NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

The Executive Committee of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program will meet on Thursday, September 19, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at the TAMU Research and Extension Center 10345 Agnes Street, Corpus Christi, Texas 78406 (Hwy. 44, between Robstown and the Corpus Christi International Airport)

MEETING AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. ACTION ITEM: Discussion and recommendation for the Coastal Bend RWPG concerning nominations for public interest

III. General Public Comment

IV. Adjourn

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Nueces River Authority, Coastal Bend Division, 6300 Ocean Drive, NRC 3100, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412 361-825-3193 http://nueces-ra.tamucc.edu
NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

The Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program will meet on Thursday, September 19, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at the TAMU Research and Extension Center 10345 Agnes Street, Corpus Christi, Texas 78406 (Hwy. 44, between Robstown and the Corpus Christi International Airport)

MEETING AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes of 07/18/2002 Meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group

IV. Discussion: Review of Executive Committee's recommendations on the Public Interest replacement—Carola Serrato, Co-Chair

V. ACTION ITEM: Appointment of New Member Representing the Public Interest

VI. Discussion: Review of Seawater Desalination Initiative Meeting – Greg Carter

VII. ACTION ITEM: Resolution Supporting the City of Corpus Christi's Desalination Proposal to TWDB

VIII. Discussion: Population Projection Information to Water User Groups and Counties – Carola Serrato, Co-Chair

IX. ACTION ITEM: Authorizing Nueces River Authority, on behalf of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group, to distribute population projection information to Water User Groups and Counties

X. ACTION ITEM: Authorizing Nueces River Authority to apply 2001 Administrative Expense overage toward 2002 Expenses

XI. Reports:
   RWPG/TWDB Administrative Issues – Carola Serrato/Ralph Boeker
   Nueces River Basin Reconnaissance Study – Con Mims

XII. General Public Comment

XIII. Set next meeting date

XIV. Adjourn

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Nueces River Authority, Coastal Bend Division,
6900 Ocean Drive, NRC 3100, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412
361-825-3193 http://nueces-ra.tamucc.edu
The meeting of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group (Coastal Bend RWPG) was held in the auditorium at the TAMU Research and Extension Center, 10345 Agnes Street, Corpus Christi, Texas 78406.

Agenda Item I - Call to Order: Ms. Carola Serrato of the Coastal Bend RWPG called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda Item II - Roll Call: A visual attendance was noted. Voting members of the Coastal Bend RWPG in attendance included Mr. Scotty Bledsoe, Ms. Teresa Carrillo, Mr. Greg Carter, Mr. Bernie DeLaune, Mr. Billy Dick, Dr. Patrick Hubert, Mr. Robert Kunkel, Mr. Bobby Nedbalek, Mr. Bernard Paulson, Mr. Tom Reding, and Ms. Serrato. Judge Josephine Miller supplied a proxy for Mr. Con Mims to be her designated alternate and Mr. Jerry Kane supplied a proxy for Mr. Max Castaneda to be his designated alternate. Mr. Mark Scott and Mr. Fausto Yturria had excused absences. A quorum was determined to be present.

Non-voting members in attendance included Mr. Ralph Boeker, Mr. Con Mims, and Mr. Vincente Guerra. Ms. Rocky Freund attended for the Nueces River Authority (NRA). Guests included Mr. Wayne Boucher, Mr. Castaneda, Mr. Casey Cuevas, Mr. James Dodson, Mr. Johnny French, Mr. Victor Ortiz, Ms. Maggie Moorhouse, Mr. Don Roach, Ms. Kimberly Stockseth, Ms. Pat Suter, and Mr. Bob Warren.

Agenda Item III - Approval of Minutes: Ms. Serrato asked for approval of the minutes of the July 18, 2002 meeting of the Coastal Bend RWPG for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region N. There was a motion by Mr. Paulson to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Bledsoe. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Items IV and V – Appointment of New Voting Member to Represent the Public Interest: Ms. Serrato explained that the Executive Committee met just prior to this meeting. There were two nominations: Ms. Moorhouse with Moorhouse Associates nominated Ms. Stockseth and Ms. Lois C. Huff nominated Mr. French. The committee discussed both nominations in a fair amount of detail and that some of the committee members have had the opportunity to work with both nominees. Ms. Serrato stated that it is the Executive Committee’s recommendation to have Ms. Stockseth represent the public interest.

Mr. Paulson made a motion to accept the committee’s recommendation and appoint Ms. Stockseth to be the public interest representative. Dr. Hubert seconded the motion. Ms. Serrato asked for any discussion. Ms. Carrillo asked about Mr. French’s nomination. Ms. Serrato explained that he had been nominated, but that it was the Executive Committee’s recommendation to appoint Ms. Stockseth. Ms. Suter spoke on behalf of Mr. French, stating that with his knowledge of water matters, that he would be a valuable addition to the regional water planning group. Ms. Carrillo also spoke on behalf of Mr. French, reiterating much of Ms. Suter’s comments. Ms. Moorhouse spoke on behalf of Ms. Stockseth, stating that she would be a great representative of the public interest and what that position is intended to represent in the planning process.
Minutes of the September 19, 2002 Meeting of the
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group for the
Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program for Region “N”

Ms. Serrato called for a vote by hands. Ms. Carrillo cast the only dissenting vote. Ms. Serrato welcomed Ms. Stockseth to the group.

Agenda Item VI – Review of Seawater Desalination Initiative Meeting: Mr. Carter reviewed the Texas Water Develop Board’s (TWDB) seawater desalination initiative meeting held on August 21, 2002 in Austin. He provided a handout of the agenda items and a summary of discussion topics from the meeting. Prior to that meeting, TWDB had talked with several people to get input on the process to determine the criteria that would be used for siting the plant. He and Jim Naismith were asked to sit on that ad hoc committee, along with others from around the state and from Tampa Bay, Florida.

Mr. Carter relayed that many of the meeting’s participants expressed concern about the short time line allotted for this project. He explained that the initial charge from the governor for the demonstration seawater desalination plant was made in April and proposals have to be in to TWDB by November so that they can make their final recommendation in December to be delivered to the Texas Legislature in January.

Mr. Carter said that in addition to the proposal that the City of Corpus Christi (City) plans to submit, Dow Chemical, in a joint venture with Poseidon, plan to submit a proposal in the Freeport area. As far as he knows, neither Region H, the Houston area, nor Region L plan to submit proposals. There is a group in the valley, Region M, that is working on a proposal, but there is nothing specific in their regional plan.

Mr. Carter said that there were representatives from all the regional water planning groups at the meeting. He says that getting environment permits will be a major deciding factor in selecting the desalination plant location. One of the purposes of the demonstration project will be to demonstrate that such a project can be permitted in Texas. He also said that financing would be a major hurdle.

Mr. Carter explained that if the City was able to locate a desalination plant in conjunction with the Barney Davis Power Plant, that because of the higher salinity, more effort would be made to improve the process. The technology for brackish groundwater desalination is already proven. He said that the governor is looking at private activity bonds for funding. The meeting participants were asked to rate the criteria for such a project. Permitting, economics, and water needs were three of the top criteria. The presentation made at the meeting and additional information is available on TWDB’s website.

Mr. Dodson stated that TWDB asked the group if only projects in the regional water plans should be considered. The representatives at the meeting said that it should be open to everyone. Mr. Boeker said that TWDB will look at proposals from private entities, and it is encouraging participation from universities.

Mr. Dodson said that another issue is where the water is intended for use. The regional plans look at the needs in their specific regions, not in the interregional context of providing water to other regions.
Mr. Carter said that Mr. Jorge Arroyo with TWDB is heading up this project. Governor Perry’s plan for the Trans-Texas corridor, although primarily focused on transportation, will contain plenty of room in the right-of-ways for utilities.

Ms. Serrato asked Mr. Castaneda if he had anything to add. He said that he had brought copies of the seawater desalination strategy for the Region N plan, and copies of TWDB’s Request for Statements of Interest. Ms. Serrato reminded the planning group that the deadline for the proposals is November 1, 2002 – which leads into the next agenda item.

Agenda Item VII – Resolution Supporting the City of Corpus Christi’s Desalination Proposal to TWDB: Dr. Hubert made a motion to adopt a resolution of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group supporting an application by the City to the TWDB for acceptance of the City’s proposed seawater desalination project as the demonstration project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bledsoe.

Mr. Bledsoe suggested that the references to the Barney Davis Power Plant, paragraphs four of five of the resolution, be removed. Mr. Carter agreed that the wording should be made more general, but also stated even though AEP is considering moth-balling some of its plants, he feels that the Barney Davis plant will remain operational. He said that he should know by the November 1st deadline.

Ms. Serrato reminded the group that even though they are supporting the City’s proposal, it is up to City to develop the proposal.

Mr. Dodson asked whether any other groups in the region planned on submitting a proposal. Ms. Serrato asked if the group should make the resolution even more general by not limiting it to the City. Mr. Roach said that the San Patricio Municipal Water District had not yet decided because they didn’t know who their customers would be, and they are not sure whether or not it would be economical. They would make a decision in the next couple of weeks.

Dr. Hubert stated that he would like the group to push for desalination now. In his opinion, the largest obstacle is cost, that the environmental concerns could be worked out. He pointed out that what was too expensive ten years ago is now common place – therefore, we need to develop for the future now.

Mr. Castaneda said that they would have a first draft of their proposal the following day.

Mr. Carter reminded that a desalination plant at Barney Davis is in the regional plan. Mr. Dodson asked Mr. Castaneda if their proposal included conjunctive use of groundwater. Mr. Castaneda replied that the only difference was in the time line.

Mr. Mims suggested that the resolution remain specific to the City’s proposal because, one, it supports one of the region’s existing plans, and two, it provides local support for the City to carry out that project. He doesn’t think the group should support any plan that has not been reviewed and approved by the regional water planning process.

Ms. Serrato asked if we needed a meeting in October to support any other proposals. Mr. Paulson stated that the group should support the City and not worry about any other proposals that might
be brought forward at a later date. Ms. Serrato agreed, stating that passing this resolution would not necessarily exclude others. Mr. Carter reminded the group that any other group would have to work with the City since they are the regional supplier. Mr. Castaneda says that their advantage is that its proposal would tie directly into the City's infrastructure.

Dr. Hubert amended his motion to remove the fourth and fifth paragraphs of the resolution. Ms. Serrato called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Items VIII and IX – Authorizing Nueces River Authority, on behalf of the Coastal Bend RWPG, to distribute Population Projection Information to Water User Groups and Counties:** Ms. Freund stated that the question was raised at the previous meeting as to whether or not the projections needed to be mailed out, but that it was never answered. Mr. Bledsoe made a motion for the Nueces River Authority to send out the population projection information. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item X – Authorizing Nueces River Authority to apply 2001 Administrative Expense Overage toward 2002 Expenses:** Dr. Hubert made a motion to authorize NRA to apply 2001 Administrative Expense overage toward 2002 expenses. Mr. Dick seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item VIII – Reports:**

- **Site-Specific Criteria for TDS in Choke Canyon Reservoir:** Ms. Freund informed the group that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will re-evaluate the criteria for total dissolved solids in Choke Canyon Reservoir and recalculate the criteria if upward trends are not associated with a pollution source. They would then adopt the revised criteria in their next triennial revision of the water quality standards in 2003. It could be several years before it is approved by the EPA.

- **All-Chairs Conference Call:** Mr. Boeker informed Ms. Serrato that there is an all-chairs conference call scheduled for October 11, 2002 to discuss the next round of supplemental funding.

- **Groundwater Management Area Mapping:** Mr. Boeker informed the group that TWDB has been holding a series of meetings concerning mapping of Groundwater Management Areas. There will be a public meeting in Austin on September 30 at 1:00pm for public comment. The public comment period will be open through October 7, 2002. All information is available on the TWDB website.

- **Nueces Basin Reconnaissance Study:** Mr. Mims discussed a recently completed reconnaissance study of the Nueces Basin sponsored by the Corps of Engineers (COE). They are looking for projects that meet the COE criteria for funding of water projects – primarily for flood control and/or environmental restoration – water supply cannot be the primary purpose behind a project.

Mr. Mims explained that there are four levels of COE participation. The first is for a reconnaissance study, which is funded 100% by COE. The second is a feasibility study,
funded 50% by COE and 50% by local sponsors – cash or matching funds. The third is the design phase, funded 50% by COE and 50% by local sponsors. The fourth is the construction phase, funded up to 65% by the COE, with Congressional authorization, with the rest by local sponsors.

Five of the nine projects identified in the reconnaissance study will be included in the feasibility study, if the potential local sponsors agree:

1. A diversion project near Cotulla on the Nueces River with a pipeline to Choke Canyon Reservoir
2. A two-way pipeline between Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi. This may also include off-channel storage.
3. A seawater desalination project
4. Edward Aquifer Recharge Enhancement Projects
5. Wastewater diversions into the Nueces Delta

Potential local sponsors for the feasibility study are NRA, the City, San Antonio Water Systems, San Antonio River Authority, and Guadalupe Blanco River Authority. This group will be meeting the following day.

The feasibility study will be split into two phases. The first phase would determine the approximate size and most beneficial combinations of the projects. The second phase will involve a more detailed evaluation of the projects identified in phase one. The first phase is expected to take 18 months, with the cost to local sponsors to between $600,000 and $750,000. The second phase is expected to take 25 months, with the cost to local sponsors to be about $1.25M.

Task 4 of Region N’s current contract with TWDB includes optimization of the Nueces Basin yield. Several of the projects listed above are included in this task. The money spent on this evaluation, $80,000 - $100,000, will qualify as matching funds for the COE study. The evaluation that is done for water supply under SB1 will contribute to the feasibility level study.

Mr. Mims stressed that there would need to be a high level of coordination if the feasibility study goes forward to avoid duplication of effort and/or spending of funds. The feasibility study is important in that it preserves the opportunity to apply for federal funds for design and construction of these projects.

**Agenda Item XII:** Ms. Serrato asked for any public comment. Mr. Boucher with Save the Lake asked about using COE money to dredge Lake Corpus Christi. He said that the lake would then be able to hold more water and reduce flooding. He also asked about the sediment survey for Lake Corpus Christi. Mr. Boeker said that the final report had been sent to the City. Mr. Warren also asked about the status of the report. He felt that money should be spent taking care of what we have and not spent on additional projects. Mr. Paulsen stated that the only way Lake Corpus Christi could be used for flood control would be to let it empty between events.

**Agenda Item XIII:** The next meeting date was set for 1:30 pm on November 14, 2002 at the same location provided the facilities are available.
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Agenda Item XIV: Mr. Bledsoe made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Hubert seconded the motion. All were in favor. Ms. Serrato adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Ms. Rocky Freund and Ms. Carola Serrato

Minutes Submitted by: Patrick Hubert, DVM
Secretary, Coastal Bend RWPG
**NOTICE LIST**
Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group Meeting and
Executive Committee Meeting
On September 19, 2002

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