

## Summary of Minutes

### Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 30, 2016

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Conference Room, Building 6  
Austin, TX 78719

Texas Parks and Wildlife Austin Field Office-Airport Commerce Park

Meeting chaired by: Robert E. Mace, Vice Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Alternate Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Alternate David Villarreal	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	Kevin Wagner
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Steven Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Robert E. Mace	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Alternate Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Alternate Denise Hickey	<i>Electric Generation</i>	-----
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Alternate Brian Wenberg	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Brad Smith
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Sarah Schlessinger	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Matt Phillips	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Celia Eaves
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	-----		

Also attended: (Alternates) Vanessa Escobar, Mark Froehlich, Nora Mullarkey, and Eddie Trevino; and (Interested Parties) Bech Bruun, Lauren Graber, Michael Bloom, Bill Billingsley, Richard Bagans, Cameron Turner, Jasper van Heesch, Wendy Gordon, Lucas Gregory, Carole Davis, Sam Marie Hermitte, Perry Fowler, Jonathan Kleinman, Jessica Woods, Natalie Houston, Tim Loftus, Ruthie Redmond, Beth Hood, Charlie Flatten, Cary Betz, and Valerie Miller.

- Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2016, meeting

The Council took up minutes from the previous meeting. Minutes were approved.

- Public Comment

There was no public comment.

- Update from Texas Water Development Board

Texas Water Development Board Chairman Bech Bruun provided a brief update on activities at the Texas Water Development Board. The new website [TexasFlood.org](http://TexasFlood.org) has launched and provides the public with information about what to do before, during, and after a flood. The 2017 State Water Plan was adopted ahead of schedule and includes more water conservation projects than previous plans. Jeff Walker was named as the new Executive Administrator of the agency.

Richard Bagans presented the council with a draft outline of the forthcoming report to the legislature (due January 1, 2017) on water use by Texas water utilities. The draft version of the report should be available for comment in October.

Robert Mace provided a handout on the history of the development of the 140 gallons per capita daily goal established by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force. A brief discussion by the council followed.

- Discussion of second draft of the report to the legislature

The council discussed the timeline for the development of the report to the legislature. July 11, 2016, is the deadline for providing new content or suggested revisions of the second draft. Detailed content submitted by Bill Hoffman will be reformatted into a white paper to be posted on the council's website under "Resources". The council then discussed a recommendation submitted through the wholesale workgroup on requiring a water conservation coordinator. Nora Mullarkey will alter the language to clarify that the recommendation states a utility must designate a staffer as the water conservation coordinator rather than requiring the hiring of an additional employee.

Next, council members discussed the degree of detail that a recommendation to the legislature should include. Ken Kramer suggested that background information, including any potential issues, should be included. Kevin Wagner suggested the council view previous reports from the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee to the legislature, which include recommendations. Council members also discussed placement of the recommendations within the report, with most expressing support for a separate 'recommendations' section.

- Discussion and possible action on selection of a Presiding Officer

Item #8 was taken up early at the meeting. Vice Presiding Officer Robert Mace described the requirements for a quorum according to the council's bylaws then proposed a process for identifying interested candidates. With 14 members and 7 alternate members at the table, a quorum was present. Ken Kramer and Karen Guz both expressed interest in serving as presiding officer of the council. A straw poll was conducted and indicated the absence of a simple majority. Ken Kramer then made a motion to elect Karen Guz as presiding officer. The motion was seconded. Following a vote by a show of hands, Karen Guz was unanimously elected to serve as the Presiding Officer of the council through the end of her current term, which expires August 31, 2017.

- Reports from Workgroups

*Agriculture* - Jay Bragg stated that the workgroup met via conference call to discuss potential updates to best management practices.

*Commercial & Institutional* - Bill Hoffman stated that future efforts will focus on completing updates to the best management practices guide.

*Industrial* - Nothing to report.

*Municipal* - Karen Guz provided the update. The workgroup is seeking volunteers to help with updates to municipal best management practices (BMPs) and clarified that consultants are welcome to assist with these efforts. An update to the water loss BMP is ready for review. Additional BMP efforts include custom rebates for the industrial, commercial, and institutional sectors; indoor retrofits; toilet retrofits; landscape design changes; and irrigation efficiency retrofits.

*Public Awareness* - Nothing to report from the workgroup. Denise Hickey did mention recent campaigns related to increasing public awareness of zebra mussels in Texas lakes. Both the [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) and the Texas section of the America Water Works Association ([TAWWA](#)) have online resources.

*Wholesale* - Nothing to report.

- Presentation on "(Almost) Funding a Landscape Watering Retrofit to Weather Based Irrigation Controllers using SWIFT" by Michael Bloom

Presentation slides posted to [www.savetexaswater.org/](http://www.savetexaswater.org/).

- Presentation on "Variations in Regional Approaches to Water Conservation" by Jonathan Kleinman

Presentation slides posted to [www.savetexaswater.org](http://www.savetexaswater.org/).

- Announcements of conferences and events

July 15→2016 Water Reuse in Texas Conference: Extending Our Water Frontier.

August 23-25→Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts' Texas Groundwater Summit.

The second edition of *Facts on Texas Water* is available in both English and at [texaslivingwaters.org](http://texaslivingwaters.org).

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is Monday, August 1, 2016, at 1:00 PM at 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Conference Room, Building 6.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.