

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Austin, TX 78719

Texas Parks and Wildlife–Airport Commerce Park, Building 6 conference room

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	-----	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Alternate David Villarreal	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Alternate Nora Mullarkey
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	Kevin Wagner
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Steve Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Robert Mace	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Alternate Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	-----
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	John Mueller	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Alternate Doug Christensen
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Sarah Schlessinger	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Matt Phillips	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	-----
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert		

Also attended: (Alternates) Lynne Hamlin, Ruthanne Haut, Denise Hickey, Eddie Trevino, and Jennifer Walker; and (Interested Parties) Gene Fisseler, Ruthie Redmond, James Foutz, Mark Warden, Shayna Chapman, Valerie Miller, Jessica Woods, Clint Wolfe, Michelle Camp, Dominique Gomez, Kevin Kluge, Natalie Houston, Beth Hood, Perry Fowler, Stacy Pandey, Sam Hermitte, Jade Rutledge, Cary Betz, Charlie Flatten, Suzanne Williams, John Bender, Guillermo Martinez, and Lyda Creus Molanphy.

- Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2016, meeting

The Council took up minutes from the previous meeting. Cindy Loeffler noted an error in the minutes that wrongly indicated her presence at the August 1 meeting. Staff will correct the error and post the corrected minutes. With the error and pending correction noted, minutes were approved.

- Public Comment

Denise Hickey noted that Carole Davis retired from the City of Dallas.

Update from Texas Water Development Board

Mindy Conyers reminded the council that early bird registration for the 2017 Water for Texas conference ends November 18 which is also the deadline for applications to TWDB's innovative Water Supply awards.

- Discussion and possible action on draft final report to the legislature (dated 10/04/16)

The wholesale workgroup added a paragraph under Charge 1 on wholesale water conservation which was well received by the council.

Next the council discussed draft recommendation #8 (funding research in higher education). Bill Hoffman provided a summary of the recommendation and an overview of the motivation behind it. Concerns were raised related to the request for funding and to the specific wording used in the text. After much discussion, revised text was created by the council and the draft document was edited on screen to reflect the changes. In short, the funding component was removed and the recommendation title was changed to "Prioritizing municipal conservation research in higher education". A motion was made to include the recommendation in the report as edited. The motion passed with 18 yeas (12 members and 6 alternates), zero nays, and two members abstaining (R. Mace and K. Wagner).

The next item related to recommendation #4 (adoption of enforceable time-of-day limitations on outdoor watering). Member Aubrey Spear was not present for the consensus vote on this recommendation at the August 1, 2016, meeting but did provide alternative text for this item during the formal comment period for the legislative report. Mr. Spear gave an overview of his position on the item and of the comments provided. After much discussion by the council, a motion was made to formally vote on whether or not to keep this recommendation in the report. The motion passed with 16 yeas (11 members and 5 alternates), 2 nays (A. Spear and CJ Tredway), and two abstentions (R. Mace and D. Compton).

The council's bylaws state that "if the council reaches a decision in the absence of a consensus, the council will accept a minority position for the record." Mr. Spear agreed to provide text for the minority position. After brief discussion, a motion was made to include the minority report within the body of the report directly below recommendation #4 and to record the results of any formal votes in one footnote in the report. The motion passed without opposition.

Next, Nora Mullarkey proposed a slight change to text under charge 1 (municipal water conservation section) to better reflect the impact local weather patterns have on water use. Minor changes were made to the text by the group.

Dustan Compton then suggested a slight change in the title of recommendation #7 which was approved: Maintain funding for agricultural water conservation programs.

Following conclusion of discussion of the report and recommendations, Karen Guz made a motion to approve the report in its substantially final form. The motion passed with 17 yeas (12 members and 5 alternates), zero nays, and three people abstaining (R. Mace, D. Compton, and CJ Tredway).

- Discussion and possible action on judging Blue Legacy Award nominations

M. Conyers reminded attendees that the deadline for submitting nominations for the blue legacy awards is November 30th and that, according to the nomination packets, winners will be notified in January and awards will be presented at Texas Water Day at the capital (on March 22, 2017). Denise Hickey, chair of the Public Awareness workgroup, explained how the scoring process has worked in the past. D. Hickey will coordinate scoring by volunteer judges, and a summary of progress will be presented at the February 2017 council meeting.

- Reports from Workgroups

- Agriculture - nothing to report
- Commercial & Institutional - working on the BMP guide
- Industrial - nothing to report
- Municipal - nothing to report
- Public Awareness - provided blue legacy information under previous item
- Wholesale - The wholesale workgroup met on September 7, 2016, via conference call. Their discussions resulted in the new paragraph under charge 1 (discussed above).

- Discussion and possible action on updates to savetexaswater.org

As discussed at previous meetings, the council's website will be redesigned by TWDB staff in the near future. M. Conyers reminded the group of the white papers referred to within the legislative report and of the council's plan to put those on an improved "Resources" page on the site. After some discussion, the council decided to post the resources submitted by council members (and referred to in the report) on the page as soon as possible. With regard to the process for approval of future submissions for inclusion on the resources page, the suggestion was made to form a small review committee. The council will discuss this further at an upcoming meeting.

- Announcement of conferences and events

October 27, 2016–TAGD Leadership training in groundwater management in Austin.

November 7–SWIFT workshop in Austin.

November 9–North Texas Water Conservation Symposium in Arlington.

November 10–Texas Water Symposium in Austin.

January 23-25, 2017–Water for Texas 2017 conference in Austin.

March 22, 2017–Texas Water Day at the Capitol in Austin, TX.

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 11:00 AM at 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, 78719, in the building 6 conference room.

- Presentation on “New Approaches in Data & Targeting to Satisfy Always-On Customers” by Dominique Gomez

Presentation slides posted to www.savetexaswater.org.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM.