Study Commission on Region C Water Supply

MINUTES OF AN OPEN PUBLIC MEETING November 12, 2008

The Study Commission on Region C Water Supply (Study Commission) met in an open public meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, at 1:00 P.M. The meeting was held at the Region 8 Education Service Center at 2230 North Edwards Avenue, Mount Pleasant, Texas. Notice of the meeting was legally posted.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen Frost called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 P.M.

II. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Senator Florence Shapiro and Representative Frost introduced each member of the Study Commission. The following members were in attendance:

The Honorable Florence Shapiro Mr. Thomas Duckert
The Honorable Stephen Frost Mr. Richard LeTourneau

The Honorable Jodie Laubenberg Mr. Jim Parks

Also in attendance was Dee Farmer from Senator Kevin Eltife's office. Additionally, Carolyn Brittin and Angela Masloff of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) were in attendance. The registration lists signed by guests in attendance are attached.

III. ACTION ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF JULY 29, 2008 MEETING

On a motion by Representative Frost and a second by Jim Parks, the Study Commission unanimously adopted the minutes from the July 29, 2008 meeting.

b. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MEETING MINUTES PROCEDURE

On a motion by Representative Frost, and a second by Representative Jodie Laubenberg, the Study Commission unanimously approved a proposal to make audio recordings of each Commission meeting. Mr. Parks agreed to store the tapes on an intermediary basis, and Carolyn Brittin confirmed that the TWDB would undertake the archival process.

Prior to voting on the motion, comments were received from the following individuals:

- i. Red Birdsong
- ii. Carolyn Brittin
- iii. David Nabors

c. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF TWDB ADMINISTRATIVE TIMELINE TO COMPLETE WORK OF STUDY COMMISSION

Ms. Brittin of the TWDB presented to the Commission the newly drafted timeline for the Commission's study. The timeline was based on the assumption that a contractor would be selected immediately and begin work no later than February 2009.

Ms. Brittin also discussed the steps that the Commission would have to take in order to obtain the \$500,000 TWDB grant. The TWDB has included an exceptional item in its appropriations request for \$2 million, for the purpose of supplementing the Commission's contract with a consultant. These funds would be available in September 2009, and the Commission would have to amend the contract at that time.

On a motion by Representative Laubenberg, seconded by Richard LeTourneau and Tom Duckert, the Commission unanimously adopted the proposed timeline.

d. REVIEW OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED RESPONSIVE TO RFQ AND POSSIBLE SELECTION OF CONSULTANT CONSISTENT WITH RFQ

Mr. Parks gave a brief overview of the process undertaken to solicit Request for Qualifications (RFQs) from consulting firms willing to enter negotiations with the Commission. Mr. Parks further discussed the requirements for the applying firms.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Shapiro, and by the agreement of the Commission members, the Commission recessed at approximately 1:45 P.M. to review the five Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) received by the Commission.

e. DISCUSSION AND AUTHORIZATION TO DEVELOP A PROPOSAL WITH THE SELECTED CONSULTANT CONSISTENT WITH THE APPROVED SCOPE OF WORK

The Commission members resumed meeting at approximately 2:30 P.M. The Commission members reviewed the tabulation procedures used to select a consulting firm with which to enter negotiations. Espey Consultants, Inc. (Espey) received the highest tabulated score, and so was selected to be negotiated with first. If the Commission cannot reach agreement with Espey, then the Commission would enter negotiations with the second-highest ranked firm.

Representative Laubenberg motioned that the Commission enter into negotiations with Espey. Tom Duckert seconded the motion. Without objection, Representative Frost amended the motion to also accept the SOQ submissions in the order ranked by the Commission. The Commission unanimously adopted the amended motion.

f. DISCUSSION, DESIGNATION, AND AUTHORIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S POLITICAL SUBDIVISION TO MAKE APPLICATION AND RECEIVE FUNDS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF STUDY COMMISSION

Representative Frost motioned that the Administrative Officer's political subdivision (NTMWD) with the help of the NETMWD be designated and authorized to submit a grant application to TWDB and receive subsequent grant funds to be used to carry out the legislative charges in Senate Bill 3 Section 4.04 of the 80th Legislative Session. Following a second by Representative Laubenberg, the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. DISCUSSION/SELECTION OF DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

It was the consensus of the Study Commission members to schedule the next meeting for January 12, 2008 at 1:00 P.M. in order to consider the results of negotiations with Espey. The meeting will be held in Room 1-111 of the William B. Travis Building at 1701 N. Congress, Austin, Texas.

b. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. LeTourneau asked that the Commission invite the Sabine River Authority of Texas and the Sabine River Authority of Louisiana to a future Commission meeting in order to provide information to the Commission on water availability.

Representative Frost further suggested that other parties like the Texas Forest Service might have relevant input. Any suggestions on potential presenters should be sent to Mr. Parks. These presentations are to be separate from the Scope of Work-related activity.

Public comments were received from the following individuals:

- i. George Frost
- ii. Stanley Jessee
- iii. Gary Cheatwood, Jr.
- iv. Gary Cheatwood, Sr.
- v. Henry "Corky" White
- vi. John Purviance
- vii. John McConnell
- viii. Sharron Nabors
- ix. Max Shumake
- x. David Parkhill
- xi. David Nabors
- xii. Nancy Clements
- xiii. Charleen Granberry

V. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting of the Study Commission on Region C Water Supply adjourned at approximately 4:00 P.M.

SENATOR FLORENCE SHAPIRO

Co-Presiding Officer

REIRESENTATIVE STEPHEN FROST

Co-Presiding Officer

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