

**Executive Management Committee Quarterly Meeting
Austin-LCRA Water Partnership
APPROVED MINUTES**

Date: March 12, 2010

Location: Austin City Hall
CMO Conference Room (Rm 3103)

Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Attendees:

Ross Crow, Austin	Karen Bondy, LCRA
Rudy Garza, Austin	Lyn Clancy, LCRA
Richard Hoffpauir, Austin	Yvonne Davis, LCRA
Teresa Lutes, Austin	James Kowis, LCRA
Greg Meszaros, Austin	Becky Motal, LCRA
Daryl Slusher, Austin	Suzanne Zarling, LCRA
Jeff Fox, Austin	Lisa Hatzenbuehler, LCRA
	Jennifer Wendler, LCRA

Minutes:

I. Agenda and Action Items from Last Meeting

- a. Action items listed in meeting minutes:
 - i. List of City of Austin-LCRA Water Partnership Committees will be posted on the web. The committee lists are also in the approved Annual Reports (Appendix 1).
 - ii. A copy of the October 2009 City of Austin memo to the Mayor and Council on the City's Integrated Water Resources Planning efforts was provided to LCRA staff.

II. Review and discuss City of Austin and LCRA Water Partnership task list and highlights for 2010: schedules for water demand projection update and water quality report

- a. Water demand projection: Requirements and schedule from the City of Austin and LCRA Supplemental Water Supply Agreement (SWSA) were reviewed. Projection is to be developed and submitted to the Water Partnership by the end of 2010. Plan will be to develop draft for review, including review by the Stakeholder Committee, etc., this fall. Suzanne Zarling noted that demand projection differences with the State Water Plan should be documented as stated in section 3.3.2.1 (b) of the SWSA.
- b. Water Quality report: Staff report on Water Partnership's efforts to develop a process for water quality monitoring and evaluation for impacts related to water supply decisions (Section 3.13 of the SWSA). Report is to be developed by the end of 2010.

III. LCRA / SAWS Water Project Status Update

- a. Suzanne Zarling gave an update on the status of the LCRA/SAWS Water Project. The District Court Judge dismissed the contract law suit filed by SAWS. The project is on hold pending resolution of issues. LCRA has available funds to pay its portion of the study costs, as needed.

IV. Discuss EMC meetings for 2010:

- a. Schedule of remainder of 2010 quarterly meetings were determined:
 - i. June 11, 2010, 9:00 am to noon (with a workshop)
 - ii. September 10, 2010, 10:00 am to noon
 - iii. December 10, 2010, 9:00 am to noon (with a workshop)
- b. Workshop topics and schedule (two workshops)
 - i. June 11, 2010 EMC Meeting Workshop will be on LCRA's upcoming Water Management Plan update process
 - ii. December 10, 2010 EMC Meeting Workshop to cover Austin's water demand projection and the water quality report.

V. Committee Reports:

- a. Technical Committee:
 - i. Lyn Clancy, the 2010 Technical Committee facilitator, gave a report on recent activities:
 - 1. The Annual Report for 2009 was completed and is posted on both entities' websites.
 - 2. The letter documenting the resolution to the Lady Bird Lake level maintenance water use accounting issue has been signed. A more detailed Lady Bird Lake Lowering Protocol document draft is being developed.
 - 3. The draft Stoneledge Quarry memorandum of understanding is being reviewed by the Barton Springs / Edwards Aquifer Conservation District.
 - 4. A company named Robust Energy recently contacted both LCRA and Austin regarding Robust Energy's proposal for a district Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system for downtown building heating and cooling. Process-wise, they have been directed to the Technical Committee as a forum to discuss their issues and questions.
 - 5. Austin Energy and LCRA are continuing discussions and information gathering to explore the possibility of LCRA operating Longhorn Dam in the future.

- b. Stakeholder Committee:
 - i. Daryl Slusher highlighted that the next committee event is a field trip to Lakeway MUD to be led by Richard Eason, the MUD's General Manager (Stakeholder Committee member representing Recreation). In early October last year, the group met in the lower basin for an LCRA Irrigation Division and Gertson Farm field tour to see rice irrigation operations. Suggested possible future Stakeholder Committee meeting topics included discussion of drought management measures, LCRA's Water Management Plan update process, and Austin's water demand projections.
- c. Water Conservation Committee:
 - i. Daryl Slusher reported that the committee has met and shared information on coordination opportunities with area entities, including the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, on watering schedules and other regional conservation information. Karen Bondy noted that LCRA and the City have been working together on conservation issues including Nora Mullarkey's participation on the City's Citizens Water Conservation Implementation Task Force. Greg Meszaros added that the City plans to develop an enhanced marketing outreach program for water conservation, which should soon be available to be shared.
- d. Water Quality Committee:
 - i. See Section II. b. above.

VI. LCRA Water Supply Resource Plan Process Update:

- a. James Kowis gave an update on LCRA's Water Supply Resource Plan process. LCRA is still reviewing the public comments and compiling the results which will be shared with their Board and the City. Adoption of the Water Supply Resource Plan by the LCRA Board is expected during the summer.

VII. Updates:

- a. Region K and SB 3 Environmental Flows Process:
 - i. Teresa Lutes reported that the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Initially Prepared Plan draft for 2011 is in the public review process. Public meetings and public hearing are planned. The public comment period is through June 28, 2010 and the planning group has until September 1, 2010 to submit the final draft to TWDB. James Kowis mentioned that the LCRA – SAWS Water Project (LSWP) was kept in this round of planning and is also a part of the Region L (South Central Texas) plan, however alternate strategies were included in the event that LSWP is removed in future regional planning. The Senate Bill 3 process for the

Colorado and Lavaca Rivers and the Matagorda and Lavaca Bays is ongoing with the recent selection of the Basin and Bay Expert Science Team which will have a year to prepare their environmental flow recommendations for the SB3 Stakeholder Committee. Status updates will be provided at future EMC meetings as appropriate.

- b. Permit Applications:
 - i. Lyn Clancy discussed the status of several permit applications:
 - 1. Leander Inter-Basin Transfer (IBT) – the permitting process is continuing
 - 2. Garwood – as of last summer a draft permit has been prepared and LCRA will be having a follow up meeting with TCEQ Water Rights staff.
 - 3. Unappropriated Flows – The abatement has been extended through mid-July, 2010. LCRA staff is hopeful there will be some resolution by the end of this period.
 - 4. Joint Return Flow – continuing work drafting joint permit application

VIII. Brief Overview of LCRA Water Management Plan (WMP) Update Process

- a. LCRA staff is preparing for the WMP update process to commence in July 2010. The stakeholder process planning is underway. A workshop will be held during the next EMC meeting to cover the WMP update process in more detail.

IX. Other business or news items

- a. Greg Meszaros reported that recent City customer water use has reduced since the rains started last fall. Suzanne Zarling noted that rice farmers are behind in their planting schedule because fields have been so wet.
- b. Karen Bondy said LCRA has mailed out about 5,000 letters to customers around the Highland Lakes addressing their domestic use program, which requires a contract with LCRA and that they have received a number of applications. If the City gets any calls about the program they can be directed to Karen Bondy.
- c. Daryl Slusher mentioned that recent billing statements from the City had a “Grow Green” insert and addressed ongoing drought issues.

Action items from the meeting: No specific action items were noted

Meeting Adjourned approximately at 11:30