

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Monday, March 7, 2016
 Time: 1:00 pm
 Location: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
 Conference Room – Building 6
 1340 Airport Commerce – Austin, TX

Meeting chaired by: Robert E. Mace, Vice 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>	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>	Kevin Wagner
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Steven Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Robert Mace	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Karl Fennessey
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	-----	<i>Electric Generation</i>	-----
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	John Mueller	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway
<i>Municipalities</i>	-----	<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>	Celia Eaves
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	-----		

Also attended: (Alternates) Craig Elam, Lynne Hamlin, Nora Mullarkey, and Eddy Trevino; and (Interested Parties) Michael L. Bloom, Sanjeev Kalaswad, Melissa Brogan, Matt Berg, Cary Betz, Cameron Turner, Kevin Kluge, Chris Maxwell-Gaines, Sam Hermitte, Jonathan Kleinman, Jeremy Mazur, Eric Stearns, and Charlie Moehlenbrock.

- Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2016, meeting

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

- Public Comment

Matt Berg, of Save Water Co., commented on the speed of technology and its importance in water conservation.

- Update from Texas Water Development Board

Robert Mace provided a brief update including the latest on round two of SWIFT funding (abridged applications were due February 5, 2016), the release of the 2017 Draft State Water Plan (TWDB will conduct a public hearing on April 18 at 6:00 PM; written comments may be provided on or before 5:00 pm April 25), and the announcement of the Water for Texas conference (January 24-26, 2017).

- Update on best management practices development process

Mindy Conyers stated that changes to the Council's website meant to improve clarity regarding the best management practices development process will route internally for approval soon. TWDB IT staff will also refresh the look of the website and make changes that bring the site into compliance with accessibility requirements.

- Discussion on Charge 7: "Monitor target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Texas Water Development Board"

The council discussed the development of the target and goal guidelines, most notably the history of the 140 gallons per capita per day (GPCD) recommendation developed by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force. The group decided to revisit this discussion at the next meeting. Robert Mace clarified who would be responsible for the primary content of each of the seven charges: WCAC workgroups (charge 1); TWDB staff (charges 2, 3, 4, and 5); and Ken Kramer (charge 6).

- Discussion and possible action on Blue Legacy Award dates and presentation site

The discussion focused on the information in the award nomination packets, specifically the opening and closing dates for the packet submission period. TWDB staff provided information on the key scheduling dates from the 2015 awards cycle. Workgroup chairs will be asked to weigh in on selection of dates and specifics related to each nomination packet prior to the next meeting.

- Presentation on "The sales tax exemption for certain water-efficient products during the limited period" by Melissa Brogan from the office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Melissa Brogan and Eric Stearns from the Comptroller's office provided an overview of Senate Bill 1356 (relating to exemption from the sales tax for certain water-efficient products for a limited period) which amends Chapter 151 (Limited Sales, Excise, and Use Tax Act) by adding section 151.3335 on water-efficient products. The council had numerous questions related to the types of products that would be considered "water-conserving" and therefore eligible for the Memorial Day weekend sales tax exemption. Ms. Brogan encouraged the council to submit comments to her directly or through the public comment portal that will accompany the development of administrative rules.

Note: This item was moved ahead of the workgroup reports due to a time conflict.

- Reports from Workgroups

Agriculture - The workgroup has several additional best management practices in the early stages of development.

Commercial & Institutional - The Commercial and Institutional workgroup is working to incorporate suggestions into the best management practices guide.

Industrial - The workgroup hosted a conference call on March 3 and discussed charges for the legislative report.

Municipal - Nothing to report.

Public Awareness - Nothing to report.

Wholesale - Nothing to report.

- Announcements of conferences and events

The following events were announced:

March 14–20- Fix-a-Leak Week;

April (all month) - The Wyland Foundation's Annual National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation;

April 19-22 - Texas Water 2016 (Texas Section AWWA and Water Environment Association of Texas) in Fort Worth;

May 3&4 - TCEQ's Environmental Trade Fair and Conference in Austin; and

May 3&4 - High-Performance Buildings & Workplaces Conference (a National Facilities Management & Technology Conference) in Austin.

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2016, at 1:00 PM at the Texas Parks and Wildlife - Austin Field Office.

Additional future meeting dates include June 30 and August 1 (note: the August meeting date was changed from August 3).

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.