

**Citizens Advisory Panel
May 9, 2006
Meeting Summary**

Attendance:

Howard Peak	Ben Youngblood
Gene Dawson Jr.	Steven Schauer
Orlando Cisneros	Dr. Ed Roy
Dave Barton	Susan Wright
Jerry Green	Marianne Kestenbaum
Nettie Hinton	Eiginio Rodriguez
Tony Navarrete	Luci Cockrell
Gerald Mullin	Evelyn Bonavita
Joe Fulton	

Excused:

Dr. Weldon Hammond	Rene Cortez
Andy Johnston	Jack C. Jordan

Absent:

Eddie Gonzalez	Richard Araujo
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SAWS Staff:

Calvin Finch	Joseph Rippole
Michelle Eisenhauer	Steve Fletcher
Kevin Morrison	

Board Member:

Roberto Anguiano	Doug Leonhard
Michael Lackey	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Howard Peak at 6:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Peak asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Mr. Cisneros moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved for the April 11th meeting.

Open Discussion

Dr. Roy commented that Chairman Mayor wanted to be at the meeting, but that he was unable because of his wife's health. Dr. Roy stated that Chairman Mayor wanted to thank the committee for all of the dedicated work the committee has accomplished over the years. Mr. Finch also added that the CAP may want to have a representative at the next board meeting to provide thanks for Chairman Mayor's work with the System. Mr. Finch asked the committee if they were interested in Drought Management meeting discussions. The committee responded favorably, so Mr. Navarrete and Ms. Kestenbaum gave a brief update on the discussions the committee has discussed to date. Mr. Peak asked the participating committee members to keep the CAP informed of the progress of the sub-committee.

LCRA Benchmarking Review (Open Discussion)

Mr. Finch opened the discussion with reminding the committee that they were interested in a simple benchmarking process. Mr. Finch elaborated that the committee wanted to be able to give an assessment to staff and the Board of Trustees on the projects in question. Dr. Roy asked the committee members to look at the staff benchmarking and make comments. He asked that the comments be incorporated into the document by next meeting. Mr. Finch asked the committee to provide additional written comments to him if they had any and they would be incorporate into the document.

LCRA Benchmarking Review (Open Discussion)-Continued

Questions asked during the discussion:

1. When will SAWS get first drop of water? *The first drop of water will be delivered around 2020.*
2. What are the Key Decisions points for the project? *7 year study period, Permit issued by the state and groundwater districts, Implementation Plan, Notice to LCRA on amount of water to be delivered and LCRA design and construction of their facilities 2010 – 2020.*
3. When does the Board of Trustees have to make their decision? *They have to make their decision by 2010.*
4. When does the 50 Years of deliverable water start? *The 50 Years starts at start of the Implementation Phase 2010.*
5. Is SAWS going to have an outreach program to talk to the counties that will be affected by the project? *Yes the outreach program will start in June.*
6. Where is the detailed information at for this project? *All of the information is at WWW.LCRA.org under water projects titled LCRA-SAWS Project.*
7. Is the information provided differently than from the web page? *No, the information provided should be what is posted on the website.*
8. If the project does not provide for the projected firm yield total, how is the 150,000 acft amount prorated? *The agreement states that LCRA gets 180,000 acft, and that SAWS would get 150,000 acft of water.*
9. Is the drought of record in the Colorado River Basin the same as our drought of record? *Yes it is.*
10. What about the end of the project, is there just a drastic cut off from the water? *There is a reduction of supply which reduces the amount of water on an annual basis till we reach no supply.*
11. Is Region L continuing to refine the population projects and factoring in the water availability? *(Evelyn Bonavita answered the question by stating) Region L is required to study and refine the population for the region to determine the amount of water needed.*

Brackish Groundwater Desal Feasibility Assessment (Presentation - Kevin Morrison)

Mr. Morrison talked about the sites that SAWS will be looking at for potential drill sites. The sites that look promising are in the southern portion of Bexar County. The Wilcox, which is a sand aquifer, was the first site that he discussed. Issues that need attention are total depth of the Wilcox formation, the brackish sand thickness, potential drawdown of the formation and the regulatory issues involved with this type of project. SAWS is also interested in potential sites in northeastern and northwestern Atascosa County.

Mr. Morrison also discussed the different types of procurement options that SAWS is investigating to be as cost beneficial to the System as possible. The options included the design bid build (Traditional), design bid build with contract operations and the design build own operate transfer (DBOOT) option which SAWS is interested in pursuing. Mr. Morrison also provided information on the risks for both the traditional and the DBOOT options.

Mr. Morrison identified the different types of permits that SAWS is responsible for before the project can be pursued. And to finish up the presentation Mr. Morrison went over the future feasibility assessment timeline that SAWS needs to accomplish before pursuing this project.

Comments & Responses

Mr. Youngblood asked if everything went according to schedule when would SAWS get the first glass of water? *If everything went according to schedule we would get the first glass of water in 2010.*

Southmost Regional Water Authority (Presentation - Bill Norris, P.E. - Guest Speaker)

Mr. Norris gave a brief history of the creation and accomplishments of the Southmost Regional Water Authority, SRWA. He also briefed the committee on the member entities, regional planning impacts, regional approaches to groundwater desalination, execution-design and the execution-construction of the project. Mr. Norris continued with a discussion on the major contracts, execution – operation/startup, startup difficulties, contract operations, benefits/implementation issues, goals and finished his presentation with the outcome of their efforts.

Comments & Responses

Mr. Navarrete asked how did the feasibility study compare to what actually happened? *Mr. Norris answered the question by saying that the well field cost was more than what was expected. He added that it is important to make sure that the power supply issues are set.* Ms. Hinton asked what was the bottom line cost per acre-foot? *Mr. Norris said the cost per acre-foot was less than \$300 dollars to treat.* Mr. Fulton asked how much reject is produced for each gallon. *Mr. Norris said that for every 10 gallons coming into the plant, there was 2.5 gallons of reject being disposed into the gulf channel.* Mr. Rodriguez asked what was the reaction to iron in the water? *Mr. Norris explained the process that was used to treat the iron issue.* Mr. Morrison asked about the post treatment before the going to the distribution system? *Mr. Norris' Partner provided the explanation to the question.* Mr. Navarrete asked what was the public perception of treatment of brackish water? *Mr. Norris said that the project went so fast, that people didn't realize what was happening until the project was already completed.* Mr. Rodriguez asked if the project targeted the distribution of the water to specific areas? *Mr. Norris stated that the water was treated to the standards of the existing water conditions.* Mr. Navarrete asked if anyone noticed the difference in the water quality? *Mr. Norris said that when Rancho Viejo introduced their water their customers did notice the water tasted better.* Mr. Fulton asked SAWS staff how big is the desalination project that SAWS is pursuing? *Mr. Morrison stated that we SAWS is interested in a plant that treats 20-30 million gallons per day.* Mr. Navarrete asked where did the funding come from? *Mr. Norris said that the funding came from contract revenue bonds.* Ms. Hinton asked how did it fly so far under the radar with the people in the area? *Mr. Norris stated that they did not have to wait on federal dollars and they just used the bonding capacity from Brownsville.*

Citizens to be Heard

No citizens signed up to talk.

Schedule Next Meeting: June 13, 2006.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, the Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m., by Mr. Howard Peak.