

**Citizens Advisory Panel
February 14, 2006
Meeting Summary**

Attendance:

Howard Peak	Dr. Ed Roy	Susan Wright
Dave Barton	Richard Araujo	Steven Schauer
Evelyn Bonavita	Dr. Weldon Hammond	Orlando Cisneros
Gerald Mullin	Luci Cockrell	
Jerry Green	Joe Fulton	
Marianne Kestenbaum	Eiginio Rodriguez	Andy Johnston
Tony Naverrete	Ben Youngblood	Eddie Gonzalez

Excused:

Rene Cortez
Gene Dawson Jr.

Absent:

Nettie Hinton
Jack C. Jordan

SAWS Staff:

Calvin Finch	Kevin Morrison
Rene Gonzalez	Thomas Smith
Michelle Eisenhauer	Victor Portillo

Board Member:

Roberto Anguiano

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Howard Peak at 5:57 p.m.

Introductions

Mr. Peak welcomed all of the members and asked them to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new members that were present.

Committee Business

The issue of the agenda being sent out late was discussed and staff was asked to make every effort to get the information out to the committee and the public in the appropriate time. Staff stated that in the future the agenda would be posted via email, mail out, website and SAWS bulletin board. The committee made the suggestion of having the meeting notice submitted to the press. Staff stated that they would look into adding this method of notice to the list of possibilities. Staff brought up the issue of the length of the minutes, and asked the committee if in the future it would be fitting to summarize the minutes to a more suitable size. The committee agreed that it might be more appropriate to summarize the minutes when possible.

Mr. Peak stated if there was no more house keeping issues to clear up that the meeting would continue with the presentation by Mr. Morrison.

Brackish Groundwater Desalination Presentation & Discussion (Kevin Morrison)

Mr. Morrison gave a presentation on the Brackish Groundwater Desal Feasibility Assessment. Mr. Morrison discussed the aspects of the Brackish Desal Project that RW Beck would be addressing in the feasibility study.

Mr. Morrison discussed the Scope of Work for the feasibility study which contained the following issues SAWS needed to have clarified:

1. Groundwater Hydrology
2. Water Quality
3. Concentrate Management
4. Procurement & Financial
5. Permitting

Mr. Peak asked what effects to the saline water line would occur by drawing brackish water out of the Edwards? He also opened the floor up for discussion.

Mr. Morrison stated that this was a concern of executive management and that in the scope of work, the effects of the saline & fresh water interface along with the effects of the springs and our own index wells were questions to be answered.

Dr. Roy asked if SAWS had looked at other project sites that have done similar projects to get an understanding of the pros and cons of this type of project.

Mr. Smith discussed his knowledge of the South Texas project in the Gulf Coast Aquifer and the issues that they have had to overcome.

Mr. Portillo also added that there is another project in the El Paso area that is currently being constructed, and that they are utilizing deep well injection to eliminate the discharge.

Dr. Roy also asked about the timeline and if the drill sites had been selected.

Mr. Morrison stated that the drill sites had not been selected at this time.

Mr. Green wanted to have some background on the treatment plants and the distribution system.

Mr. Morrison gave an explanation of our distribution system and said that we could bring in someone to explain the treatment facilities that would be needed to treat the water in question.

Ms. Bonavita said that members of the Regional Planning group had some concern about the effects this project would have on the Edwards.

Mr. Morrison stated that this was going to be a test well and not a production well. He also stated that SAWS would provide all of the information gathered from this study to the Edwards.

Mr. Rodriguez had a comment about some findings of the USGS and their claim that there might be an underground river that runs from west to east in the Edwards.

Mr. Morrison stated that SAWS was using the most up to date Edwards model and that it should be incorporated into the model.

Mr. Araujo had a question about the location of the saline water and how we would acquire it without disturbing the fresh water.

Mr. Morrison stated that the casing that is placed into the ground would be sealed through the fresh water zone of the Edwards to keep from drawing from that zone.

Discussion of Benchmarking the Brackish Desal Feasibility Study

With no further questions **Mr. Peak** asked Calvin what was the responsibilities of the CAP at this point. Calvin asked Dr. Roy if he would take the floor on the issues of the benchmarking process.

Dr. Roy stated that with the current status of the Brackish Desal Project that it might be better to benchmark the project around the March or April timeframe.

Mr. Morrison suggested that we might want to wait till the drilling and pump testing have been completed.

Mr. Finch suggested that it might be interesting to get the perspective from other individuals that have gone thru this process.

Mr. Green stated that if the information provided was viewed as a feasibility study he would be willing to vote for it that night. He stated that if SAWS follows all of the issues outlined in the scope of work he would move forward on it.

Mr. Araujo asked if SAWS would have to buy the land for the well sites.

Mr. Finch commented that SAWS was interested in looking at public lands for the well sites.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if the water would be used for drinking purposes.

Mr. Morrison stated that the water would be used for drinking purposes, and that SAWS would make every effort to mimic the water makeup of the Edwards water being utilized in our system.

Mr. Peak suggested that staff bring this back to the committee in a month or two when more information has been developed.

Open Discussion

The committee had an open discussion on various subjects which included, the new benchmarking process, water quality of the Brackish Groundwater, the ecological factors on habitat, the power source that would be utilized, Groundwater Quality & Availability, Project Management Process, and the possibility of bringing individuals who have gone thru this process. Staff provided responses to all of the questions brought forth in the discussion.

Citizens to be Heard

Mr. Jack M. Finger & Mr. Larry Hoffmann

Schedule Next Meeting: March 14, 2006.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, the Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m., by Mr. Howard Peak.