

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: August 8, 2019

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Airport Commerce Office
1340 Airport Commerce Dr. Austin, TX 78719

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>	Carole Baker
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Alternate Kimberly Horndeski	<i>Higher Education</i>	
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>		<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Kevin Kluge	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Alternate Wayne Wilson	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Alternate Greg Carter
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Alternate Paul Kaspar	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Anai Padilla
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>		<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Valerie Miller	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Alternate Jennifer Walker	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>			

Also present: Alternates: Eddy Trevino, Denise Hickey, Whitney Milberger, Jessica Woods; Interested Parties: Michael Kenny, Dub Taylor, Linda Wilson, Chris Charles, Sarah Gorton, TJ Helton, Al Fuentes, Charles Ring, John Bender, Natalie Houston.

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

1. Introduction

The meeting began at 10:31 a.m.

2. Approval of minutes from the May 16, 2019 meeting

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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4. Update from Texas Water Development Board

Nominations for the Council will be taken to the September 5th TWDB Board Meeting. Notes for the Board Meeting should be available on the TWDB's website on or around August 22nd.

K. Kluge provided legislative updates on several bills pertaining to TWDB, which were passed during the recent legislative session:

- H.B. 807 creates a new interregional planning council. One member from each regional water planning group is appointed to the council by TWDB. Also adds several new requirements to the development of regional water plans.
- H.B. 3339, also known as the Conservation "Clean-Up" bill, creates one new section in the Water Code requiring conservation plans for all TWDB financial assistance programs. Also adds definition for 'water conservation plan'.
- S.B. 1574 removes the required joint TWDB-TSSWCB report – *An Assessment of Water Conservation in Texas*. Also removes the required biannual report – *Summary of Evaluations of Best Management Practices in Certain Water Conservation Plans*.

5. Reports from Workgroups

a. Agriculture

The workgroup conducted a conference call in July. The discussion focused on the updating and creation of several BMPs, focusing incorporating new technologies in water conservation into the BMP Guide.

b. Commercial & Institutional

Bill Hoffman asked how the Commercial and Institutional BMP Guide is progressing with TWDB. Josh is still working on the formatting for the document.

Bill will begin working with Tim Loftus to determine water conservation efforts in higher education.

Karen Guz asked about any involvement with the national cooling tower study. B. Hoffman answered that yes, he has been participating. The study focuses on cooling towers nationally and trying to determine just how many there are. This study could potentially be important to the energy/water nexus and providing new opportunities for conservation.

K. Guz mentioned that this may be a good topic for a future presentation.

c. Municipal

Karen Guz began discussion on two issues SAWS was currently experiencing. The first revolving around Rain Water Harvesting. SAWS has begun re-vamping some

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of its incentives, including large RWH cisterns. An issue came up regarding which systems would need backflow prevention and looking through the existing guidance, it seems very unclear. K. Guz would like this discussion to be a topic for workgroup discussion in an upcoming meeting.

The second issue pertains to H.B. 2439. The bill was passed in the most recent legislative session and is aimed at preventing governmental entities from prohibiting the use of building products or materials in construction, renovation, maintenance, or other alteration of residential or commercial buildings. K. Guz noted that the bill is not worded very clearly, and could perhaps be used in terms of plumbing, irrigation, and other areas in water conservation, although the bill does not seem to be aimed specifically at water conservation.

It was discussed that the Council should prepare for the next session and with the intent of making efforts to clarify the bill to exclude water conservation measures.

d. Wholesale & Regional Water Authorities

A conference call was held on July 31st with the intent of increasing workgroup participation. About 10 participants joined the call, and discussed BMP updates for Wholesale Providers, focusing first on the Education and Outreach BMP. Enhancing tracking of conservation activities within the Wholesale sector in preparation for next year's legislative report was also discussed.

6. Discussion and Potential Action regarding the Procedure & Timeline for Development of Council Legislative Recommendations

As discussed at the last meeting, the Council has been considering moving up the timeframe for generating its legislative recommendations in order to coincide with the development of potential partner state agencies' Legislative Appropriations Requests (LARs).

It was commented that the Council needs to gain a better understanding of the scheduling for state agencies' LARs before deciding on a timeline for legislative recommendations.

K. Kluge stated that TWDB began the LAR process in January 2018 for the most recent legislative session. From May to June, the requests were further developed. From August to October, the Board at TWDB began reviewing the recommendations. And in December, the LAR was approved by the Legislative Budget Board.

Jennifer Allis commented that TCEQ follows a similar schedule for development of LARs. K. Kluge also mentioned that Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator for TWDB, expressed interest for the Council having firm recommendations completed by mid-summer 2020 for potential collaboration.

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Valerie Miller asked if there would be recommendations consistent with the last report, or if there are new ideas for recommendations. K. Guz stated she would like to push that discussion to the workgroups to discern what issues are important to them for development by the Council into recommendations.

C. Baker mentioned that if we could complete the report by September that would be beneficial in meeting with legislators and educating them on the report rather than the report getting lost if delivered later.

K. Guz stated we should aim for printing the report in September of 2020.

7. Other Business

Jennifer Walker asked about water conservation measures used in the Capitol Construction Project currently going on in Austin.

It was stated that there are state energy and water sustainability standards that will be followed for the project. The project does have a website, www.tfc-ccp.org, where you can see some of those standards as well as sign-up for updates.

8. Presentation: Mike Howe, TAWWA: Developing a Water Conservation Certification Program

Presentation can be found here: <https://savetexaswater.org/meeting/MHowe---Conservation-Certification-Program.pdf>

9. Announcement of Conferences and Events

August 8 – 9, 2019 – TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference; Austin, TX
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/conference.html>

September 4, 2019 – Water Resiliency Workshop
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tarrant-county-community-based-water-resiliency-workshop-tickets-68187405365>

September 18 – 20 – One Water Summit; Austin, TX
<http://uswateralliance.org/summit/2019-save-date>

November 7, 2019 – North Texas Water Symposium; Arlington, TX

February 13, 2020 – Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium; Houston, TX

March 31 – April 3, 2020 – Texas Water; Fort Worth, TX
<https://www.txwater.org/index.cfm>

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10. Future Meeting Dates and Locations

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

LCRA - Dalchau Service Center

3505 Montopolis Dr.

Austin, TX 78744

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.