does an infrastructure survey to determine infrastructure requirements to meet their water demands, and that the TWDB is now tracking the implementation of water projects.

## **VI. Region E Draft Non-Municipal Water Demands Projections.**

Mr. John Ashworth told WPG that LBG Guyton will be working with the mining projects in Presidio and Hudspeth and he would not be participating in those projects. Mr. Ashworth brought up that the planning process with this meeting is to move on to the next round, first working on the Non-Municipal, Non-population irrigation, manufacturing, mining, steam electric, and livestock related water demands. The schedule is to look at these now, and as a group, make a determination of whether or not to request changes to these projections, if so the TWDB is asking that these requests are in with backup and support information by the end of February, population and municipal water demands will be coming out in March.

Mr. Ashworth gave a summary of the purpose of the FWTWPG for the information of the new people within the meeting to have an understanding of what is being discussed.

Mr. Ashworth stated that the limited budget and time schedule would only cover thru 2012. Three things will occur during this period of time, one is the future water demands, second this summer the water supply estimates, third those numbers will go to the TWDB assistance and the WPG will start coming up with recommended potential strategies that will be evaluated until the next funding period. The WPG will look at the shortages and other projects to develop a good list of potential water management strategies for the next half planning period.

Mr. Dave Hall questioned why the numbers in the TWDB report have such a significant difference.

Ms. Townsend answered that TWDB had sent the projections to WPG. The irrigation projection numbers used came from the FSA for the year 2000. TWDB gave that information to the ground water districts and asked them to provide any missing information that the FSA missed. That is the backup area information they used for the irrigation acreages. There was a study made for the mining and another for the steam electric but there were some flaws in that study and the planning groups were given the option to keep their old steam electric values or to use the ones from the new report and Region E voted to keep the old values rather than use the report. Ms. Townsend was not sure what percentage and level of data received was used by the TWDB to process the new report, which is a rough draft for the WPG to review.

After much discussion, the group decided that their original report was a more accurate assessment of the water demands for Region E and the WPG wants LBG Guyton to analyze the data used to generate the new report.

Ms. Becky Brewster motioned for John Ashworth to do the research on all items except steam electric and come back to state his recommendations based on the projections looking at the data for 2012. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ashworth will provide update at the next WPG meeting.

## **VII. Voting Member Vacancies**

### **a. Voting Members**

Mr. Michael Ada reminded WPG that there is a vacancy on the group for counties that needs to go through the nomination process and there are terms that are about to expire in July 2012.

Mr. Ada asked if the group would like to consolidate all the vacancies and to update the By-Laws to include the GMA appointed and set a timeframe to begin the nomination process until April.

Ms. Janet Adams motioned to consolidate and advertise all the vacancies and term expirations into one public hearing. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Janet Adams motioned to update the By-Laws to include the new interest category for the GMA member. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

WPG Administrator will update bylaws.

### **b. Senate Bill 660 – Groundwater Conservation District Representatives**

See Item #5.

## **VIII. TWDB Public Meeting, Alpine Texas, October 6, 2011, Draft State Water Plan Overview.**

Ms. Connie Townsend updated the group on the TWDB Public Meeting in Alpine, which represented Region E there were 20 public persons present at the meeting to obtain public comments on the State Water Plan.

The TWDB had a public hearing in Austin that was on the State Water Plan and Mr. Ken Kramer the Director of the Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club provided verbal and written comments.

## **IX. House Bill 2600 Overview – Herman Settemeyer, Interstate Compacts, TECQ**

Mr. Herman Settemeyer involved with the Rio Grande, Mexico Fund and the Bureau of Reclamation came to explain the water drought shortage rights and rules defining a drought and legislation of suspensions. Mr. Settemeyer's explanation covered water rights that are mainly in the Pecos River area and mostly do not affect our region but thought WPG would be better served to understand and be aware of these rights.

## **X. FY 2012/2013 Interlocal Agreements**

Mr. Ada explained that all the letters, invoices and interlocal agreements were prepared and mailed out to all the water entities this week and everyone should have or will receive them very soon for signature and

to be returned. A copy of the paperwork is included in the packet for the WPG's review.

## **XI. Administrative & Procedural Matters**

- a. **Email Distribution Procedures**-Mr. Ada requested that all FWTWPG Members and Non-member should update their e-mails in order for the TWDB, RGCOG and FWTWPG to be able to update and communicate with the group more effectively.

Mr. David Etzold moved that full disclosure of e-mails be made. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Schedule Next Regular Meeting**-Next meeting was scheduled for January 12, 2012 in Alpine, TX.
- c. **Schedule Next Public Meeting to consider proposed Population or water demand projection revision requests.** Public meeting was set aside for the regular meeting.

## **XII. Adjourn**

Alt. Chairman Reinert adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m. MST.

---

Annette Gutierrez  
WPG Administrator

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
January 12, 2012