



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: 10/7/14

Prepared By/Phone Number: Steve Manilla Phone #: -8549429

Division Director/Manager: NA

Department Head: Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Member: County Judge Sam Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Consider and take appropriate action a request for funding assistance received from the Lower Colorado Regional Planning Group (Region K)

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

On September 14, 2014 the Judge's office received the attached letter from Mr. John Burk, Chair of the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K) (RWPG). Mr. Burk advised that the RWPG is reaching out for participation in the water planning process. Furthermore, as a regional group representing multiple public agencies and stakeholders the RPWG develops a regional water plan with a 50 year planning horizon. Additional information about the RPWG can be found at its web site at www.RegionK.org. Budgetary information from the website is as follows:

Region K is made up of all or parts of 14 counties in Central Texas: San Saba, Brunet, Llano, Mills, Blanco, Gillespie, Hays (partial), Williamson (partial), Travis, Bastrop, Fayette, Wharton (partial), Colorado, and Matagorda.

Region K has no regulatory, strategy or project implementation authority. Region K does not have the power to enforce conservation but it is up to individual users and businesses to conserve water.

Region K is sponsored by the Texas Water Development Board and Region K acquired a grant of \$227,689.00 and an amended addition of \$565,838 to support the forth cycle (2011-2016) of regional planning.

During the first two years of the current five-year planning cycle, Region K is conducting special studies to examine particular water strategies and identify changing conditions. Region K is building on, and improving, the existing plan. (The volumous Plan can be found at the RPWG website, www.RegionK.org). Region K is particularly focused during the planning cycle on coordination within the region, as is required to address shared challenges. In the later portion of this five-year planning cycle, the RWPG will again revise the Regional Water Plan to address changed

conditions and to reflect regional input on potentially feasible water management strategies.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The planning process benefits Travis County and its residents and businesses because it reviews regional water demands, identifies whether water supply systems are adequate in capacity , and then establishes strategies to meet future water needs.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

The Regional Water Plan is updated every five years and the RWPG is developing the 2016 water plan for the 14 counties in the region. As in the previous planning cycles the Texas Water Development Board pays for most, but not all, of the planning costs. The region must pay for some of the costs of public meetings, RWPG meetings, management, administration, oversight, and fiscal accountability of the process. The RPWG reports that about 15 years ago Travis County provided some of the funding needed and those funds are rapidly nearing exhaustion. They are now therefore soliciting funds to cover these needs. A sense of urgency has been added to the request by current drought conditions which necessitate a water availability analysis with the latest hydrology.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The goal of the RPWG is to raise \$15,000 and they are asking that each entity participate with an amount reasonable to their organization. TNR suggests a contribution of up to \$5000 and recommends funding this request from its FY2015 operating budget (1490010001 511890 Other Consulting Services). Upon approval of this item, TNR will enter a funds reservation in SAP in anticipation of an interlocal agreement. The funds reservation would be used for the purchase order once the interlocal agreement has been executed.

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

September 4, 2014 letter from John Burk, RWPG Chair

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Cynthia McDonald	Financial Manager	TNR	854-4239
Steve Manilla	County Executive	TNR	854-9429
Jessica Rio	PBO Manager	PBO	
Nikki Riley	Auditor	Auditor Office	
Tom Nuckols	Asst County Attorney	County Attorney Office	854-9262

CC:

Jon White	TNR-NREQ Director	TNR-NREQ	854-7212
Tom Weber	TNR-EQ Division Mngr	TNR-NREQ	854-4629

: :
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VOTING MEMBERS

John Burke, Chair
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Teresa Lutes, Secretary
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John T. Dupnik
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Haskell Simon
James Sultemeier
Byron Theodosis
Paul Tybor
David Van Dresar
Brandon Wade
Jennifer Walker
David Wheelock

COUNTIES

Bastrop
Blanco
Burnet
Colorado
Fayette
Gillespie
Hays (partial)
Llano
Matagorda
Mills
San Saba
Travis
Wharton (partial)
Williamson (partial)

Lower Colorado River Authority, Administrative Agent
P.O. Box 220, Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 473-3200, Fax (512) 473-4026

September 4, 2014

RECEIVED
COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE

14 SEP -8 PM 1:10

Honorable Judge Samuel Bisco
TRAVIS COUNTY
P.O. BOX 1748
Austin, TX 78767

Re: Request for Funding Assistance Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K)

Dear Honorable Judge Bisco:

The Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) is reaching out for participation in the water planning process. As a regional group representing cities, industries, public and environmental interests, counties, groundwater conservation districts, and other water stakeholders, the RWPG develops a regional water plan with a 50 year planning horizon. Visit www.RegionK.org to view and download the current water plan.

The Regional Water Plan is updated every five years and the RWPG is developing the 2016 water plan for the 14 counties in the region. As in the previous planning cycles, the Texas Water Development Board pays for most, but not all, of the planning costs. The region must pay for some of the costs of public meetings, RWPG meetings, management, administration, oversight, and fiscal accountability of the process. About 15 years ago, the RWPG reached out to you for funding support and the funds received have lasted throughout that time period. However, our bank account for public meetings and communications, RWPG meetings, and other costs is now low and we are soliciting funds to cover these needs. Additionally, the current severe drought has created the need for updates to the water availability analyses with the latest hydrology. The need for these updates is occurring faster than our budgeting and scoping process and we have unfunded technical work that is needed to produce a sufficient water plan.

The RWPG is reaching out to cities, counties, water districts, water utilities, water authorities, industries and others for financial participation in the water planning process. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 and we ask that you participate with an amount reasonable to your organization. Checks should be made out to Region K RWPG and sent to the address on this letterhead.

I would like to thank you for participating in this important planning effort in the past. I ask that you and your organization continue to provide the necessary support to ensure that the water plan for this region is truly a benefit to all of our constituents and the region itself. If you have any questions, or if you would like for a Planning Group member to meet with your governing body, please contact me at 512-914-3474 or at johnburke41@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Burke'.

John Burke
Chair