




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Rudy Garza, Assistant City Manager 

DATE: November 6, 2009

SUBJECT: COA/LCRA Water Partnership Stakeholder Group

The Supplemental Water Supply Agreement settlement reached two years ago between the City and LCRA calls for:

“(a) a stakeholder group comprised of a balanced and diverse group of organizations and individuals interested in the Parties’ [LCRA and COA] water supply discussions.”

The Water Partnership Stakeholder group was originally established on June 18, 2008. The Stakeholder Committee meets on a routine basis to discuss and comment on issues affecting water quality, water conservation, and water-supply. Fifteen (15) positions were created representing diverse interests and backgrounds including high growth areas (3), environmental (2), business (2), ratepayers (2), industrial (2), recreation (1), agricultural (1), conservation (1), and at-large (1). At that time, one position, at-large, remained unfilled. Recently, one of the environmental positions was vacated.

The Agreement does not specify who is to appoint the members. The appointments could be made by the Water Partnership’s Executive Management Committee (EMC), which is comprised of two officers or employees each of Austin and LCRA. However, City and LCRA staff recommended that the EMC make recommendations, and that the stakeholders be appointed by the City Council and the LCRA board. The original Stakeholder Committee was established in this fashion.

The members of the EMC are Assistant City Manager Rudy Garza and Austin Water Utility Director Greg Meszaros from the City of Austin, and Water Services Executive Manager Suzanne Zarling and Executive Manager of External Affairs Becky Motal from LCRA. Listed below are the names of the citizens recommended by the EMC for appointment to the City of Austin-LCRA Stakeholder Committee. Both persons have agreed to serve on the committee, and both were approved by LCRA’s Board of Directors in September 23rd, 2009. An item making these appointments will be on the November 19th Council agenda.

Environmental position: Andrew Sansom, Executive Director
Texas State University, River Systems Institute

At-large position: Mary Ann Hefner, Kingsland MUD President

Should Council wish to not appoint one or both members to the stakeholder group, staff will return to the EMC to discuss possible alternative recommendations to present to Council and the LCRA Board for their approval.

The committee members will serve staggered two-year terms to ensure continuity in the review and discussion of water issues. All members selected to serve one-year terms in 2008 (the first year of the Stakeholder Committee) have agreed to serve an additional two-year term. The above two recommended individuals have agreed to serve on this committee for a two-year term.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Greg Meszaros, Director, Austin Water Utility
Daryl Slusher, Assistant Director, Austin Water Utility