

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

Date: February 2, 2009

Location: Austin City Hall
301 W. 2nd Street
3rd Floor, Conf. Room 3002
Austin, TX 78701

Meeting Start: 3:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ross Crow, Austin	Karen Bondy, LCRA
Rudy Garza, Austin	Yvonne Davis, LCRA
Richard Hoffpauir, Austin	Greg Graml, LCRA
David Johns, Austin	James Kowis, LCRA
Greg Meszaros, Austin	Becky Motal, LCRA
Perwez Moheet, Austin	Suzanne Zarling, LCRA
Ken Ramirez, Austin	
Daryl Slusher, Austin	

Minutes:

I. Ladybird Lake – Amendment to Bylaws

- Staff proposed a change in the bylaws to make the deadline for addressing the maintenance of Lady Bird Lake consistent with the June 2007 Settlement Agreement. The Executive Management Committee approved the recommended change.

II. Stoneledge Quarry Presentation

- David Johns presented information about the proposed Stoneledge Quarry recharge project.
- The Technical Committee has met with the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD) to discuss the project.
- David Johns identified potential project benefits as :
 - ❖ Sustaining flows at Barton Springs during a drought- the project is estimated to increase flows by 0.4 cfs at the springs.)
 - ❖ Capitalizing on protection of upstream land
 - ❖ The pilot project could act as a model for future aquifer recharge and flood control efforts
 - ❖ Agency cooperation between the following partners.
- Next steps include: Technical Committee will continue to work with BSEACD regarding how to address protection from pumping of the recharge water that may be produced by the project. The Technical Committee will then provide its recommendations to the EMC.

III. EMC Workshops

- EMC discussed plans for the year's EMC workshops. Although the Technical Committee has workshops planned, the EMC decided that separate workshops should be held for the EMC members, limited in duration to about 2 hours.
- James Kowis reviewed agenda for Technical Committee workshop on February 13, focusing primarily on LCRA water rights and operations. Greg Meszaros offered to hold a reciprocal workshop on Austin's Water Treatment Plant #4, conservation programs, especially in relation to demand reduction strategies, or Stoneledge Quarry issues later in the year.
- Becky Motal asked that the entire EMC be copied on Technical Committee workshop dates so that EMC members can attend if they are free.
- Suzanne Zarling will put together a proposed schedule of EMC workshops for the rest of the year. The topics are 1) LCRA and City of Austin water rights, water supply commitments, and operations; and 2) LCRA and City water conservation efforts. A suggestion was also made that the drought be the subject of a future EMC workshop.

IV. Stakeholder Committee Goals

- Karen Bondy reviewed the original intent of the Stakeholder Committee, which was to discuss supply decisions. Because those discussions may be a long way off, the need for stakeholder meetings in the near future is unclear.
- The Stakeholder Committee does not necessarily want to meet if there is no need for their input at this time. The EMC discussed holding annual Stakeholder Committee meetings to keep the committee up to speed, and then increase the frequency of meetings once the supply discussions become imminent. Another suggestion was to offer optional informational meetings that are not a requirement for the group, along with one meeting per year that is more substantive.
- Ross Crow and Daryl Slusher will follow up with Stakeholder Committee member Jennifer Walker of the Sierra Club to confirm that her organization does not have concerns with holding meetings at an annual frequency until such time as supply discussions begin.
- Ross Crow and Greg Graml will also revisit the 2007 Supplemental Water Supply Agreement (SWSA) and EMC bylaws to determine if an annual meeting frequency would require any amendments.

V. Year-End Review and Look Ahead

- The group agreed that the EMC is working well together. The only concern was related to communication of the City's protest of LCRA's water right application for inter-basin transfer (IBT) to Leander.

- Greg Meszaros suggested making major issues such as the water rights application an agenda item, not just a “hot topic” on EMC meeting agendas.
- Greg Meszaros also asked that the drought be included as a topic for the next EMC meeting.
- The group also requested updates at the next meeting on 1) water related to Austin Energy, 2) pending water rights applications, including the unappropriated (excess) flows permit, 3) inter-basin transfers, 4) LCRA’s Water Supply Resource Plan, 5) water conservation, and 6) Region K.

VI. Technical Committee Updates

A. Waller Creek Tunnel Project

- Construction on this flood control project will begin in 2010.
- One of the permits that the City intends to amend also authorizes the storage in Lady Bird Lake. The City expects to file applications to amend the water rights in the next few months.
- The City expects to file a water supply contract application with LCRA for 180 acre-feet per year which is intended to cover the impacts of the Waller Creek Tunnel Project.

B. Austin Gage Relocation

- LCRA is considering replacing the Austin gage at a new location, less than one mile away from its current location, which would require access over City property. LCRA staff will work with City staff on this.

VII. Update on LCRA/SAWS Water Project and Related LCRA Board Resolutions

- Suzanne Zarling updated the group on the status of the project and recent LCRA Board guidance. The potential impact of this guidance is currently being studied and may result in less water available to SAWS.

VIII. Update on LCRA City of Leander Inter-Basin Transfer Water Right Application

- A public meeting on the transfer may be months off, according to TCEQ.
- The City stated that its concerns are related to the potential for some reuse policy to come out of the hearing process. The City stated that if it is the only protestant, it doesn’t want to trigger a hearing. However, the City wants to maintain party status in the event that there is a contested case hearing.

IX. Hot Topics

- James Kowis gave an update on the drought. He shared a recent presentation made by Bob Rose, LCRA Meteorologist.

- EMC members discussed the City of Austin and LCRA working together on a press release regarding the drought sometime in the future, as well as working together on Water IQ related to the drought.

Action items from the meeting:

- Becky Motal asked that the entire EMC be copied on workshop dates so that members can attend if they are free.
- Suzanne Zarling will put together a schedule of EMC workshops for the rest of the year.
- Ross Crow and Daryl Slusher plan to follow up with Stakeholder Committee member Jennifer Walker of the Sierra Club to confirm that her organization does not have concerns with holding meetings at an annual frequency until such time as supply discussions begin. .
- Ross Crow and Greg Graml will revisit the 2007 SWSA and EMC Bylaws to make sure the EMC decision related to annual Stakeholder Committee meetings falls within the guidelines.
- In the future, make major issues an agenda item, not just a “hot topic.”
- Suzanne Zarling to discuss a schedule for drought discussions with Greg Meszaros.

Meeting Ended: 5:15 p.m.