

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Summary of Minutes

Date: August 22, 2024

Time: 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Lower Colorado River Authority
3700 Lake Austin Blvd.
Austin, TX 78703

Meeting Chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitator: Denise Livingston, Council Staff Support

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Leslie Patterson Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman Eddy Trevino
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	David Villarreal Addie Stone	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Sarah Schlessinger Colin McDonald
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Marty Kelly Vanessa Chapman	<i>Higher Education</i>	Robert Mace Allen Berthold
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	John Foster Mitch Conine	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Charles Ring John Bender
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Sam Marie Hermitte Erika Mancha	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Craig Elam Justin Newton
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Greg Carter Ryan Bayle
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Troy Hill Salvador Gandara	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway Cory Pomeroy
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz, Chair Joyce Warren	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Whitney Milberger
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Adam Foster	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Stacy Pandey Amy Muttoni	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Kyle Eppler
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Jennifer Walker Marisa Bruno	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe Earl Foster
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert Tom McLemore		

Also present: Adam Conner, Alicia Lee, Brooke McGregor, Becki Begley, Blaire Parker, Clifford Howard, Curtis Smith, Dana Porter, Dan Strub, Dawn Walker-Hughes, Dean Minchillo, Jessica Woods, Kyle Wright, Michael Murphy, Natalie Houston, Paula Szymanski, Perry Fowler, Samara Hernandez, Tom Entsminger **TWDB Staff** –Candice DeLello, John Sutton, Karen Sanders, Kellen McMurry, Lauren Bos, Taylor Nickell.

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Summary of Minutes

1. The meeting started at 10:36am
2. Roll call- A quorum of the Advisory Council was present at the meeting.
3. Public Comment – No public comments.
4. Approval of Minutes – CJ moved to approve the minutes from April’s meeting. Donna seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. TWDB Update – Erika Mancha gave the TWDB report.
 - 15 applications were received for the 2024 **agriculture water conservation** grant program with a total request of \$2,834,489. TWDB approved eight applications with funding for \$1,480,956 and an estimated savings of 7300 af/yr. Existing available funds allow for funding up to \$1.5 million dollars per year.
 - The Board approved a prioritized list of water loss mitigation projects based off the application received as part of the IUP process, to receive TWF funding through the Rural Water Assistance fund or Water Loan Assistance Fund. 66 utilities with requests totaling \$481,244,409 will be invited to submit a full financial application following a pre-application conference with TWDB.
 - Adam Foster, Executive Director of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, was appointed by the Board to serve as the Council’s groundwater district’s representative.
6. Discussion 2024 Legislative Report: The remainder of the meeting focused on the content and layout of the legislative report. Items addressed:
 - The cover letter, executive summary, and introduction have updated information and may be modified once all other content is finalized.
 - Charge 1, Agriculture
 - i. Agriculture section needs to be condensed
 - ii. List agricultural work items for next biennium
 - iii. Move some items to charge 2. Monitor emerging technologies and new opportunities.
 - iv. Add hyperlinks for BMPs or words that may warrant defining.
 - v. John, Stacy, and Dustin will work on updating agricultural content.
 - Charge 1, Commercial and Institutional
 - i. Issues
 - ii. Change the wording, “recommendations”
 - iii. Pare down long lists into broader topics
 - iv. TCEQ voiced concern on “code changes” or changes to statute.
 - v. Review graphs and clarify data in dialogue
 - vi. Karen and Bill will work on revisions. Greg, CJ, Donna and Lindsey will review revisions for comment.
 - Charge 1, Landscape and Irrigation
 - i. Add to introduction. Refer to TWDB Outdoor Water Use study (Hermitte/Mace)
 - Charge 1, Industrial

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Summary of Minutes

- i. Should the industrial section include a sub-section on municipal-provided industrial and industrial self-supplied? – Karen and Bill will work on draft for sub-section for review.
- Charge 1, Municipality
 - i. Work with TCEQ to reflect stage levels of entities that activated drought.
 - ii. Add section clarifying drought short term water savings response versus conservation planning which should always be “in effect”. Dean will help draft or review this section
- Charge 1, Water loss
 - i. The water loss section needs to be condensed.
 - ii. Hyperlink definitions
 - iii. Lead with answering, “are we making progress?”.
 - iv. TWDB needs to provide following water loss data:
 - Texas Water Fund, TWF, Water loss investment data
 - Technical Assistance program for water loss (can this be a hyper-link?)
 - Pullout important points to put in callout boxes
- Charge 1, Wholesale
 - i. Was progress made in wholesale water conservation?
- Charge 2 Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion in the BMP Guide.
 - i. Rearrange bullet points to be listed by sections. Each sector will submit emerging technologies or BMP possibilities.
- Charge 3
 - i. The TWDB is in negotiations for Public Awareness campaign. A decision will not be made in time for the report. Staff will draft a summary regarding funding allocated for the campaign, RFQ posted, currently in negotiations and projected timeline for campaign.
- Charge 4 – Resource Library
 - i. This section is complete
- Charge 5 – Public Recognition Program, Blue Legacy Awards
 - i. This section is complete
- Charge 6 – Monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in the regional water plans
 - i. Water loss is now a specific item.
 - ii. Change lead-in, “there are things in place that are going to make it possible for the next round of regional water plans to include more conservation”
- Charge 7 – Monitoring targets and goals.
 - i. Over the next biennium, look at 2024 plans and ‘how useful the plans seem to be”

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Summary of Minutes

- Can plans be made more impactful?
 - Can we enhance the annual reports to feature metrics that will better track the implementation of the WCP and its impact?
 - ii. Dean and Whitney will help draft
 - iii. Move section on GPCD in RWP to Charge 6
 - Next steps
 - i. Authors will submit updated drafts to Denise no later than September 12.
 - ii. TCEQ will receive a draft to obtain inter-agency comments.
 - iii. Editors will review and red line in Google Docs.
 - iv. By September 19, an updated draft will be sent out to members. Members will be able to view changes and view a clean updated copy.
 - v. All comments due back to Denise by October 3
 - vi. Final draft to be sent to Council and Alternates by October 10.
7. Announcement of Conferences and Events – The Blue Legacy Awards committee put out a call for judges to help with the upcoming award review. Award applications are due by September 5, 2024.
8. Future Meeting Dates: Oct. 17 In-person at Lower Colorado River Authority, Nov. 7 (TBD)
9. Adjourn – CJ moved to adjourn; Greg seconded. Meeting ended at 1:47 pm