

**Minutes of the July 1st, 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 meeting was held at the Johnny Calderon Building in Robstown, Texas.

Agenda Item I – Call to Order:

Scotty Bledsoe, Co-Chair of the Coastal Bend RWPG, called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

Agenda Item II – Roll Call:

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. Carl Crull (Other)	Mr. Bill Dove (Small Business)
Mr. Lavoyger Durham (Counties)	Mr. Gary Eddins (Electric Utilities)
Dr. Pancho Hubert (Small Business)	Mr. Robert Kunkel (Industries)
Mr. Tom Redding (River Authorities)	Mr. Charles Ring (Agriculture)
Mr. Mark Scott (Municipal)	Ms. Carola Serrato (Water Utilities)
Mr. Lonnie Stewart (GMA 13)	
Mr. James Dodson (Alternate for Mr. Jace Tunnell (Environment))	

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

Mr. Kevin Smith (TWDB)	Ms. Kristi Shaw (HDR)
Mr. Travis Pruski (Nueces River Authority) administration	

Voting Members Absent:

Mr. Chuck Burns (Agriculture)	Mr. John Burriss (Other)
Ms. Teresa Carrillo (Environmental)	Mr. Andy Garza (GMA 16)
Ms. Barbara Reaves (Municipal)	Ms. Donna Rosson (Public)
Mr. Bill Stockton (Counties)	Mr. Mark Sugarek (GMA 15)

Guest Included:

Director Kathleen Jackson (TWDB)	James Golab (TWDB)
Sylvia Ramirez (Senator Hinojosa office)	Brian Williams (San Patricio MUD)
Kabrina Lawrence (City of Bishop)	Cynthia Contreras (City of Bishop)
Patrick McGinn (San Patricio County)	Maria Corona (City of Corpus Christi)
Leslie Llancs (City of Corpus Christi)	Esteban Ramos (City of Corpus Christi)

Agenda Item III – Consider Approval of Minutes of the February 4th, 2021 Meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group

Mark Scott made the motion to approve the minutes. Carl Crull seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item IV - ASR State Survey Presentation by TWDB

James Golab discussed the ASR Statewide Survey project.

What is ASR and AR? Aquifer storage & recovery (ASR) is using a well to inject water into an aquifer for the purpose of subsequent recovery and beneficial use.

Aquifer Recharge, (AR, or sometimes MAR) is the controlled recharge of an aquifer at the surface through various methods such as infiltration basins.

James discussed thru the Final AASR Suitability rating, The Major/Minor Aquifers in in the Coastal Bend Region, the Final Hydrogeological Score for ASR and the Score Sum Normalized data.

Director Kathleen Jackson of the TWDB visited with the group to discuss the excitement of the adoption of the 2022 Statewide Water Plan and the introduction of the Regional Flood Planning Group

Director Kathleen Jackson presented a plaque thanking Carola Serrato for her service to the Coastal Bend RWPG and the Statewide planning effort. Director Jackson praised Carola Serrato's dedication and service has been outstanding.

Agenda Item V - Review and Consider Action in selection of the Technical Consultant for the 6th Planning Cycle of the Coast Bend RWPG (as required per Texas Water Code §361.12(a)(4)).

Scotty Bledsoe stated that we had one application from HDR for our Technical Consultant and suggested we select them.

Robert Kunkel made the motion to approve HDR for the Technical Consultant for Region N. Carl Crull seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item VI – ACTION ITEM: Authorize the Nueces River Authority to schedule and hold a pre-planning public meeting to obtain public input on development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan and 2027 State Water Plan

Bledsoe discussed the need for the Pre-Planning Public Meeting. Kevin Smith suggested we hold the Pre-Planning Public Meeting before our meeting on October 7th. We are required to have a quorum and post notice 30 days in advance.

Bledsoe suggested we combine this with the next agenda item to plan the meeting. The group consented unanimously.

Agenda Item VII – ACTION ITEM: Coastal Bend RWPG Meeting Schedule for remainder of 2021

Travis Pruski asked for Kristi Shaw’s input. Kristi Shaw suggested that there would not be a lot of technical work done before the end of the year. Kevin Smith said the projections would be done in December. Lonnie Stewart suggested October 7th, 2021 and January 20th, 2022 at 1:30pm in the Johnny Calderon Building in Robstown.

Lonnie Stewart made the motion to approve the schedule as discussed. Mark Scott seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item VIII - Consider Authorizing the Nueces River Authority to solicit nominations for vacant positions on the Coastal Bend RWPG.

Scotty Bledsoe stated the group will have 3 opening as per the retirement of Barbara Reaves (Municipal), Carola Serrato (Water Utilities) and Jace Tunnell (Environment). The deadline would be Sept 3rd, 2021 for nominations. Mark Scott asked about those terms up in January 2022.

Dr. Pancho Hubert made the motion to approve authorizing the Nueces River Authority to solicit nominations for 3 vacant positions. Gary Eddins seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item IX - Appoint / Reappoint South- Central Texas RWPG and Rio Grande RWPG Liaison

Carl Crull was reappointed to be liaison for the Central RWPG and Andy Garza was appointed to be liaison the Rio Grande RWPG

Carola Serrato made the motion to appoint Carl Crull and Andy Garza to be our liaison. Dr. Pancho Hubert seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item X – Review and Consider Authorizing the New Stand-Alone Website for the Coastal Bend RWPG

Travis Pruski discussed the new website of www.coastalbend-rwpg.org to be a stand alone for the planning group. We will have all our information and scheduling platform.

Lonnie Stewart made the motion to approve the new website. Mark Scott seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item XI – Review and Consider Authorizing the Nueces River Authority to Disseminate Request for Local Funding

Scotty Bledsoe said this is something we do every planning cycle. Travis Pruski said the Nueces River Authority would be asking for \$4,000 increase which is about \$60 per entity. We have

received 100% participation the past year.

Lonnie Stewart made the motion to approve the request for Local Funding. Carl Crull seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item XII - RWPG/TWDB Administrative and Other Issues

Kevin Smith discussed several TWDB updates.

May 6th, 2021 the TWDB Board adopted amendments to the regional water planning grant rules. The following changes were noted.

- Public Notice moved from 3 day to 7 days
- New eligible Expense for Political Subdivision
- Final Regional Water Plan changed from 3 to 14 days
- Contract Packets deadline would be August 31st

87th Legislature Updates

House Bill 1905

Relieves the RWPGs from assessing financing needs to implement water management strategies/projects and removes requirement to submit Infrastructure Financing Report.

Relieves SWIFT program applicants from submitting an Infrastructure Financing Survey with an application for financial assistance.

Relieves the RWPGs from prioritizing projects within the RWPs and eliminates the need for the Uniform Standards Stakeholder Committee related to the prioritization process.

This bill is effective September 1, 2021.

Senate Bill 669

Eliminated biennial water use report to the legislature, instead requiring TWDB to make publicly available water use report information for certain municipalities and water utilities.

The water use information required by this bill is already publicly available on TWDB's Water Use Survey website.

Bill effective September 1, 2021. TWDB is developing data dashboards of information previously provided by this report. Information distributed to RWPGs when available.

House Bill 2225

Authorizes TPWD to encourage and facilitate the dedication of water rights in the Texas Water Trust through voluntary transfer for environmental needs. Gives TPWD the authority to manage water rights in Water Trust under agreement with the water right holder.

Bill effective September 1, 2021.

2022 State Water Plan

Public Comment period ended May 26th, 2021

Final plan to be adopted July 7th, 2021

Carola Serrato asked about the budget for the next planning cycle. Kevin Smith stated the budget will remain the same from last year.

Carola Serrato asked the City of Corpus Christi to do a presentation on desalination.

Agenda Item XIII – 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.

Esteban Ramos with the City of Corpus Christi stated they would be happy to give a presentation on desalination at the next meeting.

Agenda Item XIV - Confirm Next Meeting Date

Travis Pruski stated the next meeting would be at 1:30pm, October 7th in the Johnny Calderon Building, Robstown.

X

V Adjourn

Lonnie Stewart moved for the meeting to be adjourned. It was seconded by Carl Crull

Scotty Bledsoe adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Mr. Travis Pruski

Minutes Submitted by: _____

Lonnie Stewart
Secretary, Coastal Bend RWPG

_____ Date