

*** Meeting minutes should be considered DRAFT until approved at the next council meeting. ***

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: 30 April 2020
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Remote (GoToMeeting)

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer
Meeting Facilitators: Josh Sendejar, Council Staff Support

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Alternate David Villarreal	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Sarah Schlessinger
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	Tim Loftus
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate TJ Helton	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Charles Ring
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Kevin Kluge	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Greg Carter
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Maria Martinez	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Anai Padilla
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Leah Martinsson	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Valerie Miller	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Celia Eaves
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	--		

Also present: Alternates – John Bender, Denise Hickey, Eddy Trevino, Jessica Woods, Kimberly Horndeski, Jennifer Walker; Interested Parties – Dan Strub, Perry Fowler, Samantha Borgstedt, Chuck West, Paula Paciorek, Natalie Houston, Chris Charles, Jennifer Nations, Tommy McClung, Raquel Mullen, Chelsea Atkinson, Malcolm Laing, Neil Weems, Deborah McMullan, Molly Ballesteros, Scott Swanson, Karen Menard, Allen Berthold, Ryan Skrobarczyk, Isabel Martinez; TWDB Staff – John Sutton, Cameron Turner, Shae Luther, Travis Brice, Daniel Rice, Laurie Gehlsen, Claire Boyer, Bryan McMath, John Dupnik.

** Documents can be found at: <http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/council-meetings.asp>**

1. Introduction

The meeting began at 10:31 a.m.

Josh began the meeting with several housekeeping items, including a roll call of members/alternates representing their respective interest groups.

Workgroup Updates and the Update from TWDB were submitted as written updates and sent out prior to the meeting. No Workgroup updates were submitted which did not correspond to the legislative report and were discussed under Agenda Item 4. The TWDB Update can be found at the link above with additional meeting documents.

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2. Approval of minutes from the March 10, 2020 meeting
The minutes were approved as written.
3. Public Comment
There was no public comment.
4. Discussion on the first draft of the 2020 WCAC Legislative Report
Karen Guz began discussion by stating at this point, the Council should focus its efforts on broad edits, rather than attempting to finalize wording at this point.

It was noted that the Executive Summary and Introduction are remnants from the 2018 WCAC Report, and will be rewritten once the remainder of the report has been written. A summary of the legislative recommendations will also be included in the Executive Summary.

It was decided to go through the draft of the report and discuss each section.

Agricultural Water Conservation:

K. Guz began discussion by stating the draft section is very substantial and thanking those who drafted it.

Charles Ring thanked John Bender for his drafting the section.

One issue brought up in discussion is the length of the section. One comment involved focusing on recent trends, another comment revolved around summarizing the section and using the unedited draft as an appendix.

Another comment brought up was the information regarding the Regional Water Planning Groups recommending brush control could be included in the section relating to another of the Council's charges (Charge 6. Monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans).

John Bender will draft a summary of the section for consideration.

Ken Kramer noted that Regional Water Plans are currently being drafted but may not be finalized until the beginning of 2021.

Institutional & Commercial Water Conservation:

K. Guz noted that she agrees benchmarking/metrics are important but is concerned about the focus of the section.

K. Guz suggested holding a workgroup to discuss and include utilities to get specific information and trends regarding IC water conservation.

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Tim Loftus noted he has comments that can wait for the workgroup call.

Kevin Kluge noted it would be great to include metric/trends around the state.

Manufacturing and Electric Power Generation:

Most of the information in this section has been repeated from the 2018 WCAC report.

Greg Carter, Craig Elam, and CJ Tredway conversed and did not have any major updates for this portion of the report.

Municipal Water Conservation:

K. Guz stated that while the section has been drafted there is additional information she is hoping to include, such as an update on Conservation Plan and Annual Report data.

K. Kramer suggested updating Table 1 in the section, to include most recent data.

K. Kramer also commented that while we are making progress in Residential GPCD conservation, we are not seeing the same progress in Water Loss GPCD. The Council may want to consider providing context on this.

A comment was made that a portion may need to be drafted for Water Loss metrics, and perhaps place it in the Council's Charge regarding targets and goals (Charge 7. Monitor target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Texas Water Development Board).

K. Kramer also noted that the Texas Living Waters project is updating their Texas Water Conservation Scorecard. The update is expected to be released in mid-June and K. Kramer hopes that this information can be acknowledged and/or incorporated appropriately into the report.

Other issues included in section update:

- BMPs introduced/accepted over the last year.
- TWDB Water Loss Workshop summary information.

A Municipal Workgroup call will be organized to follow-up on these issues.

A Water Loss Workgroup call will also be held to discuss specific issues regarding water loss.

Wholesale Water Conservation:

Dustan Compton noted that the Wholesale Workgroup met several times and has received comments and feedback regarding ongoing conservation updates from wholesale providers.

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K. Guz noted that sub-heading may be preferable to bullet points in terms of ease of reading.

Dustan Compton will attempt to summarize trends for the section.

Charge 2. Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion in the Best Management Practices Guide:

K. Guz stated this could be a place where we highlight the ET Network.

D. Compton stated he will work with Josh to get a stakeholder call scheduled to further discuss the ET Network.

K. Guz noted that AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) could be another technology that could be highlighted in this section of the report.

A. Spear commented that satellite-based leak detection could also be mentioned for inclusion.

Charge 3. Monitor the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program and associated local involvement in implementation of the program:

S. Schelssinger noted that she repurposed the language that was formerly introduced as a legislative recommendation into this section of the report to create a general notion of support from the Council regarding the public awareness campaign.

Updated information regarding the efforts of the Texas Water Foundation was also included.

Charge 4. Develop and implement a state water management resource library:

This section has been updated to include resources found on savetexaswater.org as well as the potential for collaboration/partnership with the Texas Water Foundation.

Charge 5. Develop and implement a public recognition program for water conservation:

Information from the previous report has been updated to reflect changes.

Josh will update the photos formerly found in the section.

Charge 6. Monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans:

K. Guz noted that this may be a place where we can mention the regional water plans are currently being updated, as K. Kramer pointed out earlier in the meeting.

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K. Kramer noted that it may be possible to get a summary of major water use regions tentatively.

K. Kramer will draft language for this section.

Charge 7. Monitor target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Texas Water Development Board:

K. Guz noted this section could be used to highlight complexities in water loss metrics and total GPCD.

K. Kramer noted that many utilities are exceeding the 140 GPCD conservation target recommended by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force in 2007. May be a good time to acknowledge that target as a hinderance for further conservation progress.

K. Guz noted it is important to note the need for continued progress. Several workgroups will be meeting and can discuss contributions to this section.

T. Loftus brought up that we can also refer to the base year some utilities are using in their calculations for conservation progress.

K. Guz noted that if there are any additional changes/edits, please use a document with tracked changes and submit it to Josh.

Revisions are due to Josh by: Thursday, June 11th

5. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

6. Announcement of Conferences and Events

May 8th: COVID-19 Impacts on Utilities Webinar

<https://www.tawwa.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1366192&group=>

July 13th – 17th: TAWWA – Texas Water will take place virtually this year.

<https://www.txwater.org/index.cfm>

7. Future Meeting Dates and Locations

Thursday, June 25th 10:00 a.m. - Tentatively Remote Meeting

Thursday, August 6th 10:30 a.m. - Location TBD

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.