

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION O)

Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (LERWPG)

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2019

LERWPG Voting Membership as of June 27, 2019:

Executive Committee: Aubrey A. Spear, PE (Chairman), Mark Kirkpatrick (Vice-Chairman) and Doug Hutcheson (Secretary-Treasurer)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>TWDB Designation (Interest Category)</u>
Dr. Melanie Barnes, Ph. D	2019	Public
Jason Coleman, PE	2018	Water Districts
Harry DeWit	2021	Agricultural
Carrie Dodson	2022	Groundwater Management Areas (#6)
Delmon Ellison Jr.	2019	Agricultural
Dr. Chris Grotegut, DVM	2021	Agricultural
Joey Hardin	2022	Industries
Ronnie Hopper	2022	Groundwater Management Areas (#2)
Doug Hutcheson	2019	Water Utilities
Nathaniel (Shane) Jones	2021	Water Utilities
Mark Kirkpatrick	2022	Agricultural
Don McElroy	2022	Small Business
Alan Monroe	2019	Municipalities (small) less than 10,000
Charlie Morris	2022	Counties
Dr. Ken Rainwater, Ph. D	2022	Public
Jeff Sammon	2022	River Authorities
Kent Satterwhite	2022	Water Utilities
Tom Simons	2019	Municipalities (medium) 10-30,000
Jeffrey Snyder	2021	Municipalities (medium) 10-30,000
Aubrey A. Spear, PE	2019	Municipalities (large) 30,000 or more
Jim Steiert	2022	Environmental
Jimmy Wedel	2019	Agricultural
Ben Weinheimer, Sr., PE	2022	Agricultural
Bret Yeary, PE	2019	Electric Generating Utilities
Vacant	2017	(previously Municipal WSD)

LERWPG Non-Voting Membership:

Aaron Waters	N/A	TWDB
John Clayton	N/A	TPWD
Jason Lindeman	N/A	TCEQ
Carol Faulkenberry	N/A	TDA
Tommy O'Brien (Region G)	N/A	Designated Liaison to Region O

Rusty Ray N/A TSSWCB

LERWPG Consultant

Paula Jo Lemonds, PG, PE N/A HDR, Inc

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (Region O) met in an open public meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2019. Chairman Aubrey A. Spear welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. in the board room of the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG), 1323 58th Street, Lubbock, Texas.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

A quorum of LERWPG voting members was in attendance with 13 of 24 members present.

The following voting members were not in attendance (excused absence): Dr. Melanie Barns, Mr. Harry DeWit, Mr. Delmon Ellison, Dr. Chris Grotegut, Mr. Joey Hardin, Mr. Ronnie Hopper, Mr. Doug Hutcheson, Mr. Alan Monroe, Mr. Kent Satterwhite, Mr. Tom Simons, and Mr. Jeffery Snyder.

The following voting members were not in attendance (unexcused absence): Not applicable.

The following non-voting members were not in attendance: Not applicable

Registered Guests in Attendance: Kelly Davila (SPAG), Gynova Samples (SPAG), Gary Burke (USGS), Victoria Whitehead (HPWD), and Amber Blount (SLUWCD).

3. Introduction of Members and Guests

Members and guests were introduced

4. Remarks from TWDB Director Kathleen Jackson

ACTION ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Consider Approval of April 24, 2018 LERWPG Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Mark Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with Mr. Jim Wedel seconding the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

6. Consider acceptance of the Financial Report, (Kelly Davila, SPAG)

Mr. Jim Steiert made a motion to approve the financial report as presented with Mr. Shane Jones seconding the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

7. Designate a Region O Voting Member as Liaison to Region F

The search for liaison for Region F is still on going. Motion was not placed; Dr. Ken Rainwater has not had a chance to go to one of Region F's meetings and Dr. Melanie Barnes was not in attendance.

8. Implications and benefits of designating unique Stream Segments (Cindy Loeffler, TPWD)

Ms. Cindy Loeffler from TPWD gave a presentation to the LERWPG regarding designating unique Stream Segments in the State, which included:

- The criteria's that the stream segment must meet in order to be of unique ecological value
- TPWD role in the designation process, assisting RWPG's in compiling a list of steam segments that meet the criteria and evaluate recommendations
- TWC Section 16.051, which states that if legislature designates a unique stream segment to be of ecological value that a state agency or political subdivision of the state may not finance the actual construction of a reservoir within the designated stream segment
- 2014 USFWS Endangered Species Act (ESA) Listing Decision, currently the Smalleye and Sharpnose Shiners are listed as federally endangered species in the Brazos Basin area including portions of North Fork DMF Brazos, Salt Fork Brazos, and White River in Region O
- Benefits of Designating Ecologically Unique Stream Segments, it would protect the stream segment for communities that depend on it and it would protect Texas regional natural heritage that would be lost if reservoirs were built on it
- Environmental Flows Information Toolkit (EFIT), is a geospatial decision support tool that enables a user to identify areas for restoration and protection of environmental flows

9. Report, discussion and possible action regarding LERWPG designation of unique stream segments.

Paula Jo Lemonds of HDR, gave an overview of data and information related to this agenda item, including information from Ms. Cindy Loeffler's presentation. Mr. Spear provided some of the potential reasons that the group would not want to recommend any stream segments in Region O receive a Unique Stream Segment

designation. Mr. Charlie Morris made a motion for no action to recommend any stream segments for this year Mr. Don McElroy second the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

10. Report, discussion and possible action had by the May 20th LERWPG Drought Workgroup.

A. Report, discussion and possible action on Chapter 7 statement concerning drought management as water management strategy

Paula Jo Lemonds of HDR, gave an overview of data and information related to this agenda item. Mr. Mark Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve using the same approach from 2016 Plan for 2021 Plan and updating suggested language. Mr. Don McElroy seconding the motion, all were in favor, the motion carried.

B. Report, discussion and possible action on Chapter 7 required emergency interconnects

Paula Jo Lemonds of HDR, gave an overview of data and information related to this agenda item. No action was taken, review of the emergency interconnects revealed that not all the WUGs were listed on the table. Ms. Paula Lemonds will review and update the table to reflect LERWPG region's WUGs.

11. Report, discussion and possible action from the LERWPG Conservation Workgroup.

Paula Jo Lemonds of HDR, gave an overview of data and information related to this agenda item. The motion was made by Mr. Ben Weinheimer to direct HDR to develop water conservation for each identified water need utilizing the new tools available from the TWDB, per the workgroup's suggested approach. Mr. Charlie Morris second the motion, all were in favor, the motion carried.

12. Legislative Update (Aaron Waters)

Aaron Waters of TWDB, gave a presentation of the 86th Texas Legislature and the updates made that were relevant to Regional Water Planning. The presentation included;

- House Bill 807: TWBD is required to appoint an interregional planning council consisting of one member from each RWPG during each five-year planning cycle prior to the adoption of a new state water plan. This bill also adds several new requirements to the development of RWP's.
- House Bill 721: Conduct studies of ASR projects and aquifer recharge projects in the SWP or identified by interested persons, and report on the results of those studies to RWPG's and interested persons. Conduct a statewide survey to identify the relative suitability of various major and minor aquifers for use in ASR projects or aquifer recharge projects and prepare a report of the survey.

- House Bill 723: Requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to obtain or develop updated WAMs for the Brazos, Neches, Red, and Rio Grande River Basins. TCEQ to obtain or develop WAM updates by December 1, 2022.
- Senate Bill 7 (Flood Funding): Aimed at providing funding through multiple funds and accounts for:
 - o Flood planning/protection/mitigation
 - o Data collection and modeling
 - o Hurricane Harvey Projects (through TDEM)
- Senate Bill 8 (Flood Planning): Establishes a state and regional flood planning process administered by TWDB. Flood planning regions will be by river basin. First regional flood plans due January 10, 2023. First state flood plan due September 1, 2024. Requires the State Soil and Water Conservation Board to prepare a 10-year dam repair, rehabilitation, and maintenance plan for flood control dams under their jurisdiction.

13. Discussion and possible action to appoint a workgroup to recommend to the LERWPG for consideration legislative and regional policy (Aubrey Spear/Paula Jo Lemonds)

Paula Jo Lemonds of HDR, gave an overview of data and information related to this agenda item. No action was taken at this time to appoint a workgroup to recommend to legislative and regional policies for consideration by the LERWPG. Those that were interested in a workgroup were Dr. Ken Rainwater, Mr. Jason Coleman, and Mr. Jim Steiert.

14. Discussion of Preliminary Results of Select Water Management Strategy (WMS) Evaluations (Paula Jo Lemonds)

Paula Jo Lemonds of HDR provided an overview on Water Management Strategy Development and solicited comments from members.

DISCUSSION ITEMS, REPORT, PRESENTATIONS

15. Report from HDR Consultant (Paula Jo Lemonds)

Ms. Paula Lemonds reported updates on the following: (1) Background and Review regarding the Regional Water Planning Process, (2) Next Steps, (3) Water Management Strategy Development, (4) Information from TWDB, and (5) Drought Monitor.

16. Report from TWDB Project Manager (Aaron Waters)

Mr. Aaron Waters presented to the LERWPG members the 86th Texas Legislature and other TWDB updates.

17. Report from the Region O Administrator (Kelly Davila)

Ms. Kelly Davila gave the LERWPG members spreadsheets of their current contact information and requested that the members update their contact if it was not correct.

18. Report from Groundwater Management Area Representatives:

- A. GMA #2 (Ronnie Hopper) – Was not in attendance, nothing to report.
- B. GMA #6 (Carrie Dodson) – The next GMA #6 meeting is July 24th, 2019.

19. Report from Liaisons to adjacent Regional Water Planning Groups:

- A. Region A (Kent Satterwhite) – Was not in attendance, nothing to report.
- B. Region B (Carrie Dodson) – Region B had a meeting on June 26th, 2019.
- C. Region F (Vacant) – No report.
- D. Region G (Tommy O'Brien) – Reported that Region G was pushing back on emergency interconnects becoming public records.

20. Receive Public Comments (limited to three minutes per speaker)

Public comments included Ms. Cindy Loeffler's presentation.

21. Consider Date and Agenda Items for Next LERWPG Meeting

The next LERWPG meeting will take place in mid to late September (possibly 17th or 18th).

22. Consider Other Business and Announcements

Mr. Aubrey Spear requested that Ms. Kelly Davila send out a letter to the LERWPG members that was from the TWDB. The TWDB is requesting a nomination of individuals for the Water Conservation Advisory Council from various groups listed in the letter.

23. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 P.M.

These minutes were approved at the regular meeting of the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group on September 17, 2019.

Attest: Aubrey A. Spear

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