

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Monday April 6, 2009
Time: 10:05 am – 12:50 pm
Location: Center Conference Room, Robert E. Johnson Building
1500 North Congress Ave - Austin, TX

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

Council Members in attendance are listed below:

Scott Swanson	Comer Tuck	Greg Carter	Ken Kramer	Gene Montgomery
C. E. Williams	Kelly Hall	Janet Adams	Bill Hoffman	Steve Bednarz
Carole Baker	Donna Howe	Cindy Loeffler	Wayne Halbert	Richard Egg
Gary Walker	Karen Guz	Jim Parks	Wilson Scaling	

Alternates in place of Council Members:

Linda Christie for Jim Oliver
Greg Ellis for Luana Buckner

At 10:05 am the Council meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer C.E. Williams. The presiding officer welcomed the Water Conservation Advisory Council (Council), the alternates, and the audience. The first item in the agenda was the approval of the previous council meeting minutes. The previous minutes were approved. The floor was opened for public comment and Mary Ann Dickinson from the Alliance for Water Efficiency spoke. She spoke about her perspective of being involved with water conservation efforts, initially in California and now on the national level. She gave a background about the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) and shared some points about the concerns and issues relating to water conservation. AWE is very interested in making sure that water efficiency is well considered and well funded at the federal and state levels. Some of the other efforts AWE is working on are, a clearinghouse information portal and a model tool for water conservation for municipalities. In the future AWE hopes to add a focus on agricultural aspects of water conservation.

The Council then moved on to Carole Baker's status update on legislative activity this session. Some of the bills that relate to water conservation efforts include:

- HB 1560 *Aycock* - Relating to the duty of certain municipalities to require an installer of an irrigation system to obtain a permit before installing the system.
- HB2339 *Miller, Sid*- Relating to the regulation of licensed irrigators.
- HB 2667 *Ritter & Creighton* - Relating to performance standards for plumbing fixtures sold in this state.
- HB 4299 *Rose* - Relating to rainwater harvesting and other water conservation initiatives.

- HB 2134 *Rios Ybarra & Lucio III* - Relating to the frequency of water audits by certain retail public utilities.
- SB 1714 *Hegar* - Relating to the evidence of beneficial use in the permitting of groundwater.

The Council then moved on to each of the workgroup chairs for their status update:

- WG 1 Public Recognition & Awareness: Workgroup decided they will revisit the targets and goals for the year after the legislative session is completed and funding is determined. A PDF and Survey Monkey test link will be sent out in near future for the Council to review and provide feedback.
- WG 2 Metrics & Trends: Workgroup had a conference call and discussions with the state demographer to determine the next steps in formulating a focus group for population estimation methodology. A PDF and Survey Monkey test link will be sent out in near future for the Council to review and provide feedback.
- WG 3 Regional Plan Implementation: Workgroup had a conference call and decided they will revisit the targets and goals for the year after the legislative session is completed and funding is determined. A PDF and Survey Monkey test link will be sent out in near future for the Council to review and provide feedback.
- WG 4 Resource Library and BMPs: Workgroup decided they will revisit the targets and goals for the year after the legislative session is completed and funding is determined. A Survey Monkey test link including one or more questions for this workgroup will be sent out in near future for the Council to review and provide feedback.
- WG 5 Water and Energy Efficiency: Workgroup chair had a meeting and discussions with staff of the State Energy Conservation Office to determine the next steps in formulating a cooperative effort. Bill Hoffman shared some information from one of his power points and discussed how energy and water are closely linked (Appendix A).

Council Member Carole Baker asked audience member Meredith Blount to share some information about her research efforts. Meredith is currently working in the graduate programs at Texas State University-San Marcos in conjunction with the Texas River Systems Institute. She is developing a model from data gathered in a survey of municipalities. Her geographic areas of focus are Hays, Travis, Williams, Bastrop, and Caldwell counties. Her survey questions pertained to the types of water conservation strategies and the amount of savings the municipalities are claiming. She will be coming out with a final report at the end of August and would be willing to share that information with the Council.

The Council then discussed the importance of obtaining feedback for their efforts by involving leading state water agencies such as the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). It was decided that Presiding Officer CE Williams would initially send a letter to the Executive Administrator of the TWDB and Executive Director of TCEQ, inviting them

to attend the next Council meeting and discuss their agencies comments on the Council's recommendations in the December 2008 Report to Texas Legislature.

Additionally, Council Member Gary Walker agreed to try to coordinate a meeting between a few Council Members and the chairmen of the natural resource committees: Representative Ritter and Senator Averitt, or their assigned committee aides. The Council Members attending the meetings may include Bill Hoffman, Carole Baker, Ken Kramer, Karen Guz, and CE Williams.

The next Council meeting date was set for Wednesday June 10, 2009. Location for this meeting is now confirmed as at Austin Field Office-Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin, Texas.

Council meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.