

Minutes
February 20, 2020 Meeting
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group (Region N)
Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program

The meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group was held at the Johnny Calderon County Building, 710 E Main St., Robstown, Texas 78380. All meetings of the CBRWPG are open to the public.

I Agenda Item I - Call to Order

Ms. Carola Serrato, Co-Chair of the Coastal Bend RWPG, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Ms. Carola Serrato stated that there is a requirement that a 2/3 of the voting members need to be present in order to establish a quorum. A roll call was taken.

II Agenda Item II - Roll Call A roll call was taken.

Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included:

Mr. Scott Bledsoe III (Water Districts)	Ms. Carola Serrato (Water Utilities)
Mr. Lonnie Stewart (GMA 13)	Dr. Pancho Hubert (Small Business)
Mr. Chuck Burns (Agriculture)	Mr. Charles Ring (Agriculture)
Mr. Bill Stockton (Counties)	Mr. Gary Eddins (Electric Utilities)
Ms. Teresa Carrillo (Environmental)	Mark Scott for Mr. Jace Tunnell Environmental)
Mr. Robert Kunkle (Industries)	Ms. Barbara Reaves (Municipalities)
Mr. Carl Crull (Other)	Mr. Bill Dove (Small Business)
Mr. Mark Sugarek (GMA 15)	Mr. Andy Garza (GMA 16)
Mr. Mark Scott (Municipalities)	

A 2/3rd quorum of voting members was determined to be present

Sky Lewey, represented the Nueces River Authority and Veronica Perales, Administrative Assistant for the Nueces River Authority was present to take the meeting minutes.

Voting Members Absent:

Mr. Tom Reding Jr. (River Authorities)
Ms. Donna Rosson (Public)
Mr. Lavoyger Durham (Counties)
Mr. John Burris (Other)
Mr. Joe Almaraz (Industries)

Non-Voting Members Absent

Mr. Tomas Dominguez (NRCS)
Mr. Jim Tolan (TPWD)
Ms. Nelda Barrera (TDA)
Mr. David Fuentes (Liaison Region M)

Non-voting members in attendance included:

Ms. Kristi Shaw, HDR
Mr. Kevin Smith (TWDB)
Mr. John Byrum (Liaison Region L)

Guests Included:

Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB
Louie Pena, Brush Country GCD
Ms. Lucia Daily, Port Aransas Conservatory (PAC)
Mr. William Daily, Port Aransas Conservatory (PAC)
Mr. Errol Summerlin, Port Aransas Resident

III Agenda Item III - Approval of Minutes

Ms. Carola Serrato asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 16, 2020 Meeting of the Coastal Bend RWPG (Region N) for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning.

Motion by Mr. Carl Crull to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Mark Scott. There was no discussion, corrections or comments and the minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

IV Agenda Item IV - Discussion and Authorization for HDR to make minor non-substantive revisions in response to comments by the RWPG to the Initially Prepared Plan prior to TWDB submittal.

Ms. Carola Serrato stated that the Initially Prepared Plan had been uploaded on the Region N “ftp” site for committee members to download and review. Ms. Kristi Shaw, HDR confirmed that all information was posted on that site. Ms. Serrato asked if there was any discussion or comments from the committee members. There being no discussion or comments, she asks if a committee member would like to make a motion to authorize HDR to make the minor changes as recommended during the committee review.

Mr. Chuck Burns made a motion to authorize HDR to make the necessary revisions prior to TWDB submittal. It was seconded by Mr. Robert Kunkle. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

V Agenda Item V - Discussion and consider the adoption of the 2021 Region N Initially Prepared Plan.

Ms. Carola Serrato asked Kristi Shaw, if she had some slides of the executive summary of the IPP. Ms. Shaw confirmed and stated she would be happy to make that presentation. Ms. Shaw began her presentation by thanking the committee members for their committee service and their big commitment to volunteer and serve on this board. She gave special recognition to Mr. Robert Kunkel, Ms. Carola Serrato and Mr. Scot Bledsoe III who have been serving on this committee since the 1990's. Members and audience applauded.

Ms. Shaw stated that she wanted to give an overview of the highlights and the executive summary of the Initially Prepared Plan. She told the committee that she posted the first group of chapters of the plan back in November, but the vast majority of the plan was posted in January and February. She stated that assuming that the plan was approved by the committee today, it will go to the TWDB on March 3, 2020 and that will begin the process of obtaining public comments on the plan, and after the public comments are considered, the Region N Plan will go back to the Committee for final approval in Sept. 2020 and then submitted to the TWDB in October of this year for their approval and for inclusion in the 2022 State Water Plan.

Ms. Shaw stated that the Executive Summary was sent out with the committee agenda packet last week. She made references to the structure of the plan and stated that this plan had been revised to a single volume, where in the past, the plan included multiple volumes. She stated that some water strategies included in previous plans were not still relevant and no longer being pursued. The information on those past strategies was put into chapter 11 so that we could keep the knowledge that goes back all the way to the 2001 plan. She explained that the plan contained the chapters required by the TWDB and the Texas Administrative Code and what you are seeing is based on those guidelines. The first item is the executive summary and then the planning area description, the economic drivers of the area, the natural resources, the environmentally sensitive areas, and some of the water quality issues noted by the Clean Rivers program are discussed. Chapter 2 is the water demand and population projections. Ms. Shaw stated the committee members may remember that when the group began working on the plan, a subcommittee was put together to review the population and water demand projections and submit to the TWDB. Those projections were all adopted by the TWDB and that information is included in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 covers water supply analysis where we look at not only the Corpus Christi Regional System and the safe yields, but also all the models on groundwater in the regions to arrive at the current water supplies and the water availability. Chapter 4A looks at the water demands of Chapter 2 and intersects those with Chapter 3- supplies that are currently available. The water needs are then determined. 4B was a preliminary technical memo the committee had to submit to the TWDB back in 2018 which outlined the process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies, and a list of potentially feasible water management strategies as of that date.

Chapter 5 starts out by identifying the process used to evaluate potentially feasible water management strategies for each water user group and each county within the region. 5.B contains details of the recommended water supply plan for each county and water user group within the region. 5.C contains water conservation recommendations to meet shortages within the region and 5D provides details of the evaluation of the 11 water management strategies for each user group within the region. Cost comparison among each of the strategies were compared using a unified costing model. The water management strategies included water conservation, irrigation water conservation, manufacturing water conservation and mining water conservation.

Water reuse was also a strategy included in the plan. The two reuse projects that were evaluated in the plan, the regional industrial wastewater reuse plan for sponsored by the San Patricio Municipal Water District which was based on using treated effluent from Aransas Pass, Gregory, Portland, Ingleside, and Ingleside-by-the-Bay to provide cooling water for industry. The plan also evaluated the City of Alice non-potable projects that considered non-potable wastewater effluent for beneficial uses.

The plan also looks at local balancing storage reservoirs. A project sponsored by Nueces County WCID #3 proposed to use run of the river water rights and would require storage of those rights to meet the need during the driest months of the year.

Then the City of Corpus Christi's Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project was looked at to provide additional yield for industries located in the Nueces County area.

5D.8 discusses the supplies available from the Gulf Coast and the Evangeline/Laguna Aquifers. The plan evaluated the aquifer and existing well field(s) of water user group to determine if drilling additional wells was viable. The list goes through the cost of those additional water supplies for each of those users.

Then the plan goes to brackish groundwater desalination. This chapter includes the City of Alice – Jasper Wellfield desalination project as well as the Evangeline/Laguna LP Groundwater project in San Patricio County for delivery to the City of Corpus Christi and future industries in San Patricio County.

The seawater desalination section grew quite a bit from 2016 plan. In that section we mention the strategies that have been evaluated and projects proposed. In that section the plan addresses the City of Corpus Christi's Harbor Island project, the Port of Corpus Christi Authority's La Quinta Channel project, and the Poseidon Regional Seawater Desalination Project at Ingleside Project.

The final strategy is the expansion and improvements of the regional water treatment plants of the City of Corpus Christi and San Patricio Municipal Water District. The City of Corpus Christi is currently in the process of increasing production of treated water to 200 million gallons per day.

Then after chapter 5 we get into the impact of regional water plan and consistency with protection of resources. During the last meeting you may recall we talked about key water quality parameters in terms of execution of water management strategies and that information is included in this section.

Chapter 7 discuss drought response. In this region we have a new drought of record since the last plan and that is included in the plan as well as the driver for triggers and responses of all water user's drought contingency plans within the region.

Chapter 8 is the Regulatory, Administrative and Legislative Recommendations, that includes legislative recommendations that were put together by one of the Region N subcommittees and adopted by Region N as well as the unique stream and reservoir designation section of which there are no designations for this region.

Chapter 9 is something that happened between the Initially Prepared Plan and the Final plan where we talk with the users of the strategies and get information about the project how they intend to finance.

Chapter 10 outlines the public participation, adoption, submittal, and approval of the regional plan. It discusses how the meetings are open to the public and the website dedicated for Coastal Bend Regional Planning Group Information.

Chapter 11 compares this plan to previous plans and it shows all of the water management strategies that have been evaluated since the 2001 plan and how they carry through, the time in which the no longer become relevant and what plan that the user group stayed with and a brief summary that discusses issues and yield information.

To summarize, the Region N population is based on the 2010 census and in the next round of planning there will be new numbers that are published. The 2010 census projections for the 2020 to 2070 is similar to the numbers we have now. The growth was shown in 2020 to be around 614,000 growing up to 740,000 people. The regional water demand is expected to grow from 188,000 to over 270,000 acre-feet in 2070.

Of the total existing supplies in 2020 there are approximately 240,000 acre-feet that includes both surface water and ground water supplies. This amount actually declined and much of that is due to sedimentation that occurred in the reservoirs, and some of it due to declining demands in some of the sectors. So what we did when it came to groundwater supplies, is that we looked at the capacity of the existing system and if the

water demand in 2020 was less than the capacity, we would not show that as a shortage. But if over time the demand exceeded the capacity, we assumed were that would not be pumping the groundwater. So, in these cases where you see a decline in the irrigation sector or in a region or county then their surface supplies would match that as well.

For wholesale water supplier's perspective, the City of Corpus Christi shows adequate supplies in 2020, but those supplies are not adequate to meet the demands that are projected out to 2070. What that means is that there are water management strategies that have been identified and recommended addressing those shortages. The same thing for the San Patricio Municipal Water District. Based on the TWDB guidelines, even if you have a contract for a certain amount of water as the San Patricio Municipal Water does, it is adequate to meet their long term water need, however there is not current water supplies to meet 100% of the demands of that contract. The idea behind that is that is that they are going to grow into it and by time the need arises the water is going to be there. It is a fragile balance to plan, you want to have enough water when you need it, but you do not want to have so much water before you need it because it makes the water supplies very costly. So, per the TWDB guidance and rules, many of those shortages are to be distributed to the wholesale users as well which is why there are shortages for the San Patricio Municipal Water District out to 2070 of around 17,000 acre-feet.

South Texas Water Authority provides water to many municipal areas in the Kleberg and Nueces County areas. The contract they have with the City of Corpus Christi is based on needs and so the supply is essentially equal to demand and they show no shortages.

For Nueces County WCID #3 I mentioned earlier they have run of the river rights. The way that the amount of water available is calculated is for the worst of those years of drought. The amount of water available and can be realized per their water right and then extrapolate a given year.

Appendix B is the Socioeconomic Report. The executive summary of that report talks about the social and economic impacts of not meeting identified water needs for the region. This is a required analysis for the regional water planning process. Based on projected water demands and existing water supplies, Region N could see potential shortages for 6 user categories, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining municipal and steam-electric power if there is a repeat of the drought of the record. So, the analysis was performed using an economic impact modeling software package as well as other economic analysis techniques to represent a snapshot of the impacts that may occur during a single year of the drought of the record. Income losses, job losses are estimate within each planning decade. The income losses are an approximation of the gross domestic product that would be lost if water needs are not met. The analysis performed using the information in the plan projects that a loss of roughly \$732 million of combined lost income in 2020 increasing to 6.9 billion in 2070 if the water needs are not mitigated.

Those are the details of the plan which I wanted to highlight for you today. The details are outlined in the executive summary of the IPP.

Mr. Errol Summerlin stated he was not sure if it was the proper time, but he did have questions about the plan and some general comments. First, in regard to the seawater desalination projects, these waters are federal waters, so would federal permits be needed?

Ms. Shaw replied that in the desalination section there is several different options. There is an overall environment section that explains the permitting and the point of the project when it will be needed. One thing to note, that there is a 60-day comment period that is required prior to the adoption of the IPP, where the public can review and provide written comments on the plan.

Mr. Summerlin ask if there was a particular time where the US Fish and Wildlife and the Texas Parks and Wildlife could weigh in on the anticipated effects that the IPP would have on the environment and the region.

Ms. Shaw replied that over the years I have been involved in the planning process, the TWDB has made that part of the review process where Texas Parks and Wildlife and other agencies provide comments. The TWDB issues public notice and the 90-day review and comment period begins where agencies can review and comment on the plan.

If an applicant has committed to and applied to move forward with the project, there is a very detailed review period for environmental process. There is direct coordination where a total environmental assessment of the project is required. So even after the process there is direct coordination with the federal agencies.

Ms. Corolla stated that in addition we also have Mr. Tolen, with Parks and Wildlife who is a voting member of the Region N Committee.

Ms. Shaw stated that there is an overall environmental section included in the desalination section of the plan that salt-water desalination projects must conform.

At the of the discussion, Teresa Carrillo ask if additional time could be made available review the 942-page document. She was referred to the approval process timeline for the plan that stated there is a 03/03/2020 deadline to submit the IPP to the TWDB for review.

Mr. Carl Crull made the motion to adopt and submit the 2021 Region N Initially Prepared Plan. Motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Scott. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

VI Agenda Item VI - Consider Authorizing HDR to submit the Initially Prepared Plan to the TWDB on behalf of Region N.

Ms. Serrato asked the committee for action on this matter.

Mr. Carl Crull made the motion to adopt and submit the 2021 Region N Initially Prepared Plan to the TWDB on behalf of Region N. Mr. Mark Scott seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

VII Agenda Item VII - Review Public Hearings, Comment Period and Final Adoption of Region N Plan Timelines.

Kevin Smith stated that there is a 30-day notice required prior to the public hearing. He also stated that once the notice of the public hearing is posted, the clock also starts of the 60- and 90-day public comment period.

A sub committee was formed to review public comments and will meet in July since the deadline for adoption of the Region N plan in Sept. 2020.

Ms. Serrato asked for volunteers to serve. Since there were no volunteers, Ms. Serrato appointed the following committee members to the sub-committee to review the public comments:

Ms. Teresa Carrillo

Ms. Ms. Carola Serrato

Mr. Scott Bledsoe III

Mr. Lonnie Stewart

Mr. Pancho Hubert

Ms. Carola Serrato stated that they must remember that it is a scoring process and that certain number of points are needed, so to ask themselves about the points in order to eliminate being biased about the project. Subcommittee meetings will be towards the end of July so adjustments can be made to the plan prior to final adoption by the Region N group.

Sub Committee Meetings are posted items and open to the public and can be scheduled any time after July 22, 2020.

Ms. Serrato stated that in addition to screening these, it is really a screening process that requires a certain amount of points and that you either get all the points, some of the points or no points. The point system eliminates any bias anyone might have about a process.

Mr. Carl Crull stated that the time frame was short. Mr. Carl Crull made the motion to adopt all schedules. Mr. Mark Scott seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

VIII Agenda Item VIII - Schedule Public Hearing for Region N Initially Prepared Plan.

After a brief discussion on the schedule for public comments and other input required prior to adopting the IPP, the committee decided to hold the Region N Public Hearing on the IPP on April 23, 2020.

Ms. Serrato asked Mr. John Byrum if there is a time that works better for the Nueces River Authority staff. Mr. Byrum replied that 1:30pm works for NRA. It was suggested that the hearing be held later in the afternoon so that individuals that work are able to attend. 5:30pm was discussed to accommodate others that are interested in attending. The hearing required public notice and posting in accordance with the State Open Meetings Act. NRA will check to confirm that the Johnny Calderon Building would be available at that date and time.

Mr. Chuck Burns made a motion to schedule public hearing for Region N Initially Prepared Plan. Mr. Carl Crull seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

IX Agenda Item IX - Authorize Nueces River Authority to post the Initially Prepared Plan Public Hearing Notice.

Mr. Carl Crull made a motion to authorize the Nueces River Authority to post the Initial Prepared Plan Public Hearing Notice. Mr. Charles Ring seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

X Agenda Item X - Discuss placing a time limit for public comments at Region N Planning Group Meetings.

The committee discuss the length of time that should be allowed per individual for public comment. After a short discussion Ms. Barbara Reaves made a motion to limit public comments at the Region N Planning Group Meetings to 3 minutes per person. Mr. Chuck Burns seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

XI Agenda Item XI – TWDB Update.

Kevin Smith presented the following schedule. He stated that recent communications from the TWDB included the Potential Interregional Conflict Letter date which should not be applicable to Region N. The Interregional Planning Council includes a member from each planning group. They will have 2 meetings to discuss issues with the plan and its adoption. Mr. Smith presented the outline and the time schedule for the adoption of the IPP.

Recent Communication from TWDB

January 23, 2020	Potential Interregional Conflict Letter
January 17, 2020	Interregional Planning Council Status
January 21, 2020	Items for Administratively Complete IPP
January 27, 2020	RWPG Chairs Conference Call
January 28, 2020	RWPG Grant Funding Letters
February 13, 2020	Proposed Revisions to Water Planning Rules
February 19, 2020	TCEQ Notification Lists for IPP Hearings

Region N Initially Prepared Plan and Final Plan

February 20, 2020	Region N Considers adoption of IPP for submittal to TWDB
March 3, 2020	HDR submits 7 hard copies (2 electronic: PDF & 1 MS Word) Region N IPP to TWDB
March 4, 2020	HDR mails all needed copies to NRA for dissemination to Region N Counties
March 9, 2020	Nueces River Authority (NRA) disseminates IPP for public inspection.
March 15, 2020	IPP hearing notice published
April 23, 2020	Region N Planning Group holds IPP hearing.
June 22, 2020	60 day public comment period after hearing end (90 day total)
July 1, 2020	120 day for TWDB comment period ends
July 22, 2020	90 day Federal and State agency comment period ends
August 20, 2020	Region N meeting will be held to consider and address all IPP comments. Prioritize WMS for 2021 Final Plan.
September 17, 2020	Region N meeting to consider adoption of Final Region N Plan
October 14, 2020	HDR submits 9 hard copies (e electronic – 1 PDF and 1 MS Word; 1 copy Spreadsheets/Maps) Final Region N Plan and Project Prioritization List for TWDB.

Mr. Smith stated that 2021 was not far off and contracts for the administrative sponsor and budget of the planning group would need to be in place in the spring of 2021. TWDB has already sent a letter to the

August 20, 2020 Region N meeting to consider and address all IPP comments. Prioritize WMS for 2021 Final Plan.
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XII Agenda Item XII - General Public Comments

There were public comments.

Ms. Lucia Daily, Port Aransas Conservatory (PAC)
Mr. William Daily, Port Aransas Conservatory (PAC)
Mr. Errol Summerlin, Port Aransas Resident

All three visitors spoke and all three were provided the 3 minutes to speak. Attached are copies of their items of concern and their discussions. Ms. Serrato gave thanks to everyone for attending and stated that she appreciated everyone's presence and participation.

XIII Agenda Item XIII - Confirm Next Meeting Date

The date for the Public Hearing on the Region N Initially Prepared Plan was set for 5:30 pm on April 23, 2020 at the Johnny Calderon County Building, providing the facility is available.

XIV Agenda Item XIV – Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Carl Crull to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Charles Ring seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Minutes prepared by: Mr. John Byrum

Minutes Submitted by: Lonnie Stewart

9/26/20

Lonnie Stewart
Secretary, Coastal Bend RWPG

Date

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9/26/20

Lonnie Stewart
 Secretary, Coastal Bend RWPG

Date