

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday June 25, 2008

Time: 10:00am - 1:35 pm

Location:

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	Wilson Scaling	Luana Buckner
C. E. Williams	Kelly Hall	H. W. Bill Hoffman	Steven Bednarz	Richard Egg	Jim Parks
Carole Baker	Wayne Halbert	Jim Oliver	Karen Guz	Gary Walker	Donna Howe

Alternates in place of Council Members:

Phillip Johnson sitting in for Vivien Allen

Dan Opdyke sitting in for Cindy Loeffler

At 10:06 am the council meeting was called to order by the 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 for which there was none. The presiding officer introduced a guest speaker, Jerry Walker.

Jerry Walker, P.E with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service gave a presentation entitled Irrigation Practices in Texas and Improvements in Irrigation Efficiency. (Appendix A). The presentation discussed various irrigation technologies, methods for measuring efficiency, and the differences between application efficiency and water use efficiency. The Council asked a few questions and held brief discussions relating to water use changes due to efficiency programs, requirements for metering on new wells, cost share programs, and management of irrigation technologies.

The next item on the agenda was the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB's) report on the following projects:

- www.SaveTexasWater.org website ~ TWDB staff is continuously working on designing the templates for the website (Appendix B). TWDB will work with Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) for the design of the logo. TWDB will have a subscription to IStock Photos, an online database of photos, in order to populate the website with images as needed. A new mission statement will be developed to be representative of the website's objectives. TWDB staff is currently working on developing the content for the website.
- Online Survey ~ a project charter was developed internally at the TWDB between the Conservation group and the Programming/ Applications group (Appendix C). The charter covers the objectives, scope, and projected timeline for this project. As of right now the projected completion date is late September

– early October. Internally, the TWDB management team is working on a prioritization scheme. Depending on the outcome of that meeting, this project may move up or down on the prioritization scale. As of right now some programming staff is able to devote some of their time to work on this project. So with that in mind we are continuing to move forward at the pace we have been until something changes. The remaining survey questions that need to be developed are on the topics of gallons per capita per day (GPCD) and Conservation Strategy Implementation. These two topics are charged to Workgroups 2: Metrics & Trends and Workgroup 3: Strategy Implementation. By late July a draft set of survey questions should be developed for the Councils review.

- TWDB Public Awareness Program ~ TWDB is working on some brochures, the Water IQ website, and partnership agreement. TWDB staff is still actively promoting the program and partnership resources. There are some updates for Major Rivers and the Middle School Level programs.

The next item on the agenda was a report on the presiding chair's letter to the Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG). Based on a motion from Workgroup 3 ~ Regional Plan Implementation, the Council's presiding chair prepared a letter asking each RWPG to provide information on their strategy implementation. One response letter was received and shared with the Council (Appendix D). Council members agreed that response letters detailing which parts of the request are feasible and which parts are not, would provide some useful of feedback.

It was suggested that one of the next steps of the Council could be to make a legislative recommendation that this type of information be gathered. It was suggested that if this data is going to be measured, tracked or requested, that the development of a long term tool to track or measure this type of requested data, could help provide some consistency amongst the RWPGs. Comments were made that if there is not a scale to measure and evaluate these strategies than it is going to be hard to count on a lot of savings from conservation strategies. Another comment was made that the national Alliance for Water Efficiency is trying to develop a tool for utilities to calculate conservation savings. This tool should be available in early 2009.

There was some discussion about the issues and real life barriers that water providers and retailers have to face when it comes to developing conservation programs. One of the main concerns are the operational needs and costs that will increase in the future as demand increases and supply drops. It was suggested that there needs to be more workshops for water managers and planners on how to develop effective conservation approaches while staying financially stable. It was stated that part of the awareness efforts needs to focus on informing and guiding managers and planners towards effective conservation approaches. A comment was made that there are case studies and some forms of guidance on how to achieve financial stability and conservation. There were also comments made that pushing conservation has helped utilities to bring down costs. It was stated that the economy can also affect the agricultural sector in a way that some agricultural producers may even end up using more water to produce more crops.

There was a 40 minute break for lunch.

The floor was turned over to the workgroup spokespersons for their status reports.

Awareness & Public Recognition: The status report of the website, survey, and public outreach program that was given earlier covered the status of this workgroup. This workgroup will now be preparing a draft legislative report and will plan on having a conference call before July 23rd.

Metrics & Trends: This workgroup has prepared a draft report that is available for comments (Appendix E). The workgroup plans on having a three part series of conference calls before July 23rd. The conference call schedule will be as follows:

July 8th @ 11am: Flow Chart & Definitions

Agenda

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

II. Finalize draft of proposed water use categories/sub-categories flow chart.

III. Continue development of proposed draft definitions of categories

IV. Adjourn

July 15th @ 2pm: Population Estimation & Long-term Methodology

July 21st @ 9:30am: Legislative Report & Development of a Summary Report addressing Categories & Metrics.

Regional Plan Implementation: The workgroup has prepared a draft legislative report that was available for comment (Appendix F). The workgroup plans on having another conference call to work out some more details of their legislative report.

Resource Library & BMPs: This workgroup plans on submitting in the legislative report a procedures guideline for adding new Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the guide (Appendix G). They also plan on including a proposal for an Online Resource Library. Additionally, the workgroup plans on proposing a legislative recommendation for funding. The workgroup was recently asked to review a document entitled, *Developing a Framework for an Alliance for Water Efficiency*. There were some portions of this document that might be useful to the workgroup in developing cost estimates for a resource library. It is now posted on the Council webpage.

Certified Training: This workgroup will work further on formatting their report into the outline format developed by the Council.

The meeting moved on to the discussion about the outline of the Legislative Report. The Council reviewed the proposed outline and agreed to the layout of information

according to the outline (Appendix H). Once the content of the Legislative Report has been developed, the report will be turned over to the TWDB technical editors.

The Council discussed the selection of dates, times, and locations of future meetings through October in order to finalize the legislative report. The next meetings will be July 23rd, August 13th, September 16th, and October 16th. Meeting details are still to be determined.

The floor was then open to member discussion of other topics. Ken Kramer reported back to the Council about the recent Texas Water Development Board (Board) meeting. It was stated that Board staff had originally ranked exceptional items and water conservation at #7; however it had moved up to # 5 as an outcome in the Board meeting. It was reported that one of the board members seemed interested in elevating the scrutiny of water loss in the regards of financial assistance. There was an interest in what the Board thought to be a relatively low response rate of water loss audits submitted, as well as an interest in looking at water loss legislation. After his update, Ken suggested to the Council that water loss legislation might be something that the Council wants to include in their additional recommendations. Ken offered to draft up some recommendations. In a follow up comment it was suggested that another possible recommendation would be to request more full time staff at the TWDB to support the gathering of data.

Carole Baker gave an update about the new Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) landscape irrigation rules and the enforcement requirements as related in municipal ordinances.

Wilson Scaling expressed a concern about issues dealing with the capture of groundwater from the Ogallala and having it delivered to the DFW Metroplex. It was stated that the massive depletion of the Ogallala seems to go against the conservation goals and objectives of this Council.

Council meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.