

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Austin, TX 78719

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Eddy Trevino
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Alternate David Villarreal	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker
<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 Steven Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Alternate Kevin Kluge	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Alternate Wayne Wilson	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Alternate Paul Kaspar	<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>	Sarah Schlessinger	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Matt Phillips	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Celia Eaves
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Alternate Mark Froehlich
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	-----		

Also present: (Alternates) Denise Hickey, Ruthanne Haut and Jennifer Walker; and (Interested Parties) Valerie Miller, Kate Shaw, Jim Brotherton, Drew Gholson, Michael Schramm, Dan Strub, Mark Warden, Veronica Osegueda, and Suzanne King.

- Approval of Minutes from November 6, 2017, meeting

The council took up minutes from the previous meeting. Minutes were approved.

- Public Comment

There was no public comment.

- Update from Texas Water Development Board

Kevin Kluge introduced Josh Sendejar as the new TWDB Support Staff for the WCAC.

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The TWDB will be welcoming a new Deputy Executive Administrator, John Dupdik from the Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. John will start February 23rd.

Water Loss Audits, HB 1573, required training for water loss auditor. New rules were drafted to amend TAC 358, requiring training for individuals who submit water loss audits. Amendments were approved and become effective today, however, the requirement will not go into effect until January 1, 2019. Water Loss Audit Workshops are currently underway. A total of 14 workshops are scheduled at this point.

Rider 24 from the last legislative session allocated TWDB \$127,000 for contracting to continue work regarding the water conservation quantification study and further integrate water savings into the regional planning process. Comments were solicited and several suggestions were provided and considered in the drafting of an RFQ that is in the internal approval process. More information will be given once the RFQ is finalized.

Agricultural Water Conservation Grant deadline is today. Program provides grants in the amount of \$600,000 per year. The categories for the grant are Equipment Cost Share and Technology Transfer, Demonstrations of Innovative and Alternative Production Systems, Planning and Design for Irrigation System Improvements, and Feasibility Study of Irrigating with Produced Water.

The joint report for Water Conservation from the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will be considered by the TWDB at its February 15th board meeting.

- Bylaw Subcommittee

The subcommittee met and discussed several items, including looking at the election process and possibly developing a nominating committee and formalizing the process. Currently, a review of other organizations nominating structure is being conducted.

The Council discussed the bylaws and the need to clarify language regarding what defines a quorum in regards to members and their respective alternates, as well as who is able to participate in discussion. The ability for a workgroup chair to suspend conversation when discussing contentious items was also discussed.

S. Schlessinger noted there seemed to be two recommendations for the subcommittee's attention; one regarding the general public comment from the audience, and the other in terms of the alternates. In previous conversations the subcommittee had only discussed the alternates and if they are invited to be part of the conversation based on current bylaws.

Discussion was also brought up on the role of alternates and their ability to vote. The bylaws state that if a primary council member is unable to attend the meeting, the alternate is able to attend and vote on behalf of the primary member. It is encouraged for primary members and alternates to be in communication with one another.

The subcommittee hopes to have some proposed changes to the council at the next meeting.

- Update on Municipal BMP Meeting

Karen Guz reported that the Municipal Update BMP Meeting intended to have some substantial updates to the BMPs and get them through the TWDB adoption process in time for them to be used in the 2019 water conservation plans. Karen provided a document outlining the status of several municipal BMPs. Karen noted that formatting the information and providing proper citations takes the most time and can prove cumbersome for a lone volunteer. Some of the BMPs in need of revisions have been edited and are ready for comment.

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There was discussion on the Small Utility Outreach and Education BMP involving whether or not the BMP needs to be labeled 'Small Utility' or if the content of the BMP would be applicable to most or all utilities.

Another topic of discussion during the meeting was the Outdoor Water Conservation BMPs. Being that outdoor water conservation has become a much bigger topic in recent years, there is not a lot of information in the current BMP, and what is present is in need of updating. The workgroup believed because of the breadth of this topic, a focus group might be necessary to discuss the topic of outdoor water conservation with a wider audience than just council members.

Karen & Jennifer Walker will format something in the proposed short format of BMP.

The need to clearly identify what is considered a BMP was expressed by Ken Kramer. It was brought up that utilities and other entities are required by legislative and regulatory agencies to include BMPs within their plans and other documents. The process for BMP adoption was discussed and while the council can recommend measures for BMPs, there is an adoption process through upper management of TWDB.

- Workgroup Reports

- Agriculture – a conference call took place in December, discussing BMP guides including brush control, as well as possibly including a section on available financial assistance.
- Commercial & Institutional – nothing to report
- Industrial – nothing to report
- Municipal – See Karen's Report above.
- Public Awareness – nothing to report. Tim Loftus announced his alternate, Dr. Karen Magid, Director of STEM & Sustainability at Huston-Tillotson University.
- Water Loss – the workgroup met in November and discussed the rulemaking surrounding training for Water Loss Auditors. Texas AWWA offered studio space to film the online training component. Also discussed Level I validation, what it means, who is doing it, will it happen in Texas, etc.
- Wholesale – nothing to report

- 2018 Legislative Report

Discussion was held on the upcoming Legislative Report. Council was in agreement that the shorter version of the report is favorable and seemed to produce a more useful document.

An outline of the report and schedule of development document were provided. The first draft is planned to be ready by May. Three out of eight recommendations were approved from the last Legislative Report. The council will review the remaining five recommendations and see if any changes are necessary for inclusion in this report. It was noted that although it is a state report there are things at the federal level that may impact conservation in Texas and should be considered for inclusion in this year's report.

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For next meeting, the council members/alternates should think about what to highlight under the charges, review recommendations from last report and be prepared to make recommendations to start vetting for this report.

Ken Kramer volunteered to contribute to Charge 6 of the report (Monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans).

- Announcement of Conferences and Events

The 2018 Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium will be held on March 22nd, in Houston.

The 2018 Annual Groundwater Summit has a call out for proposals. If you are interested in speaking or would like to suggest a topic go to: www.texasgroundwatersummit.org or contact Sarah Schlessinger for more information.

The Two Nations, One Water, The US-Mexico Border Water Summit will take place March 1 – 2, in El Paso. (www.eventleaf.com/twonationsonewater)

- Selection of Dates and Locations of Future Meetings

Three Council meetings were scheduled:

Tuesday, March 20th at the Lower Colorado River Authority
Dalchau Service Center 3505 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX 78744 Building A

Wednesday, May 9th at the Lower Colorado River Authority
Dalchau Service Center 3505 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX 78744 Building A

Wednesday, June 20th at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744 Commission Hearing Room

- Presentation

Dr. Drew Gholson with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension presented on “Public Attitudes and Perceptions about Water Issues in Texas”. Presentation slides are available at www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/council-meetings.asp.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.