



**GRP REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

May 19, 2025

The San Jacinto River Authority ("SJRA") GRP Review Committee Meeting was held at 11:30 a.m., May 19, 2025, 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>
Erich Peterson, P.E.	Vice Chair	Woodlands Water Agency
Jackie Chance		MUDs West of I-45
Harry Hardman		City of Conroe
Benjamin Slotnick, Ph.D.		MUDs East of I-45
Mike Stoecker		Investor-Owned Utilities
<u>Excused:</u>		
James Corn	Chair	Cities other than City of Conroe

Also present:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Title:</u>
Aubrey A. Spear, P.E.	SJRA General Manager
Ed Shackelford, P.E.	SJRA Director of Operations
Chris Meeks	SJRA Utility Enterprise Manager
Jason Williams	SJRA UE Operations Manager
Jacob Everett	SJRA UE Maintenance Manager
Maleia Good	SJRA UE Administrative Manager
Kelli Stormer	SJRA Senior Accountant
Pam Steiger	SJRA Chief Financial Officer
Jodi Chaney	SJRA Records Manager
Amy Sims	SJRA General Counsel
Jamye Lewis	SJRA Accounting Controller
Heather Ramsey	SJRA Director of Communications and Public Affairs
Sarah Kouba	Lone Star Ground Water Conservation District General Manager
Chris Drabek, P.G.	Advanced Groundwater Solutions Senior Hydrogeologist

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Kessler inquired whether the GRP coordinates with county or city officials on groundwater availability, and whether it reviews well reports and other external factors that may influence demand for surface water.

Mr. Bill Beran pointed out that the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District was created 25 years ago to address groundwater overuse. Despite efforts, groundwater consumption has nearly doubled since then, highlighting ongoing challenges.

Mr. John Thaeler, a Montgomery County resident and MUD 67 Director, opposed requiring multiple board members to approve agenda items, stating Eric Peterson represents their community and should be able to bring items forward independently. He also urged the board to remain open to scientific input from all sources.

Mr. Jerry Rueschhoff, President of MUD 94, raised concerns about repeated well failures, lack of infrastructure, and insufficient planning for future water needs. He called for coordination with Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District and questioned why new developments aren't contributing financially despite benefitting from it.

It was noted for the record that written comments were received from Joe Higgs. Copies of the comments were provided to the Review Committee.

3. WORK SESSION

3.1 Items by GRP Administrator

3.1.1 Presentation regarding the proposed GRP Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and Rate Order Amendment

Mr. Chris Meeks provided updates to the budget schedule, noting the SJRA Board will not review the GRP budget in May or June due to no rate increase, eliminating the need for an amended rate order. He explained that the SJRA Board will instead review budgets in July and approve them in August. Mr. Meeks shared revised surface water production projections, proposing an increase from 13.2 MGD to 15 MGD based on allocation requests, with potential future increases up to 16 MGD. Mr. Meeks emphasized that any increase in production would be dependent on ensuring there would not be a negative impact on participant rates. Mr. Meeks invited any entities interested in receiving new or increased surface water to contact SJRA.

Mrs. Jamye Lewis presented an overview of the proposed FY26 budget. Mrs. Lewis discussed operating and maintenance expenses, repair and replacement expenditures, and planned major projects. Mr. Meeks and Mr. Ed Shackelford provided context to the GRP's adjustment to purchase the raw water supply from the City of Houston beginning January 1, 2025, instead of the SJRA Lake Conroe division as the result of existing contract obligations.

3.1.2 Update by Utility Enterprise staff regarding operations and maintenance

Mr. Jason Williams provided an update on current water production and allocation usage, noting increased demand due to rising temperatures and irrigation. He stated that staff are closely monitoring allocations and providing regular updates to users, including usage reports and coordination on adjustments as needed to stay within allocation limits.

3.2 Update by Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) regarding projects and other activities.

3.2.1 GMA Updates

Ms. Kouba provided updates on GMA 14 joint planning activities, including recent and upcoming meetings focused on Desired Future Conditions (DFC) planning.

3.2.2 LSGCD comments on 4/21/2025 GRP Review Committee Agenda Item 3.2.2 “Status of Aquifers presentation by Benjamin Slotnick, Ph.D”

Ms. Kouba introduced Mr. Chris Drabek with Advanced Groundwater Solutions, who provided a technical response to a prior aquifer status presentation. She clarified that Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) does not regulate or assess individual utility well infrastructure or determine utility responses to water level declines. Mr. Drabek presented data on local aquifers, including the Chicot, Evangeline, Jasper, and Catahoula formations, addressing water quality, available drawdown, and well performance.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Approval of Minutes - GRP Review Committee meeting of April 21, 2025.

Mr. Peterson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the GRP Review Committee meeting held on April 21, 2025. Mr. Chance made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Slotnick made a second to approve the minutes. The vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

4.2 Approval of the GRP Review Committee Meeting Agendas Policy

The committee discussed a proposed policy to formalize the process for setting meeting agendas. Several members expressed concerns about restricting agenda submissions, especially those from GRP Review Committee members. There was a consensus that all committee members should be able to propose agenda items, and that broader input should not be limited. No motions were made, and no action was taken.

5. Future GRP Review Committee Meeting Agenda Items

Committee members discussed several potential future agenda items. Key topics included the need for timely agenda submissions, evaluating resistance to increasing plant output for existing GRP members, and studying the feasibility and impact of adding new users to the system. Members expressed interest in understanding the financial and operational implications of higher facility utilization, including the effect on rates and pumping fees. Seasonal water demand and capacity limitations during peak months were also highlighted. Members were encouraged to formally submit agenda item suggestions for inclusion in upcoming meetings.

6. ADJOURN

Mr. Peterson adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.


Chris Meeks

SJRA Utility Enterprise Manager / GRP Administrator