Executive Management Committee Quarterly Meeting
Austin-LCRA Water Partnership
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 13, 2022
Location: LCRA Hancock Building
Meeting Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Robert Goode, Austin Water
Kevin Critendon, Austin Water
Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Austin Water
Helen Gerlach, Austin Water
Michael Hoffman, Austin Energy
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting
John Hofmann, LCRA
Monica Masters, LCRA
Greg Graml, LCRA
Ron Anderson, LCRA

Meeting Minutes:

1. **Arrival and Welcome:** The EMC meeting began at 9:09 a.m.

2. **Standing Items:**
    a. Review agenda: Agenda was reviewed; no items added.
    b. Review/approve minutes: Minutes were approved as presented.

3. **Basin condition update**: John Hofmann provided an update on current basin conditions. We are still in La Niña conditions, which are estimated to continue through the early spring timeframe. At that point, predictions indicate that we will return to neutral conditions. Currently, we are on track to have lower inflows in 2022 than in 2011, which would set a new record low for annual inflows. Customer water use for 2022 will likely be on the high side due to the severe drought conditions, but LCRA does not expect to hit the demand level that would trigger an update to the water management plan (WMP). In terms of storage, there are just over 1 Million Acre Feet (MAF) in the lakes and storage is expected to stay relatively level over the next several months.

4. **Workshop items**
    a. Understanding and quantifying the long-term runoff trends in the Highland Lakes Watersheds via spatially distributed hydrological modeling: Ron Anderson presented on the rainfall runoff study LCRA is conducting with Texas A&M University (TAMU). Dr. Hulin Gao is the primary researcher at TAMU working on this project along with a team of six PhD students. The objective of this work is to evaluate streamflow trends in contributing watersheds while accounting for response to precipitation, influence of terrain, hydrography, and land cover while using naturalized flows. Existing physical models do not calibrate well over the entire period of record (models do fairly well over shorter-term flood events). Instead, the team developed and calibrated a distributed hydrology and soil vegetation model (DHSVM). The work was performed in the upper watershed, from approximately Pecan Bayou to Austin.

    The conclusions of the study were: the DHSVM was able to be calibrated to the full period of record; precipitation has increased over all subbasins, but only the Pecan Bayou and San Saba have significantly significant trends; temperature may contribute to

streamflow trends in Pecan Bayou; and results suggest precipitation frequency is linked to the streamflow trends in both the Pecan Bayou and San Saba subbasins. Next steps include peer review and extension of the study to include the lower portion of the basin (from Austin to the coast). The LCRA board has been briefed on this topic and are enthusiastic about continuing the work. LCRA is also working on a study investigating groundwater-surface water effects, and a study looking at the effects of stock ponds on streamflows and plans to share those results with Austin when they are ready.

b. Scenario planning methodology for the 2024 Water Forward update: Helen Gerlach presented on the scenario planning methodology that will be used in the 2024 Water Forward update. Austin Water (AW) plans to use over 600 scenarios of future water availability to perform an optimization and vulnerability analysis. These scenarios will include three realizations of regional water supply based on varying degrees of implementation of Region K water management strategies, including LCRA water management strategies. AW would like to coordinate with LCRA on the best way to incorporate these water management strategies into development of scenarios for the Water Forward update.

5. **Water planning updates**:
   a. Water Supply Resource Report next steps: Monica Masters provided an update on their Water Supply Resource Report (WSRR). LCRA has completed the population and demand projection work and is currently working on the supply reliability analysis. This analysis is looking at the uncertainty around supply reliability and identifying the acceptable risk for planning. The analysis is looking at droughts worse than the drought of record in terms of ENSO and is working to identify the appropriate level of "worse" to plan for in terms of resiliency.

   b. Water Forward 2024 update: Marisa Flores Gonzalez provided an update on the Water Froward 2024 plan work. AW has completed City of Austin population and employment projections, which were presented to the Water Forward Task Force and will be presented to LCRA in upcoming meetings.

6. **Committee reports**:
   a. Technical Committee: Ron Anderson provided an update on Technical Committee progress. The Technical Committee has met during the last quarter of 2022 and addressed issues associated with Decker Lake and covered the Water Forward Plan update.

   b. Water Quality Committee: Monica Masters provided an update on the water quality committee. There was no activity in the last quarter of 2022, but the committee will be meeting in January 2023.

7. **Other Items**: No other items.

8. **Adjourn**: The EMC meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.