

**Citizens Advisory Panel
September 12, 2006
Meeting Summary**

Attendance:

Howard Peak	Ben Youngblood
Dr. Ed Roy	Steven Schauer
Orlando Cisneros	Evelyn Bonavita
Dave Barton	Dr. Weldon Hammond
Jerry Green	Marianne Kestenbaum
Rene Cortez	Eiginio Rodriguez
Richard Araujo	Tony Navarrete

Excused:

Gerald Mullin	Joe Fulton
Gene Dawson Jr.	

Absent:

Nettie Hinton	Luci Cockrell
Susan Wright	

SAWS Staff:

Calvin Finch	Stephen Turner
Michelle Eisenhauer	Rene Gonzalez
Joseph Rippole	Kenneth Brooks
Charles Ahrens	Mario Aguilar
Darren Thompson	

Board Member:

Michael Lackey

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Howard Peak at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Peak asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Mr. Cortez moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Schauer second the motion. The minutes were approved for the August 9th meeting.

Water Resource Committee Update (Open Discussion)

Mr. Finch discussed the issues of the bid process which took place in August.

Mr. Youngblood asked where the aquifer level was at.

Mr. Thompson stated the level at J-17 was at 956.1 msl.

Ms. Bonavita asked what the level was at San Marcos Springs.

Mr. Thompson replied it was at 96 cfs. Mr. Finch stated that San Marcos Springs was not in tune with J-17 or Comal Springs.

LCRA-SAWS Benchmarking (Open Discussion)

Mr. Peak asked that the committee to move forward with the approval of the LCRA-SAWS Water Supply Project Benchmarking.

Dr. Roy reminded the committee of the work that they have done over the past 3 months. He also recommended that the CAP approve the executive summary and the benchmarking process document be adopted by the CAP that evening.

Mr. Peak asked if there were any more comments on the recommendations.

Mr. Green with no further recommendations, second the motion. He did mention that the meeting at the Witte was interesting, but there was some opposition. He also had a comment about a correction on page 8 on the document.

Mr. Rippole stated that the correction would be made before it goes to the board of trustees.

Mr. Peak asked who the opposition at the meeting was.

Mr. Green stated there were a number of individuals from the Austin area and rice farmers from the lower basin.

Ms. Bonavita stated there was much concern from the audience that groundwater would be coming to San Antonio.

Mr. Finch stated current legislation does not allow for groundwater transfers from one basin to another.

Mr. Green stated the project was massive, and with projects of that size there will always be some concerns.

Mr. Peak asked the committee if they were in favor of approving the content of the report. All of the committee was in favor of accepting the report.

Water Supply - Presentation (Darren Thompson)

Mr. Thompson provided a presentation which discussed the SAWS water budget and how the drought has impacted our Edwards supply.

- Water Supply Status – 2006
- Weather Conditions - 2006
- Impacts to Water Supply
- Water Supply Status – 2007
- Water Supply Status – 2007
- Future Inventories
- Planning Scenario 1 – Supply & Demand
- Planning Scenario 2 – Supply & Demand

Comments & Responses

Mr. Green asked if SAWS was still pumping from the Trinity aquifer.

Mr. Thompson replied that SAWS was pumping about 2 million gallons per day from the Oliver Ranch and BSR pump stations that are located in the Trinity aquifer.

Mr. Youngblood asked what SAWS annual demand was.

Mr. Thompson replied 2005's demand was 189,000 ac/ft.

Mr. Hammond asked what the affect of our pumpage at Oliver Ranch and BSR were on the Trinity aquifer.

Mr. Thompson replied that he did not have those answers at this time.

Mr. Finch replied SAWS has had to turn off some of our wells because of the low aquifer levels in that region. He added that SAWS's reaction thus far is to be as conservative of the Trinity water as possible.

Mr. Youngblood asked how much water SAWS provides to Bexar Met.

Mr. Ahrens replied 2 to 3 mgd on average with a maximum of 6 mgd when needed.

Mr. Araujo asked if the brackish groundwater project had been started yet.

Mr. Finch mentioned the test wells were being drilled that week.

Mr. Cortez asked what the Recharge Initiatives were.

Mr. Thompson replied they were recharge structures over the Cibolo and the Nueces rivers.

Mr. Youngblood stated under the current EAA rules water that is generated due to recharge does not get cut back during critical period.

Mr. Thompson replied that was one of the reasons why the EAA is involved in both of the studies.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if SAWS was prepared to deal with the sole source aquifer issues when we got to that point.

Mr. Ahrens replied that it would not be an issue because it is an EPA designation. With the EAA and the apparent regulations that we are subject to water quantity he did not think that we would have any issues with that situation.

Mr. Peak thanked Mr. Thompson for the presentation.

Introducing Additional Edwards - Presentation (Charles Ahrens)

Mr. Ahrens provided a presentation which discussed the Edwards Aquifer Supply Program.

- Edwards Aquifer Authority Junior/Senior Rules
- Summary of Rules
- Impacts on SAWS/Region
- SB 1477 Contradiction in Law
- Groundwater Rights Acquisition
 - Bid Process
 - Recent Bids
 - Cost per Acre-Foot Comparison

Comments & Responses

Mr. Youngblood asked if it mattered if the water rights were from Uvalde vs. Medina or Bexar.

Mr. Ahrens stated that it did not matter where the water rights came from because we would be able to attach it to our permit and pump it using our existing infrastructure.

Mr. Hammond asked if SAWS had an idea of the irrigation water rights not being utilized.

Mr. Ahrens stated that SAWS thinks there is still substantial agricultural water out there to acquire.

Ms. Bonavita asked if there were any concerns with pumping water from other permits in Bexar County.

Mr. Ahrens said that the likelihood is if SAWS does not utilize this source another purveyor will.

Mr. Peak asked if there have been any studies on the other side of the Knippa Gap.

Mr. Ahrens stated that there has been some studies performed by UTSA and Southwest Research which indicate that there is more recharge in Uvalde County than previously thought.

Mr. Peak asked what was the price range that SAWS is looking at when it pertains to water acquisitions.

Mr. Ahrens stated that SAWS paid \$1,750 / acre ft for the Living Waters permit 2 years ago.

Mr. Finch stated that initially the two lower bids were possibilities, but SAWS decided that if we had purchased the water at that price we would have set the market out of reach for some of our regional partners.

Mr. Green asked if the bid amount of \$5,000 dollars was forever.

Mr. Thompson replied that it was a one time amount, but that the future is still unclear on how the existing water rights can be affected due to rule changes and or legislation.

Mr. Ahrens added that staff ran the bid amounts through the same model to compare it to the other Water Resource Projects and the bids look reasonable.

Ms. Bonavita commented the number that SAWS has for the Regional Carrizo is probably on the low end of what it will eventually cost considering the Groundwater Districts changing their rules to make it more difficult to get.

Mr. Finch stated that a number of individuals on staff felt the market could be considerably less.

Mr. Hammond asked if the bid process was mandatory.

Mr. Finch stated that SAWS legal staff advised the department to go out for the bids, but if they do not meet our goals we will forge a resolution to negotiate on an individual basis.

Mr. Youngblood asked if the System will lose its junior rights at the end of 2006.

Mr. Ahrens replied that at this time SAWS does not have any junior rights and we will not get any until J-17 reaches 665' msl.

Mr. Finch added the R&R strategies that Mr. Thompson is working on will address some of these issues.

Citizens to be Heard

Mr. Larry Hoffmann gave his comments on the LCRA-SAWS Water Supply Project.

Schedule Next Meeting: October 10, 2006.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, the Citizens Advisory Panel Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m., by Mr. Howard Peak.