

**Minute of the February 4th, 2021 Meeting of  
The Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group (Region N)  
For the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program**

The Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the Senate Bill 1 was held via virtual Zoom Conference.

**Agenda Item I – Call to Order:**

Ms. Carola Serrato, Co-Chair of the Coastal Bend RWPG, called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

**Agenda Item II – Roll Call:**

Mr. Travis Pruski began roll call.

Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included:

Mr. Joe Almarez (Industries)	Mr. Scott Bledsoe III (Water District)
Mr. John Burris (Other)	Ms. Teresa Carrillo (Environmental)
Mr. Carl Crull (Other)	Mr. Bill Dove (Small Business)
Mr. Lavoyger Durham (Counties)	Mr. Andy Garza (GMA 16)
Dr. Pancho Hubert (Small Business)	Mr. Robert Kunkel (Industries)
Ms. Barbara Reaves (Municipal)	Mr. Charles Ring (Agriculture)
Ms. Donna Rosson (Public)	Mr. Mark Scott (Municipal)
Ms. Carola Serrato (Water Utilities)	Mr. Lonnie Stewart (GMA 13)

Non-Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included:

Ms. Nelda Barrera (TDA)	Mr. Kevin Smith (TWDB)
Mr. John Byrum (Nueces River Authority)	Ms. Kristi Shaw (HDR)
Mr. Rusty Ray (TSSWCB)	Dr. Jim Tolan (TPW)

Linda Massman, Sky Lewey, and Travis Pruski (Nueces River Authority) administration

Voting Members Absent:

Mr. Chuck Burns (Agriculture)	Mr. Gary Eddins (Electric Utilities)
Mr. Tom Redding (River Authorities)	Mr. Bill Stockton (Counties)
Mr. Mark Sugarek (GMA 15)	Mr. Jace Tunnell (Environment)

Guest Included:

George Gonzalez (Duval County GCD)	Lee Schroere
Luis Pena (Brush Country GCD)	Jason Cocklin
Gabriel Raimirez (City of Corpus Christ)	Kevin Norton (City of Corpus Christ)
Brent Clayton	Theres Finch
Tammy Embery	Dign Villenoua
Maria Corona	Sarah Blackhouse (TWDB)
Steve Ramos(City of Corpus Christ)	Lily – member of Public
James Klein	Charles – member of Public
Blas Rizzo (TCEQ)	

### **Agenda Item III – Consider Approval of Minutes of the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group**

Mr. Mark Scott made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Andy Garza seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Agenda Item IV - ACTION ITEM: Elect Officers for Calendar Year 2021**

Ms. Carola Serrato announced that she would be retiring in August and that she would serve until August. Mr. Scott Bledsoe opened the floor for any nominations. Mr. Mark Scott made the nominations of reelecting the current slate of officers for the 2021 term. Mr. John Burris seconded the motion. Mr. Travis Pruski made a roll call and the motion carried unanimously with Ms. Serrato abstaining.

Co-Chair #1 – Mr. Scott Bledsoe  
Co-Chair #2 – Ms. Carola Serrato  
Secretary – Mr. Lonnie Stewart  
Executive At Large #1 – Dr. Pancho Hubert  
Executive At Large #2 – Mr. Thomas Reding

### **Agenda Item V - Discussion Item: Review Membership and Consider Authorizing the Advertisement for Nominations for Members to fill Sector Categories**

Ms. Carola Serrato said that the RWPG has received notice that Jace Tunnell will be retiring along with herself. Mr. Scott Bledsoe said we should leave the group as is if all sectors are covered. Mr. Bledsoe suggested waiting until the end of the year. Ms. Serrato asked Mr. Travis Pruski if he would reach out to all members and get their intent and stated we should wait until the next meeting. Mr. Pruski said he would by the next meeting date later this summer. The agenda item was tabled.

Mr. Steve Ramos with the City of Corpus Christi asked about the membership list and asked to add member of the utilities category. Mr. Ramos asked about the nomination process. Ms. Serrato said for new members the RWPG asks for bios and the executive committee reviews and makes a recommendation to the full group. Then the group would vote for the new members. Ms. Serrato stated in the past that the sector sizes grew because the group had several great candidates for a sector which added value to the group. Mr. Ramos thanked Ms. Serrato.

Mr. Gabriel Ramirez with the City of Corpus Christi asked for the City of Corpus Christi to have a chance to apply when the nomination process starts.

Ms. Teresa Carrillo remarked that there should be several possible candidates to fill the Environmental category when the process starts.

Mr. Kevin Norton with the City of Corpus Christi said he wanted to also see the City of Corpus Christi fill a spot on the RWPG.

Ms. Serrato thanked them for their comments.

**Agenda Item VI – ACTION ITEM: Review and Consider Designating the Nueces River Authority or another eligible entity as the Political Subdivision to administer the Region N RWPG for the 6th cycle of Regional Water Planning.**

Ms. Carola Serrato discussed the proposal with representatives of the Coastal Bend COG. Ms. Serrato also discussed the letter provide by Mr. John Byrum for the renewal for the Nueces River Authority to continue as sponsor.

Mr. Byrum thanked the RWPG for allowing the Nueces River Authority to be the sponsor for the past 20 and the NRA was interested in continuing to support the group. Mr. Byrum stated Mr. Travis Pruski would continue as the administrator for the group. Mr. Byrum was appointed as the Liaison from Region L to Region N.

Ms. Serrato recognized members of the public that signed up to speak on this agenda item.

Mr. Steve Ramos with the City of Corpus Christi shared his support for the Nueces River Authority. Mr. Ramos stated the NRA adds a great value to the RWPG.

Mr. Gabriel Ramirez with the City of Corpus Christi thanked for allowing his input. Mr. Ramirez stated his support for the Nueces River Authority and Mr. John Byrum’s water planning experience.

Mr. Kevin Norton with the City of Corpus Christi also asked for the group to appoint the Nueces River Authority.

Ms. Serrato asked if the City of Corpus Christi has a relationship with the Coastal Bend COG. Mr. Norton said yes, the City does, but the utilities works more with the NRA. Mr. Ramirez said the Coastal Bend COG is a good group, but the NRA has expertise in water. Ms. Serrato asked if the NRA does the pass thru report for the City of Corpus Christi. Mr. Ramirez said yes, the NRA does.

Mr. John Burriss made the motion to designate the Nueces River Authority as the political subdivision. Mr. Mark Scott seconded the motion.

Ms. Teresa Carrillo asked if anyone from the Coastal Bend COG was on the call. Ms. Serrato stated no one was.

Mr. Travis Pruski made a roll call and the motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item VII – ACTION ITEM: Review and Consider Authorizing the Nueces River Authority or the selected entity to provide public notice, submit a grant application to the TWDB, and execute a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the Region N RWPG for initial funding of the 6th cycle of Regional Water Planning.**

Mr. Kevin Smith with the TWDB, reminded the RWPG that the application is due by an April 12<sup>th</sup>

deadline. The contract deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Lonnie Stewart made a motion for the Nueces River Authority to submit the grant application and execute the contract with the TWDB. Mr. Charles Ring seconded the motion.

Mr. Travis Pruski made a roll call and the motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item VIII - Review and Consider Authorizing the Nueces River Authority or the selected entity to - follow the Procurement Process for the Selection of a Technical Consultant in - accordance with 31 TAC 355.92(c).**

Mr. Kevin Smith stated that it is required for the RWPG to procure the technical consultant following the procedures of the Nueces River Authority. Mr. Scott Bledsoe stated the RWPG executive board would make the selection, the Nueces River Authority would advertise on behalf of the group and collect the proposals. The RWPG would approve of the technical consultant.

Mr. Bill Dove made the motion for the Nueces River Authority to follow the procurement process for the selection of a technical consultant. Mr. Mark Scott seconded the motion.

Mr. Travis Pruski made a roll call and the motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item IX - Review and Consider Authorizing the Nueces River Authority or the selected entity to provide public notice of a pre-planning public meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group to obtain public input on development of the 2025 Coastal Bend Regional Water Plan and 2027 State Water Plan.**

Mr. Kevin Smith discussed the nature of the of Pre Planning Public Meeting and a Public Hearing. Ms. Carola Serrato asked about the outreach and stakeholder list. Mr. Travis Pruski said he has reached out using the RWPG stakeholder email list. One of the problems is 35% to 45% of the emails no longer worked. He asked to please have people reach out if they need to be added to the list.

Mr. Smith said there would be a conference call in March to determine the schedule of this pre-planning meeting. Mr. Scott Bledsoe asked if we should have the technical consultant in place. Mr. Smith said that is correct.

Ms. Donna Rosson made the motion for the Nueces River Authority to provide the public notice of a pre-planning public meeting. Mr. Mark Scott seconded the motion.

Mr. Travis Pruski made a roll call and the motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item X – There was no agenda item X. It was skipped in the agenda on  
Agenda Item XI - RWPG/TWDB Administrative and Other Issues**

Mr. Kevin Smith discussed several TWDB updates.

1. Mining Water Use Study – The TWDB is contracting with the UT Bureau of Geology to assess mining water use and update demand projections for 2026 regional water plans.
2. Regional Water Planning Area (RWPA) Boundary Review – Review of RWPA boundaries is required by the state every 5 years
3. RFA for Sixth Cycle Planning Grant Funds – Application deadline is April 12<sup>th</sup> – Contract execution deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>
4. Sixth Cycle Schedule – Staff plans to have it on TWDB website by March.
5. Regional Water Planning Rulemaking – The proposed rules will be published sometime in April. The proposed rules include allowing for limited reimbursement of certain labor costs of political subdivisions and removing the 30-day notice requirement associated with the TWDB Board action on funding applications.
6. Interregional Planning Council – The Council developed recommendations on interregional coordination, best practice for future planning and planning water resources for the state as a whole.
7. Regional Flood Planning started in November 2020.

Mr. Travis Pruski thanked the RWPG for reappointing the Nueces River Authority to support the group. Mr. Pruski stated he would work on a new website and email process to improve public outreach for the group. Mr. Pruski stated that 7 RWPG members asked that he convey their preference to meet in person as soon as possible.

#### **Agenda Item XII – General Public Comment**

*Citizens may address the Planning Group concerning an issue of interest that is not listed on the agenda. The Public Comment is limited to 3 minutes.*

James Klein of Corpus Christi asked the Planning Group to look into the Live Oak County Zinc Resource Project on the Atascosa River which runs into the Nueces River. He asked to look into the TCEQ Permit 163540. Ms. Carola Serrato thanks him for the comment.

#### **Agenda Item XIII - Confirm Next Meeting Date**

Mr. Travis Pruski stated the group should meet in May or June. The TWDB is working on a few things that would help determine that date. The application process for the technical consultant would be complete. Mr. Scott Bledsoe stated the next meeting would not be the preplanning meeting.

#### **XIV Adjourn**

Mr. Lonnie Stewart moved for the meeting to be adjourned. It was seconded by Ms. Donna Rosson  
Ms. Serrato adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

Mr. Pruski started the roll call. All present members voted yes and the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by: Mr. Travis Pruski

Minutes Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lonnie Stewart  
Secretary, Coastal Bend RWPG

\_\_\_\_\_ Date