

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday April 20, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.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>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker	<i>Refining & Chemical Manufacturing</i>	----
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i>	Kelly Hall
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	-----
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Alternate Greg Ellis
<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Richard Egg
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Gary Walker	<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	Gene Montgomery	<i>TCEQ</i>	Scott Swanson
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Hughes Abell	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Alternate James Featherston
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Janet Adams	<i>Higher Education</i>	----
<i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Linda Christie	<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert
<i>River Authorities</i>	Jim Parks		

At 10:00 am the meeting was called to order by the presiding officer, C.E. Williams. The audience introduced themselves and 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 attend. 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 usage and water conservation measures by municipalities and water utilities. HB 1319 is also 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. There was also discussion of a rainwater harvesting bill possibly being introduced that may task the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality with developing guidelines and rulemaking.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff. Staff presented on the topic of conservation related information and data. Data collection, evaluation and reporting mechanisms were described in further detail. The presentation with slides and notes is available on the Council's website.

After the presentation there were some comments and discussion about federal legislation and impacts on the Electric Power Generation industry. There were a couple of suggestions for future presentation topics on Agricultural metrics and Electric Power Generation metrics.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the workgroup activities. Although the workgroups did not meet, TWDB staff worked with council members to develop an overview document as well as stakeholders list to assist the workgroups in the future. There was some discussion on the overview document and suggestions for each workgroup to develop their own overview documents.

There was some discussion on quantifying savings and available tools to help with that type of analysis. It was brought up that the TWDB has a research project going on right now to help with this very issue. The research surveys selected utilities to see what tools or methods they have used to calculate savings.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on the eight council member positions that will be expiring in August 2011.

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Scott Swanson
- Texas Department of Agriculture – Gary Walker
- Texas Water Development Board – Robert Mace
- Federal Agencies – Steven Bednarz
- Municipalities – Karen Guz
- Refining and Chemical Manufacturing – Karl Fennessey
- Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture – Kelly Hall
- Municipality Utility Districts – Donna Howe

Nominations will be accepted by TWDB for the positions and the TWDB Board will approve membership selection in August 2011.

The Council's next two meetings were scheduled for Wednesday June 8, 2011 and Thursday September 1, 2011 both to be located at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office in Austin. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.