

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 17, 2013
 Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
 Location: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
 Conference Room – Building 6
 1340 Airport Commerce – Austin, TX

Meeting chaired by: C.E. Williams, Presiding Officer
 Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman	<i>Refining & Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Karl Fennessey
<i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i>	Alternate Markus Hogue	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Alternate Jennifer Walker
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker	<i>Higher Education</i>	Alternate Calvin Finch
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dean Minchillo
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Alternate Stacey Steinbach
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Richard Egg
<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer	<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Richard Eyster
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	Gene Montgomery	<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Hughes Abell	<i>TCEQ</i>	Scott Swanson
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Lara Zent	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Steve Bednarz
<i>River Authorities</i>	Jim Parks	<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz		

At 9:30 am the meeting was called to order by presiding officer, C.E. Williams. The first item on the agenda was the approval of previous Council minutes. The minutes were approved without discussion. The floor was then opened for public comment for which there was no comment.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the S.B. 181 guidance document (<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/doc/SB181Guidance.pdf>). Texas Water Development Board staff acknowledged the collective efforts of everyone involved in developing this guidance document and emphasized the usefulness of this document in complying with reporting requirements. It was also pointed out that the document could be expanded or enhanced in the future as it becomes necessary.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the Blue Legacy awards program. The Agricultural Blue Legacy awards were presented in Amarillo on December 2012. Descriptions of the award recipients are found on the Council’s webpages (<http://www.savetexaswater.org/awards/AG/2012/AgWinners.htm>). Currently the Council is accepting award nominations for the Municipal Blue Legacy Awards that will be presented in April 2013 in Galveston ,TX (<http://www.savetexaswater.org/awards/MUN/2013/MunBLAhome.htm>).

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on the Best Management Practices (BMPs) Guide. The Council was provided with the following draft documents:

- BMP Guide Introduction
- Introduction to Wholesale Water Conservation Best Management Practices

- Wholesale BMP 1 Customer Water Conservation Plan Requirements
- Wholesale BMP 2 Technical Assistance and Outreach
- Wholesale BMP 3 Collective Purchasing
- Wholesale BMP 4 Cost Sharing Program

The discussion focused mainly on some editorial comments and whether the workgroup needed to schedule and host further discussions on the draft documents. Some members expressed concern about not achieving results in a timely manner in terms of developing and finalizing best management practices. Upon further discussion, a motion was made to submit the aforementioned draft best management practices documents to the Texas Water Development Board for further review, approval and adoption. The motion passed. In further discussions about the development of best management practices it was expressed that there should be more emphasis placed on clarifying that best management practices are voluntary whole or in part. It was suggested that clarification and guidance should also be offered to utilities and importance should be placed on implementing conservation plans as a whole rather than implementing best management practices. Best management practices are to be strategies or tools selected by the utility to be carried out whole or in part. With that discussion another motion was made to rephrase language in the BMP Guide and highlight the significance of best management practices being voluntary. The motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on Council activities at Water Day at the Texas State Capitol on March 28, 2013. The Council will plan on having a table with a poster and information to display.

A review and update was given on potential water conservation bills that were expected to be introduced during the 83rd legislative session. There is a strong interest in water conservation related legislation and some of the following topics may be covered in bills introduced during the legislative session:

- Annual water loss audits for municipalities
- Water conservation efforts and Home Owners Association regulations
- Enforcement of Drought Contingency Plans
- Water conservation funding-especially as part of implementation of 2012 State Water Plan

Additionally, the Legislative Budget Board has posted its Government Effectiveness and Efficiency Report (GEER) 2013, and the report reflects a number of specific recommendations relating to water conservation. The report can be found under the Chapter titled Natural Resources:

<http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/GEER/Government%20Effectiveness%20and%20Efficiency%20Report%202012.pdf>

A calendar link to upcoming events is available on the Council's homepage www.savetexaswater.org

- Jan 24-25 TWCA/TRWA Water Law Seminar (Austin, TX)
<http://trwa.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=184>
- Jan 25-26 Association of Water Board Directors Mid-Winter Conference in (Austin, TX)
<http://www.awbd-tx.org/Conferences.html>
- Feb 19 Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium (The Woodlands, TX)
<http://www.texaswater.org/>
- Feb 25 Texas Ag Water Forum-Conservation and Efficiency (Austin, TX)

<http://texasagwaterforum.blogspot.com/>

- Feb 26 Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium (Austin, TX)
<http://www.texaswater.org/>
- March 6-8 Texas Water Conservation Association 2013 Annual Conference (Austin, TX)
<http://www.twca.org/meetings/annual/2013/index.html>
- March 28 Texas Water Day at the Capitol 2013 (Austin, TX)
<http://www.texaswater.org/images/2012/water-day-2013.jpg>

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on future activities of the Council. Karen Guz discussed the possibility of working with Texas AgriLife on a white paper relating to water conservation training for landscape irrigators. There will be more discussion on this idea at the next Council meeting.

The last item on the agenda was a presentation from Jan Dell, CH2MHILL. She described an online mapping tool known as WaterMatch. WaterMatch is a grassroots initiative to promote the beneficial reuse of municipal effluent by industry or agriculture, using GIS mapping and social networking to facilitate the matches. By using the free website, agricultural and industrial water users can easily locate municipal wastewater treatment plants in their area. Municipal wastewater organizations can provide information in their profile. A power point presentation can be found on the Council's webpages at : http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/agendas/doc/RelatedDocs/CH2M_WaterMatch.pdf

The Council scheduled the following dates for upcoming meetings of the Water Conservation Advisory Council:

- Wednesday March 6, 2013 at 9:30am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Austin Field Office.
- Thursday May 9, 2013 at 9:30am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Austin Field Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.