

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday-March 8, 2011

Time: 10:04 a.m. – 11:50 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>	----
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker	<i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i>	Kelly Hall
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Greg Ellis
<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>TWDB</i>	----
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	----	<i>TCEQ</i>	Scott Swanson
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	Gene Montgomery	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	----
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Janet Adams	<i>Higher Education</i>	----
<i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	----	<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert
<i>River Authorities</i>	Jim Parks	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	----
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz		

At 10:04 the meeting was called to order by the 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 opened for public comment for which there was none.

Carole Baker discussed Texas Water Day at the Capitol on April 27th, and encouraged members to participate in the event. A proclamation will be issued to both the Texas Water Foundation and the Water Conservation Advisory Council. Chairman Ritter-House Natural Resources Committee, Chairman Fraser-Senate Natural Resources Committee, and Former Senator Averitt are invited to be in attendance. A reception will be held for Council members, legislators, and staff. Various agencies, cities, and utilities are invited to attend and/or host an exhibit table.

C.E. Williams opened the floor to discussion regarding relevant bills in the 82nd Legislature. SB 181 is related to the reporting of water conservation measures by municipalities and water utilities. HB 1319 is related to the calculation and reporting of water usage and conservation by municipalities and water utilities. SB 332 relates to the vested ownership interest in groundwater beneath the surface and the right to produce that groundwater.

A motion was made to rename the workgroups and to appoint a chair for each workgroup. The workgroups were renamed and the following chairs were appointed:

- Public Awareness Workgroup: Denise Hickey
- Industrial Workgroup: Gary Spicer
- Municipal Workgroup: Karen Guz

- Agricultural Workgroup: C.E. Williams

Board staff provided an update on the workgroup activities since the January 2011 Council meeting. Complete minutes were provided at the meeting and the following summary was provided:

Industrial Workgroup

- Discussion of the workgroup's goals and the consideration of a work plan introduced by Gene Montgomery.
**This work plan was subsequently shared with the other workgroups and adapted into a single overall work plan for all four workgroups*
- Discussion on appropriate entities for a stakeholders list.
- Discussion relating to Board staff preparing and presenting information on the current data they have relating to historical water use, largest water users and consumption information within the industrial sector, as well as projected water use within the industrial sector.
- A Best Management Practices (BMP) resource list was provided to aid in the conceptualization of revisions and updates for the BMP guide.

Agricultural Workgroup

- Discussion of the work plan.
- Discussion on appropriate entities for a stakeholders list.
- Discussion relating to Board staff preparing and presenting information on the current data they have relating to historical water use, largest water users, consumption information, and projected water use within the agricultural sector.
- BMP resource list was provided to aid in the conceptualization of revisions and updates for the BMP guide.

Municipal Workgroup

- Discussion on the goals and objectives of the workgroup.
 - workgroup focus will be divided into two areas: GPCD /Metrics and Best Management Practices
- Discussion on appropriate entities for a stakeholders list.

Public Awareness Workgroup

- Discussion on the goals and objectives of the workgroup.
- Discussion about Water IQ and the information gathered from the Water IQ annual reports. It was suggested that maybe the workgroup should consider looking at what type of information is collected through that report and provide some suggestions back to the Board as to what additional information may be useful to collect.
- It was also suggested that in addition to evaluating Water IQ that it would be useful to collect information on other public awareness programs as well. This workgroup may want to continue the effort of collecting information similar to what was reflected in the Council's first two legislative reports.
- There was discussion on the goal of enhancing the use of Alliance for Water Efficiency's resource library by identifying additional reports, resources, or information. Board staff provided an update on some efforts at the Board to improve and expand upon the Council's website (www.savetexaswater.org). Revisions to the website will allow for more interactive access to the current BMP guide, case studies and information.

- It was mentioned that the issue of TWDB resources for this proposed work on the website remains uncertain.
- Another goal of the workgroup that was discussed was continuing to develop recognition efforts for conservation:
 - Preparing to award a municipal entity at the 2011 Texas Water Conference in Fort Worth.
 - Regularly scheduled annual conferences and venues in Texas to regularly distribute recognition awards to Industrial, Agricultural, and Municipal entities.
 - Partnering with highly visible and regularly occurring conferences would encourage more entities to apply each year.
- Discussion about gathering information from entities that are currently doing their own form of internal analysis, research or evaluation on their public awareness programs. This information could be summarized and shared with the workgroup and Council.

The Council discussed the savetexaswater.org website updates discussed during the Public Awareness workgroup meeting. Currently, this website houses the Best Management Practices Guide and the website is managed and updated by TWDB staff. With the budget limitations that are currently impacting staff availability at the Board, the Council discussed the possibility of using other websites to support the desired interactive nature of the BMP guide.

TWDB Staff summarized the work plan drafted for each workgroup and a discussion about structuring the workgroups and the Council's larger goals ensued.

- Ken Kramer mentioned that public awareness should be specifically included in the workgroup plan.
- Karen Guz suggested the Council identify overlapping efforts and ensure these redundant efforts roll back into the Council, presumably from stakeholders and interest groups, so the Council has the best and most complete information.
- C.E. Williams suggested starting with the big players like the Texas Agriculture Council to get a handle on the smaller interest groups and ensure we have everyone at the table.
- Gene Montgomery emphasized the importance of figuring out what the Council wants to accomplish and have clear direction before engaging stakeholders.
- Karen Guz suggested that each workgroup identify key areas where progress is being made, and focus on those areas to maximize successes.
- Gary Spicer emphasized the importance of creating a clear timeline to accomplish the various tasks the Council has to complete.
- Bill Hoffman reminded the Council that the state's higher education community is a good resource that the Council has yet not fully utilized.
- TWDB staff offered to draft and share via email a two pager for approval at the next meeting.
- It was suggested that by early summer it should be possible to generate a basic list of stakeholders for each workgroup. This process should be relatively clear because each Council member represents a specific stakeholder group and can make suggestions about the major players to start with. The discussion concluded with an agreement that by June 1 each workgroup should have a preliminary list of stakeholders to engage.

The discussion turned to the topic of updating the Best Management Practices Guide. Karen Guz and Ken Kramer suggested the strategy of having each workgroup look at the relevant sections of the BMP guide to identify areas that need to be updated and/or changed. Some concern was expressed that the

Council does not have enough resources to really update the BMP guide were expressed, while others suggested that is the reason the stakeholder involvement is so crucial – to delegate some of the work to the people who are most familiar with the respective water user groups and have the most experience implementing BMPs.

TWDB Staff provided an update relating to the efforts of a BMP Staff Committee at the TWDB. The following objectives were described as part of the committee's efforts:

- Review other current or newly existing BMP guides and manuals and consider design, structure, format, and case studies.
- Review the 2004 Texas Water Conservation BMP Guide and evaluate the vision and purpose of a revised edition of the BMP guide. Consider additional components that would enhance case studies.
- Provide preliminary general assessments about the resources that would be required to conduct major or minor revision to the BMP Guide.
- Update the Council's webpage (www.savetexaswater.org) to incorporate more interactive tools for case studies links and BMPs.

TWDB Staff followed up by offering to present additional information on the BMP staff committee efforts during a future Council meeting in June.

TWDB staff updated the Council on available data and estimates produced within the Board.

- Erin McAuley offered an update regarding planning data and the timeline for projections based on the 2010 census data.
- The first round of 2010 census data was made available through the Texas State Data Center (SDC) in February, and geographic data was just released last week. Census data will be used by the Board's planning staff to estimate and project water use and population.
- The regional water planning process was finalized in December when the Board approved the regional plans. New contracts for the next round of regional water planning will start in September of 2011.
- Board staff is currently developing 2009 water use estimates for irrigated agriculture and livestock. Staff received the 2009 water use data for municipal, manufacturing, and industrial water users and is currently receiving water use surveys for 2010.
- Staff is also reviewing statewide mining water use in a report released by the Bureau of Economic Geology.
- Municipal projections will be finalized after SDC population projections based on 2010 Census data are released. SDC population projections at the county level will be released in November 2011 at which time planning staff will incorporate that data into our ongoing projections process.
- The Board is currently in the process of completing non-municipal projections.
- At the April Council meeting, planning staff will provide more detailed information regarding this data.

TWDB staff member Comer Tuck offered additional information regarding municipal conservation data and discussed:

- TWDB' activities to receive the year 2010 annual reports from about 500 required water conservation plans. Although the number of entities is only about one-eight of total number of

water supply entities in the state, those entities represent about 80% of volume of municipal water use in Texas.

- Reports due May 1. Compliance is expected to be high, almost 100%. TWDB can ask TCEQ to take administrative action if all follow up efforts fail to receive a report.
- TWDB is also receiving the year 2010 water loss audit survey as required once every five years from all 3,600 (+-) retail public water suppliers in Texas. Reports are due March 31 and can be completed on-line.
- In 2006, about 55% of entities responded. The only enforcement is that a TWDB loan applicant must have a current water loss audit.
- Analysis of data from both reports will be undertaken in Summer/Fall of 2011 for consideration in a TWDB/TSSWCB report on water conservation in Texas. This report is required as a supplement to the State Water Plan and will be submitted in January 2012.
- Information from the analysis should also be helpful to the Council in several activities.

The Council then moved into more discussion regarding efforts to update the BMP guide including ensuring consistency across workgroup efforts. Council members discussed that as they move forward with their efforts to engage stakeholders on the topic of BMPs that they should consider the following:

- Prepare guidance documents for stakeholders to identify tasks to be completed and areas of focus
- Emphasize the value that stakeholder's involvement will bring to their respective interest groups as well as the BMP guide
- Solicit information from stakeholders regarding what information is most needed in the BMP guide and what BMPs they are currently using

Council Member Ken Kramer asked about the impact on TWDB of the proposed budget cuts for state government. Comer Tuck responded that the exact amount of impact on TWDB conservation activities is still uncertain, however, it is expected that the cuts will have some impact on water conservation efforts.

There was discussion between Denise Hickey and TWDB Attorney, Jim Bateman, regarding s terminology used in the Water IQ license agreements. It was suggested that TWDB staff will review the license agreement.

An announcement was made regarding the Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium on Tuesday, March 22 in Cedar Park. More information is available here: <http://www.texaswater.org/>

The Council's next two meetings were scheduled on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 and Wednesday June 8, 2011 both to be located at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office in Austin. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.