

Executive Management Committee Quarterly Meeting Austin-LCRA Water Partnership

APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 7, 2012

Location: LCRA Board Conference Room
Hancock Building

Meeting Time: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Greg Meszaros, Austin Water
Robert Goode, Austin
Teresa Lutes, Austin Water
Jeff Fox, Austin Water
Ross Crow, Austin

Lyn Clancy, LCRA
Henry Eby, LCRA
Karen Bondy, LCRA
Don Kizer, LCRA
Tom Hegemier, LCRA
David Wheelock, LCRA
Gail Oliver, LCRA

Minutes:

I. **Welcome** – Henry Eby brought the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at about 2:00 p.m.

II. **Agenda and Minutes from Last Meeting**

a. Reviewed agenda

b. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve the June 8, 2012 EMC Minutes.

III. **On-going Drought** - Karen Bondy provided an update, stating that the combined storage of Lakes Buchanan and Travis is at about 890,000 acre-feet which is about 44% of capacity. Lake Travis is at about elevation 634, which is about 30 feet below the monthly average and Lake Buchanan is at about elevation 994, which is about 17 feet below the monthly average. Lake inflows are about 10% of normal inflows and to date about 40,000 to 50,000 acre-feet was released past Tom Miller Dam to meet downstream needs, which includes about 6,000 acre-feet to the Garwood Irrigation Division. So far this year, almost 970,000 acre-feet has gone over the Bay City Dam into Matagorda Bay. Some discussion centered on the Water Management Plan Emergency Order issued by TCEQ for 2012. LCRA indicated its opinion that the Order has no operative provisions beyond December 31, 2012. The City indicated it is interested in extending relief from the current Water Management Plan through 2013 if reservoir conditions do not significantly improve. LCRA indicated that staff is monitoring reservoir levels and the long-term weather outlook and may consider options later this year.

- IV. Water Management Plan Amendment** – David Wheelock indicated that LCRA staff is responding to a Request for Information (RFI) related to the water model review. LCRA anticipates no further technical RFIs from TCEQ and believes we may see later this year an agenda item to the TCEQ Commission requesting approval.
- V. Technical Committee Report** – David Wheelock reported that the committee has worked on a number of issues with emphasis on the coordination of ongoing applications, namely, the joint application for reuse of Austin’s return flows. It was determined that this process can move forward without additional Executive Management Committee input.
- VI. Stakeholder Committee Member Replacements**– Karen Bondy noted that Daryl Slusher will coordinate with Yvonne Davis to replace two vacant seats, one for the High Growth Area and the other for the Industrial interest. Lyn Clancy will provide a summary of the stakeholder committee’s role to the EMC. It was noted that the City Council and LCRA Board must approve new committee members.
- VII. Legislative Items** – City staff indicated a recent presentation by State Representative Allan Ritter of District 21 (east of Houston) suggested that he may seek some level of funding for the state water plan to develop new supplies. It was also noted that some have heard about potential “lake level” legislation to maintain higher lake levels. In addition, LCRA recently hired Kathy Walt from Governor Perry’s office as the Executive Manager of Governmental Affairs.
- VIII. Workshop – New Water Supply and Surface Water Supply Agreement Review** – Karen Bondy gave an overview LCRA’s initiative to develop 100,000 acre-feet per year of new firm supply by 2017. This included the topics of potential downstream reservoirs and groundwater development. Lyn Clancy and Ross Crow provided a summary of the Supplemental Water Supply Agreement between LCRA and the City. In addition, they shared a summary of obligations related to new water supply as part of the Agreement.
- IX. Other business or news items, as time allows** – Lyn Clancy and Ross Crow will provide a presentation to the UT Law School on the Water Partnership. Also, Greg Meszaros noted that the City updated their Water Code Ordinance which better aligns water restrictions with lake levels and creates drip irrigation incentives. The City conservation effort has yielded a 13% reduction in per capita use over the past four years and is on track to reach the 140 gallons per capita per day goal. Finally, there was some discussion on the San Saba River, its current dry condition, water diversions, water rights and the TCEQ water master evaluation.
- X. Meeting Adjourned at approximately 4:10 p.m.**