

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION O)

Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (LERWPG)

Minutes of the Groundwater Subcommittee Meeting

March 22, 2018

2:00 P.M.

LERWPG NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dr. Ken Rainwater, Mr. Jason Coleman, Dr. Chris Grotegut and Mr. John Taylor (absent)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The Groundwater Subcommittee for the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (Region O) met in an open public meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 P.M. in the Caprock room of the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG), 1323 58th Street, Lubbock, Texas.

2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Three (3) of the four (4) subcommittee members were in attendance and a quorum was present.

Paula Jo Lemonds with HDR, Kelly Davila and Candice Clark of the South Plains Association of Governments were also in attendance. Neil Deeds with Interra was in the meeting via conference call.

3. DISCUSSION ITEM: REVIEW OF DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS AND MODELED AVAILABLE GROUNDWATER (MAG)

Paula Jo Lemonds, of HDR, began the discussion by reviewing earlier LERWPG discussions concerning Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) and Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG). Neil Deeds, of Interra, presented via phone and previously distributed materials on the Potential Peak Factors Based on Water Balance for Region O. Items to note in the discussion include:

- The Memorandum and tables provided by Interra described evaluation of potential MAG peak factors for Region O.
- Ogallala Aquifer averages 23-27 feet of drawdown in GMA #2
 - This figure was determined based on water usage and drought cycles
 - GMA #2 used TWDB model & then adjusted for the dry/drought years
- MAG – determination of how much pumping can occur and DFC still be reached
- The figures in Table 1 and 2 decline over time to account for minimum saturated thickness (30 feet) based on the TWDB model

4. DISCUSSION ITEM: USE OF MAG PEAK FACTORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Ms. Lemonds began this discussion with a follow up to the item (10D) as discussed at the January LERWPG meeting. She also reminded the subcommittee that the Regional Water Plan (RWP) has to be consistent with the DFCs and cannot exceed MAG, but TWDB does allow for a MAG Peak Factor (the item being considered) if RWPG chooses to request it and justify the use (through detailed studies). The MAG Peak Factor must remain consistent with DFCs and would need approval from all associated GMAs, GCDs, and the TWDB Executive Administrator.

Dr. Rainwater asked for explanation of figures on Table 3 and 4 – several of the Counties seem to have replicated figures for each decade. He reiterated the Planning Group's desire to easily understand and convey to the public the methodology for each phase of the planning process.

TWDB methodology attached.

The Interra analysis shows on Table 4 if MAG Peak Factor is used to redistribute available groundwater from County to County/Decade to Decade (water shuffle on paper). By not utilizing a MAG Peak Factor, shortages will occur. Mr. Coleman pointed out that not utilizing a MAG Peak Factor and showing shortages may make it easier for entities to access funding because the realistic water availability is presented. If a MAG Peak Factor was utilized, he worried that entities might have an inaccurate regional water planning showing water shortages/demand later than it is actually needed. Ms. Lemonds noted that Region N (another HDR planning region) opted not to utilize MAG Peak Factors because it differed from the models created by the regional GCDs. The incentive to use the MAG Peak Factor would be to submit a RWP that includes no unmet needs because shortages never occur (due to water shuffling). The plan would not, however, present an accurate County by County/Decade by Decade water availability.

5. ACTION ITEM: USE OF MAG PEAK FACTORS RECOMMENDATION TO PRESENT TO THE LLANO ESTACADO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP

Dr. Ken Rainwater made the motion to recommend formally to the LERWPG at the April 3, 2018 regular meeting that the Region O LERWPG decline to utilize MAG Peak factors for the current planning cycle. The motion was seconded by Jason Coleman. All were in favor. The subcommittee provided direction to Paula Jo Lemonds regarding materials that should be made available to the full LERWPG prior to the April 3, 2018 meeting and to Kelly Davila of SPAG as to the distribution of those materials.

6. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: CITIZENS MAY ADDRESS THE PLANNING GROUP CONCERNING AN ISSUE OF INTEREST THAT IS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA. AGENDA ITEM COMMENTS MUST BE MADE WHEN THE ITEM COMES BEFORE THE BOARD. THE PLANNING GROUP MAY PLACE A TIME LIMIT ON ALL COMMENTS.

7. ADJOURN

There was no other business discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Kelly Davila of the South Plains Association of Governments served as recording secretary for the meeting.

These minutes were approved at the regular meeting of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group on August 8, 2018.

Attest: Aubrey A. Spear

Aubrey A. Spear, P.E., LERWPG Chairman