

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday May 16, 2012

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12noon.

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

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| <i>Institutional Water Users</i> | ----- | <i>Refining & Chemical Manufacturing</i> | Karl Fennessey |
| <i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i> | Brad Smith | <i>Environmental Groups</i> | Ken Kramer |
| <i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i> | Alternate Nora Mullarkey | <i>Higher Education</i> | Kevin Wagner |
| <i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i> | C.E. Williams | <i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i> | Alternate Dean Minchillo |
| <i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i> | Cindy Loeffler | <i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i> | Alternate Stacey Steinbach |
| <i>Municipal Utility Districts</i> | ----- | <i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i> | Richard Egg |
| <i>Electric Generation</i> | Gary Spicer | <i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i> | Richard Eyster |
| <i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i> | Gene Montgomery | <i>TWDB</i> | Robert Mace |
| <i>Agricultural Groups</i> | Hughes Abell | <i>TCEQ</i> | Scott Swanson |
| <i>Rural Water Users</i> | Alternate Lara Zent | <i>Federal Agencies</i> | Steve Bednarz |
| <i>River Authorities</i> | Jim Parks | <i>Irrigation Districts</i> | Wayne Halbert |
| <i>Municipalities</i> | Karen Guz | | |

At 9:30 am 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 then opened for public comment in which there were no comments.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff member, Matt Nelson. He gave a presentation on the findings of a recent research study titled, *Water Conservation Savings Quantification Study*. The study was funded by TWDB and completed by BBC Research and Consulting firm. The primary goal of the study was to identify existing and potential ways of measuring implementation of municipal conservation. Some of the key findings pointed out that there is a growing concern about the lack of information on actual progress towards meeting goals, and that there is more focus on efforts rather than achievements. The research also found that no Texas studies exist that identify estimates for actual conservation savings achieved or methods for how to estimate those savings. Instead most analyses focus on the use of gallons per capita per day (GPCD) as a metric, which has a number of its own limitations. This study produced the following three recommendations:

- Consider developing a statistical (econometric) model to estimate statewide and regional conservation savings.
- Consider developing a new “desktop” tool to assist providers in standardizing data collection and analyzing data.
- Seek to develop a common, web-based, data collection and reporting system.

The research study and presentation can be found here:
<http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/agendas/index.htm>

Next, an update was given on three research topics recently approved by the TWDB and the request for proposals that are to become available in the Texas Registrar. The three research objectives are:

- Determining Cost Benefit and Demand Savings of Municipal Water Conservation Efforts
- A Manual to Assist Utilities in Reducing Water Loss
- Evaluating the Potential for Direct Potable Reuse in Texas

The request for proposals can be found at the following link:

http://www.twdb.texas.gov/about/contract_admin/RFQ/index.asp

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on the development of the Council's next legislative report. A timeline was discussed along with some ideas for content of the report. A report draft will be shared at the next council meeting in June.

An update was given on the activities of the SB 181 Committee. TWDB staff is working on three main tasks relating to rule changes, reporting form revisions, and development of a guidance document. Draft material will be made available in June.

The next item on the agenda was an update on workgroup activities.

- Agricultural Workgroup –The group continues to consider Best Management Practices (bmps) that they would like to revise.
- Commercial and Institutional Workgroup – The group is looking at developing bmps related to landscape water management plans and landscape irrigation design. It was pointed out that the commercial, institutional, and industrial sectors would also benefit by having some type of water management plan in place. It was also pointed out that currently there are efforts in others states where ICI bmps are being developed. The workgroup decided to conduct future activities as one single Industrial, Commercial, Institutional workgroup.
- Municipal Workgroup – The workgroup chair and members are in the process of reviewing the public comments they received. They hope to set up another open public comment period on a set of bmps that are soon to be drafted. The bmps will be posted to the workgroup webpage and stakeholders will be able to access the documents.
- Wholesale Suppliers Workgroup – The workgroup is in the process of posting a public comment period on a set of four bmps that they have developed.

There was some discussion on other activities and upcoming events. A calendar link to upcoming events is available on the Council's homepage.

The Council scheduled the following dates for upcoming meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council:

- Wednesday June 20, 2012 at 9:30am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office.
- Wednesday July 25, 2012 at 9:30am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 12noon.