

Minutes of the March 3, 2022 meeting of
The Costal Bend Regional Water Planning Group
for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program

The meeting was held at the Johnny Calderon County Building, 710 East Main Street, Robstown, Texas

Agenda Items:

- I. **Meeting called to Order** by Chairman Bledsoe at 1:30 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Travis Pruski, Director of Planning for The Nueces River Authority, conducted a roll call.

Voting Members in attendance:

Joe Almaraz
Scott Bledsoe
Carl Crull
Lavoyger Durham
Andy Garza
Esteban Ramos
Thomas Reding
Lonnie Stewart
Mark Sugarek
James Dodson
Robert Kunkel
John Marez
Teresa Carrillo
Mark Scott

Voting Members absent:

Chuck Burns
Bill Dove
Gary Eddins
Dr. Pancho Hubert
Charles Ring
Donna Rosson

Non-Voting Members

Kevin Smith (TWDB)
Kristi Shaw (HDR)
Travis Pruski (NRA)
John Byrum (Region L RWPG)

- III. **Public Comments:** On the issues of changes being made by the TWDB in the sixth cycle of water planning for Region N. (Will also have public comments at end of meeting.) Chairman Bledsoe invited anyone to make a public comment on the issues of revision of this planning cycle. No comments were provided at this time.

Note: Quorum made at 1:33 p.m. with addition of two members identified above.

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IV. Action Item: Consider Approval of October 7, 2021 minutes of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group.

Chairman Bledsoe asked for approval of minutes of the October 7, 2021 meeting. Carl Crull made motion to accept October 7, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Joe Almaraz. No further discussion. Motion for approval minutes carried unanimously.

V. Action Item: Election of officers and executive committee members

Turned over to Lonnie Stewart.

Nomination of Officers: Scott Bledsoe and Dr. Pancho Hubert for co-chairs; Lonnie Stewart for secretary and Thomas (Tom) Reding for one of the members-at-large. Chairman Bledsoe requested any other nominations. Joe Almaraz volunteered to be nominated for member-at-large. Lonnie Stewart made motion to accept the voting officers. Chairman Bledsoe made second request for any other nominations. No further nominations were identified. Nominations closed by Chairman Bledsoe. Chairman Bledsoe called for a vote. Nominations approved unanimously.

VI. Action Item: Consider recommendation by the Executive Committee on open voting membership positions.

Chairman Bledsoe: There are three open positions to serve on the regional water planning group for Industry, Municipal, and Counties due to resignations by Robert Kunkel, Barbara Reaves, and Bill Stockton. The nominations that were received are as follows: Aron Baggett nominated by Port Industries and Gene Camargo by the City of Rockport for Municipal. One open spot; currently have one County Representative already on, so it is not required to fill the third open position. The Executive Committee recommended nominations be accepted. Andy Garza made motion to accept nominations and seconded by Mark Sugarek. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion Item: Texas Water Department Board (TWDB) Presentation: Population and Water Demand Methodology for 2026 Regional Water Planning

Mr. Kevin Smith with TWDB stated that Katie Dahlberg, who is the manager for the Projections & Socioeconomic Analysis Team for TWDB, has a PowerPoint presentation which covered 1) an overview of the projections process, 2) the projections data release schedule, and 3) the projections methodologies for 3a) non-municipal water demands for Irrigation, Livestock, Manufacturing, Mining, and Steam-Electric Power, 3b) population, and 3c) municipal water demand. Included in the presentation were graphs specific to Region N and a table of water sources. Ms. Dahlberg provided her contact information and a demonstration of the TWDB's website (twdb.texas.gov). Since Ms. Dahlberg was not present at meeting, he, Mr. Smith, will do his best to answer any questions or members can email Ms. Dahlberg directly. PowerPoint Presentation: TWDB 2026 RWP Projections Methodology Overview

Chairman Bledsoe asked if Region N will have the opportunity to add 'our' information and change what the projections are. Kristi Shaw, with HDR, stated that the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group needs to submit revisions for all non-municipal demand projections by July of 2023. Mr. Smith confirmed July 2023 is the deadline for non-municipal and stated that RWPGs revision request for population and municipal demand projection revisions is August of 2023. No other questions.

VIII. Action Item: Consider appointing a subcommittee to review non-municipal water demand projections (manufacturing, steam-electric, livestock, mining, and irrigation) Note to potential

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volunteers: Two meetings anticipated (a) early March 2022 for manufacturing, steam-electric and livestock and (b) last week in Sept (mining and irrigation)

Turn it over to Kristi Shaw, with HDR: We have some flexibility with the meeting dates, as those estimates were developed previously for the January meeting that was rescheduled. The sub-committee will meet to review the Manufacturing, Steam-Electric, and Livestock projections and meet again once to review Irrigation and Mining projections when those are released. We anticipate having the meeting virtually. Open meeting for both committee and non-committee members.

Action: Nominations were Charles Ring, Teresa Carrillo, Esteban Ramos, Andy Garza, and Lonnie Stewart. Motion and vote taken in agenda item IX.

IX. Action Item: Consider appointing a subcommittee to review the list of municipal water user groups, historical information, population, and municipal water demand projections.

Note to potential volunteers: Two meetings are anticipated (a) 1st week of April 2022 and (b) April 2023

Kristi Shaw: The goal is to put together meetings in such a time that a) members will have information from TWDB to review and b) with sufficient time to collect information in advance on a local level c) good alignment with the regional water planning group schedules and d) being mindful of water development board deadlines – making sure subcommittee gets the recommendations out to the planning group with sufficient time to have a discussion, in one or two meetings, before it is due to the board.

Chairman Bledsoe ask for motion to appoint members: Esteban Ramos, Andy Garza, Charles Ring, Teresa Carrillo, and Lonnie Stewart on subcommittee to review non-municipal water demand projections (agenda item VIII) and to appoint members Mark Scott, Carl Crull, Gene Camargo, and Esteban Ramos for the municipal subcommittee.

Esteban Ramos made motion to accept nominations for subcommittees and Andy Garza seconded; motion was passed unanimously.

X. Discussion Item: Summary of By-Laws Subcommittee meeting

The by-laws subcommittee convened prior to the regional water planning group meeting and suggested the following By-Law changes for Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group consideration:

1. Article V Voting Membership - Section 2. Terms of Office (paragraph 1): Statement "Current members' terms expire on January 31, 2012, and January 31, 2014." shall be removed.
2. Changing all instances in By-Laws referring the "Nueces River Authority" website to the "Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group" (hereinafter "Coastal Bend RWPG) website.
3. Article V Voting Membership - Section 4. Selection of Members (paragraph 2): Statement "...no sooner than ten calendar days after the deadline for submitting nomination," shall remain in By-Laws.
4. Various places throughout the By-Laws, asking for a consensus at least a "two-thirds of voting members", needs to read "two-thirds of voting members to be present" to represent a quorum.
5. Article VIII. Officers - Section 1. Officers, Restrictions, and Terms of Office: Added to By-Laws: "The co-chairs and the Secretary will serve for the planning cycle unless their terms expire or are not reappointed. If terms expire or are not reappointed, then the members of the RWPG shall elect a replacement at the next meeting for a planning cycle. The two executive committee members will be elected annually at the first meeting."
 - i. Note: Reasoning - The By-Law subcommittee wanted to maintain consistency throughout planning cycle; the three officers will be for a bench cycle; the other two at-large executive members will be elected annually.

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6. Article VIII. Officers - Section 6. Executive Committee (paragraph 1): Same as Article VIII Section 1 changes: By-laws reads "The two members-at-large and the Secretary shall be elected annually in the same manner." Remove the "Secretary" and left the two executive members-at-large as is. The Secretary is an officer during the entire planning cycle.

Changes, by the By-Laws Subcommittee, will be put into a recommendation and sent to all members. Updated By-Laws will be presented at next meeting for discussion and if no changes, for a vote.

XI. RWPG/TWDB Administrative and Other Issues:

1. Kevin Smith (TWDB): There were revisions to rules that govern the water planning process. Those changes were approved by the TWDB in December. Adoption of final rules will be in spring of this year (April).
2. Contract amendments: There will be an amendment this summer which will basically 'amend' the initial scope contract to be full contact for the planning cycle. The amendment will contain the total project cost. The cost will be similar to the last planning cycle.
3. Will update the contract guidance documents
 - i. Exhibit C provides guidance for putting the regional planning together
 - ii. Exhibit D provides details on database delivery that is part of the regional water plan
4. All information covered above in Katie's presentation on '2026 Regional Water Plans Projections Methodology' (agenda item VII) were presented at a chairs conference call on January 26, 2022.
5. SWIFT funding: Abridged Applications for SWIFT projects are eligible, for projects that are in the State water plan; Region N had one application from Corpus Christi Authority

Chairman Bledsoe ask for any questions or discussions from the board members. None

XII. General Public Comments or discussions:

1. Teresa Carrillo: Two things, 1) Notice the Texas Water & Development Board website and the Nueces River Authority website have most of the Region N historic information. Can there be a link to the historical information from those websites to the new webpage developed by Region N. On the Texas Water & Development Board website, the link to Region N goes back to the historic information that the Nueces River Authority has and not the new Region N website they recently developed. Travis Pruski stated that the NRA website is in the process of being updated. Currently there can be no changes in the old version. John Byrum stated that the new website for the NRA will go up on March 11th. Mr. Pruski will ask Kevin Smith about the TWDB's website.
- 2) Ms. Carrillo Introduced a visitor, Dr. Loretta Battaglia who is the new executive director of Coastal Studies at TAMU-CC.
2. Esteban Ramos: for Kevin Smith regarding Corpus Christi SWIFT loans. There are two SWIFT loans applications for seawater desalination, and both are for inner harbor.

XIII. Confirm next meeting dates: August 4, 2022, and October 6, 2022.

XIV. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn and seconded: Motion passed unanimously.

Passed and approved on this the _____ day of _____, 2022.

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Scott Bledsoe, Chairman

Lonnie Stewart, Secretary