

## Memorandum

**To: Finance Workgroup**

**From: Robert L. Gulley**

**Date: May 29, 2008**

**RE: Meeting with Senator Glenn Hegar Regarding RIP Funding**

On May 22, 2008, Jerry James, Calvin Finch and I met with Senator Hegar at Jerry's office in Victoria. The meeting lasted from approximately 5:20 until 6 p.m.

Jerry began the meeting by outlining both the short-term and long long-term funding needs for the RIP process. He explained that based on our current knowledge of the work to be done, we will need approximately \$2.7 million to complete the process. He further explained that we believed that we would need to raise approximately \$ 292,000 to cover the costs of project management and the anticipated work until March 1, 2009, and that we were attempting to raise that money from the Steering Committee members and other MOA signatories. Jerry also explained that we were actively seeking grant support from TWDB and federal sources.

Senator Hegar asked about the status of the TAMU legislative effort. He volunteered that he recognized that the stakeholders could not be expected to pay for the entire process. He said that, of course, he could do nothing to help us in raising the \$292,000, but that he was willing to assist us in obtaining funding for any "gaps" that could not be raised from other sources. He said that the legislative appropriation process was underway and that any funding request for the EARIP would have to be made by September 2009. He asked us to send him the budget materials showing what money was needed and approximately time that the money would be

needed. After he reviewed the materials, he would get back to us with specific suggestions about how to proceed.

Senator Hegar said he was pleased with the progress the RIP has made and that he was looking forward to having us discuss our progress at the July 17 oversight hearing. He said that he believed that it was important that we continue to make the same kind of progress with regards to the remaining deadlines. He said that similar “collaborative” efforts mandated by the legislature with respect to in stream flows have significantly missed their deadlines. He indicated that the EARIP is being discussed among his colleagues as a real success story. He seemed pleased with this fact. He suggested that we try to come up with a joint press release to be issued immediately after the oversight hearing to announce our progress.

On May 26, 2008, I provided Lisa Cravens with the materials that we sent out to the stakeholders regarding funding because they address almost all of the Senator’s questions. In addition, I provided her a copy setting out our specific progress to date and the “working” timeline I have been using to map out future work and timelines.