



**GRP REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

February 22, 2022

The San Jacinto River Authority (“SJRA”) GRP Review Committee Meeting was held at 11:30 a.m., February 22, 2022, at the SJRA G&A Building – Boardroom 1577 Dam Site Rd, Conroe, Texas 77304. The meeting was also available for viewing only via a livestream on www.sjra.net/grp/meetings. Notice of said meeting was duly posted per GRP Contract requirements.

The following Review Committee Members participated:

<u>Present:</u>	<u>GRP Review Committee:</u>	<u>Representing:</u>
Duke Coon		City of Conroe
Mike Mooney	Chair	Woodlands Water
Mike Stoecker		Investor-Owned Utilities
Taylor Whichard		Cities other than City of Conroe
Jackie Chance	Vice Chair	MUDs West of I-45
Rick Moffatt		MUDs East of I-45

Also present:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Title:</u>
Chris Meeks	SJRA Utility Enterprise Manager
Mitchell Page	Schwartz, Page & Harding, L.L.P., SJRA General Counsel
Ed Shackelford, P.E.	SJRA Director of Utility Operations
Jason Williams	SJRA Utility Enterprise O&M Manager
Summer Hvasta	SJRA Customer Service Manager
Kelli Stormer	SJRA Senior Accountant
Pam Steiger	
Jennifer Thayer, M.Ed.	Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD), Education and Conservation Coordinator
Kirstin Hein, G.I.T.	Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD), Permitting Director
Brent Dorsey	Private Citizen
Mark Meinrath	Private Citizen
Laura Norton	Private Citizen

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mooney called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Meinrath provided public comments related to the recent passage of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) by GMA 14, the relationship between groundwater pumping and land subsidence in specific areas, and the fault monitoring system for the GRP water line crossing the Panther Branch fault. Mr. Meinrath submitted a hard copy of his comments prior to meeting start, attached to these minutes.

Mr. Dorsey shared additional comments related to the long-term sustainability of groundwater pumping and its relationship to local subsidence, including the long-term financial costs connected to pumping groundwater at a rate greater than the established refresh rate. (2:40)

Ms. Norton provided comments related to her concern on the ongoing subsidence in southeast Montgomery County, the relationship between groundwater pumping to land subsidence, and her recommendation for increasing surface water usage for the Woodlands and all other GRP Participants. (2:54)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Coon moved to approve the minutes from January 24, 2022, as drafted. Mr. Chance seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. GRP DIVISION UPDATES

Mr. Meeks provided an update regarding upcoming term expirations for three members. Mrs. Hvasta provided an update on her communication with the GRP Participants. Discussion of presented information among members and SJRA staff.

5. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER PANTHER BRANCH FAULT LINE PROTECTION

Mr. Meeks provided historical information and detail regarding the options and costs related to the potential fault mitigation for the GRP water line at the Panther Branch fault line at The Woodlands High School. Review committee gave direction to SJRA to include costs for fault study in the FY 2023 budget recommendations. Mr. Shackelford states SJRA staff will continue to prepare further information for future meetings.

6. PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF THE GRP DIVISION'S FISCAL YEAR BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS AND PROCESS

Mr. Meeks reviewed information related to FY2023 budget process, demands, and ongoing budget schedule. He covered FY2023 Projected Demands, participants currently receiving surface water, and averages over several years. Review Committee Members had several comments and questions, which were fielded by Mr. Meeks. Staff presented three recommendations for review – 54.54 MGD projected demand for FY2023 Operating Budget, 13 MGD Annual Average for FY2023, and varying blend ratios for Participants, as determined by the GRP Administrator. Mr. Moffatt motioned to accept staff recommendations and Mr. Mooney seconded; it carried unanimously.

7. LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORT

GMA 14 representatives are meeting on February 23, 2022, at 10 a.m., to discuss the draft explanatory report on the proposed desired future conditions (DFCs). The Phase 2 draft report for Task 1 and Task 2 relative to compaction and subsidence within Montgomery County is currently within the 60-day public comment period, which ends on March 25, 2022. Draft reports and all additional information is available on the website.

8. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA (GMA) 14 UPDATE

Updates for GMA 14 were covered under agenda item no. 7.

9. GRP ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SJRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

No items for consideration.

10. ATTORNEY'S UPDATE

Mr. Page provided an update on GRP related legal matters.

11. FUTURE GRP REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

No items requested for future agendas.

Mr. Stoecker requested information on what catalysts would trigger additional phases [II thru IV], and what other criteria might govern eventual construction. SJRA staff and legal counsel advised that any future phases would be guided by LSGCD groundwater regulations existing at that time, and that there are no specific plans for future phrases at this time.

12. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- a. Monday, March 21, 2022

13. ADJOURN

Mr. Mooney adjourned the meeting at 12:29 pm.



Chris Meeks

SJRA Utility Enterprise Manager / GRP Administrator

Hard copy of statement provided by Mark Meinrath prior to meeting start.

Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District and GMA-14 recently approved a Desired Future Condition Agreement that promises to permit unlimited groundwater pumping until Montgomery County has subsided one foot before limiting pumping again. I am here learning how the GRP pipeline manages such a future condition.

The GRP water pipeline between Egypt, Texas, and Gosling Road crosses three known active faults, the Egypt Fault, Big Barn Fault, and Panther Branch Fault. The Egypt and Big Barn faults incorporate a pipe-within-a-pipe design protecting the interior transmission line from faulting caused by land subsidence. According to engineering specifications obtained through a Public Information Act request, "**...the pipe casing safeguard protects the transmission line for up to 0.25 inches of vertical movement at the fault per year over a 50-year period or a total of 12.5 inches. The dip angle of the fault was estimated at 70 degrees**".

INTERA writes, "**Because the Fugro report (2012) did not show the Panther Branch fault crossing Research Forest Drive and the planned route for the transmission line, SJRA did not construct safeguards to specifically protect the transmission lines from damage caused by land subsidence**".

I live on the Panther Branch fault located in MUD 7 near PAM-13, a subsidence monitoring station operated by HGSD. Thirty years of data describing the rate of faulting at my house (collected by qualified engineers from my homeowner's insurance company, DuWest Foundation repair, the Montgomery County Appraisal District, AND the W2A Fault Monitoring Survey), combined with twenty years of subsidence data from PAM-13, confirm a nearly one-to-one relationship between land subsidence and fault activity, at least in MUD 7.

Before the GRP started replacing 100% groundwater with surface water in 2015, land subsidence in MUD 7 (at PAM-13) and my house sank a half-inch a year with minimal variation for over two decades. With the opening of the GRP pipeline in 2015, MUD 7 began receiving 65% surface water instead of 100% groundwater, land subsidence nearly stopped, at least it slowed to one-fifth of its pre-GRP rate, or about a half-inch every five years.

Since the maximum protection against land subsidence at any of the three significant faults is one foot, simple logic holds that when LSGCD begins implementing new pumping limitations, the transmission line will already be at risk. This risk is a serious concern, especially where the Panther Branch Fault crosses the pipeline under the entrance to The Woodlands High School at Research Forest, one of the busiest intersections in the Woodlands twice a day.

As I told the Houston Chronicle reporter, when the Desired Future Condition triggers groundwater pumping limitations, the bottom of my slab foundation (after it has been leveled again) will sit almost a foot above the ground, held up by twenty-foot (excuse me, twenty-one-foot) deep concrete piers. And the step from my front sidewalk to my front porch will be two feet. My sidewalk is already one foot lower because of subsidence before the opening of the GRP.



SPEAKER REQUEST FORM

(for all persons who wish to address the Committee)

MEETING DATE: 2/22/22
 NAME: Laura Norton
 ADDRESS: 163 E Pathfinders Cr.
 CITY: The Woods TX

IF SPEAKING FOR AN ORGANIZATION:

ORGANIZATION: N/A
 SPEAKER'S OFFICIAL CAPACITY: _____

Please state agenda item or topic:
Gave her time to
Dr. Memmott

Please be seated at the dais when you are recognized by the Chair; state your name before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present, please furnish a copy for SJRA's files.

The Board appreciates each speaker limiting their comments to three minutes. Thank you for your cooperation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS

- ◆ All regular GRP Review Committee meetings include an agenda item for receiving public comment. During this time, anyone wanting to address an agenda item or topic not listed on the agenda may do so. This agenda item is not required by law. The Board extends this courtesy to the public and asks that speakers be courteous in their remarks.
- ◆ Those wanting to speak on a subject are asked to fill out a Speaker Request Form.
- ◆ Each speaker is limited to three minutes.
- ◆ The public comment portion of the agenda is intended to allow the GRP Review Committee to receive information from the public. The Review Committee may not engage in a discussion on an item not listed on the agenda. No formal action can be taken on any issue not listed on the agenda.

Members of the public who have questions about GRP Review Committee meeting procedures or the Speaker Request Form may ask for assistance from an SJRA staff member.



SPEAKER REQUEST FORM

(for all persons who wish to address the Committee)

MEETING DATE: 02/22/2022
 NAME: Brent Dorsey
 ADDRESS: 622 Bridgeway Pl.
 CITY: The Woodlands TX 77381

IF SPEAKING FOR AN ORGANIZATION:

ORGANIZATION: Self
 SPEAKER'S OFFICIAL CAPACITY: SELF

Please state agenda item or topic:

Item 5 - Panther Branch

Please be seated at the dais when you are recognized by the Chair; state your name before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present, please furnish a copy for SJRA's files.

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SPEAKER REQUEST FORM

(for all persons who wish to address the Committee)

MEETING DATE: 2/22
NAME: Mark Menorath
ADDRESS: 15 Bentgrass Place
CITY: The Woodlands, TX 77381

IF SPEAKING FOR AN ORGANIZATION:

ORGANIZATION: SELF
SPEAKER'S OFFICIAL CAPACITY: SELF

Please state agenda item or topic:
ITEM 5 PANTHER BRANCH FAULT PROTECTION

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