

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Time: 1:00 pm
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>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Alternate Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Dan Hunter	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	-----
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	-----
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Steven Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	-----
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Robert Mace	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Karl Fennessey
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Electric Generation</i>	-----
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Alternate Brian Wenberg	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	-----
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	-----
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	-----	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Matt Phillips	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Alternate Deborah McMullan
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert		

Also attended: (Alternates) Ruthanne Haut, Eddy Trevino, David Villarreal, and Jennifer Walker; and (Interested Parties) Peter Lake, Tara Rejino, Comer Tuck, Chelsea Minton, Carole Davis, Denise Hickey, Matthew Berg, Guillermo Martinez, Jasper van Heesch, Charles Moehlenbrock, Heather Dalrymple, Mark Jordan, Sarah Richards, Perry Fowler, Cameron Turner, Sam Hermitte, Jonathan Kleinman, Jessica Woods, Allen Berthold, Stacy Pandey, and Tim Loftus.

- Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2015 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

Director Peter Lake provided a brief update on the Texas Water Development Board.

- Discussion and possible action on best management practices development process

Jennifer Allis led the discussion on the language used on savetexaswater.org regarding development of best management practices (BMPs); specifically, whether “BMP approval” might be better than “BMP adoption” within the finalization stage. Mindy Conyers updated the council on improvements made to the website to improve clarity. Finalized best management practices were removed from workgroup development pages. Karen Guz led the discussion on drafting new best management practices and noted the progress made by the Municipal Workgroup on three forthcoming best management practices. No formal action was taken on this item.

- Discussion and possible action on drafted letter to academia

The council discussed the draft document written by Bill Hoffman, including how recipients could respond to the survey, who would sign the letter, and how responses would be documented. The council voted on a motion stating the letter will be sent from the Presiding Officer on behalf of the council with responses sent to council support staff at TWDB. Staff will edit the letter to include both an online survey and a traditional mail option for responding.

- Discussion and possible action on preparation of 2016 Legislative Report

The discussion first focused on the location of the recommendations to be included in this report per Senate Bill 551, passed during the regular session of the 84th Texas Legislature. One suggestion was to include a recommendation per each legislative charge plus a master list of all recommendations from the council. The council will revisit this topic at a later date. Other topics mentioned included featuring reductions in per capita water use and a recent study on demand hardening. Preliminary discussion of the seven legislative charges resulted in a suggestion that the chairs of the council’s workgroup meet via conference call as soon as possible. Workgroup chairs will report back to the full council about those discussions at the next meeting. The council decided to maintain an aggressive timeline for the report. Other topics considered were whether or not to address drought restrictions, water use per bill as a metric, and implementation of Senate Bill 181 [82(R)] guidelines. No formal action was taken.

- Discussion and possible action on Blue Legacy Awards presentation site

The council did not take up this item.

- Presentation of “Insights on using data to drive conservation efforts in California. Are there lessons which can be applied in Texas?” by Jasper van Heesch of OmniEarth

Presentation slides posted to www.savetexaswater.org/. Note: the presentation followed the reports from workgroups.

- Reports from Workgroups

Agriculture - The workgroup hopes to receive feedback soon on updates to the brush control best management practice and would like to establish deadlines for the Blue Legacy Awards as soon as possible.

Commercial & Institutional - The Commercial and Institutional workgroup is incorporating suggestions in the best management practices guide and will not meet before the next council meeting.

Industrial - The workgroup will host a conference call as soon as it can be scheduled.

Municipal - The workgroup has updated best management practices that will be ready for stakeholder comment soon.

Public Awareness - The workgroup will host a conference call as soon as it can be scheduled.

Wholesale - The workgroup is working on best management practices for Water Conservation Education and Public Awareness, Providing financial incentives directly to customer's end-users, and Wholesale conservation water rates. A Technical Assistance and Outreach BMP should be posted for stakeholder comment soon.

- Announcements of conferences and events

The following events were announced:

February 29, 2016 - Deadline to submit comments to TCEQ on draft amendments to rules relating to the regulation and use of graywater and alternative onsite water;

March 1, 2016 Colorado River Alliance's Barstow Speaker Series on "Austin's Water Future" (Austin); and

March 9, 2016 - Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium (Houston).

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2016, at 1:00 PM at the Texas Parks and Wildlife - Austin Field Office. Additional future meeting dates were also selected, all at 1:00 PM and at the same location as above: April 25, June 30, and August 3, 2016.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.