

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Monday, August 1, 2016

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Austin, TX 78719

Texas Parks and Wildlife–Airport Commerce Park, Building 6 conference room

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Charlie Moehlenbrock	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Dan Hunter	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Alternate Lynne Hamlin	<i>Higher Education</i>	Kevin Wagner
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Steve Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Robert Mace	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Karl Fennessey
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	John Mueller	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	-----
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	-----
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Alternate Vanessa Escobar	<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) Jennifer Allis, Mark Froehlich, Denise Hickey, Eddie Trevino, David Villarreal, and Jennifer Walker; and (Interested Parties) Michelle Camp, Heather Dalrymple, Kevin Kluge, Kathleen Ligon, Valerie Miller, Lyda Creus Molanphy, Jennifer Nations, Doug Norman, Tulsie Oberbeck, Anai Padilla, Ruthie Redmond, Dub Taylor, Suzanne Williams, and Peter Yolles.

- Approval of Minutes from June 30, 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

Mindy Conyers gave a brief overview of the improvements to savetexaswater.org. Updates will be completed this fall, and research documents mentioned in the forthcoming report to the legislature will be showcased on the “Resources” page.

- Reports from Workgroups

No workgroups met formally since the last council meeting; any activity by workgroup members related to the legislative report.

- Announcement of conferences and events

The Water for Texas 2017 conference takes place January 23-25, 2017, in Austin, TX.

Texas Water Day at the capitol occurs March 22, 2017, in Austin, TX.

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is Tuesday, October 25, 2016, at 1:00 PM at 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, 78719, in the building 6 conference room.

- Discussion and possible action on third report draft, including recommendations to the legislature submitted on or before July 11, 2016

The council first discussed how to proceed with action on the draft recommendations. Robert Mace read a portion of the council bylaws explaining that a quorum (consisting of at least 12 council members) must be present in order to take a vote and that a vote will carry for a decision only after a favorable vote by at least 16 council members or designated alternates. With 17 members in attendance, a quorum was present. The council decided to determine general agreement or disagreement with the draft recommendations rather than voting on specific phrasing or grammatical edits to text.

Next, the council discussed the draft recommendations. The following summary references the draft recommendations as numbered in the document called “WCAC_Recommendations_byJuly11.pdf” and posted as a related document for this meeting on savetexaswater.org.

#1. Dustan Compton gave a brief synopsis of the recommendation and stated that it really contained two recommendations: the requirement to designate a water conservation coordinator and the requirement for that coordinator to be certified. Discussion centered on current efforts by other groups to develop certification programs and how the council might provide resources toward that effort. A motion was made to include only the staff designation language in the draft report. The motion passed with 19 yeas (16 members and 3 alternates), zero nays, and one member abstaining.

#2. Bill Hoffman described his recommendation for enhanced support of research in higher education. Discussion centered on how much research and instruction occurs at Texas universities that is not focused on landscape irrigation efficiency. The point was made to include in any potential recommendation that deals with a funding request language such as “subject to available funding.” The presiding officer suggested the council revisit this item after discussing the remaining draft recommendations. No formal action was taken.

#3. Bill Hoffman gave an overview of the recommendation for enhanced data collection and analysis. Members noted that #6 and #13 were similar to #3 in asking for resources to collect and analyze data. A motion was made to combine all three into one recommendation for increased funding for data collection, management, and analysis. The motion passed with 19 yeas (16 members and 3 alternates), zero nays, and one member abstaining.

#4. The next recommendation related to funding Water IQ: Know Your Water. Carole Baker suggested making reference to the 2004 and 2014 surveys showing the low percentage of respondents who knew the source of their drinking water. A motion was made to include this recommendation in the draft report. The motion passed with 19 yeas (16 members and 3 alternates), zero nays, and one member abstaining.

#5. Karen Guz described this recommendation as an effort to improve water loss audit data validity. Some members expressed concern with the requirement to validate data through a third party and with the requirement for data validity scoring. A motion was made to include only the first part of the recommendation (requiring training) in the draft report. The motion passed with 18 yeas (16 members and 2 alternates), zero nays, and one member abstaining.

#6. This recommendation was discussed (and combined) with #3 above.

#7. Jay Bragg provided an overview of this recommendation dealing with funding allocations for agricultural water conservation programs at the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and at the Texas Water Development Board. A member suggested that recommendation #9 (requesting funding for Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension) was similar to this one. The council discussed whether agency specific funding requests were appropriate. The motion was made to combine #7 and #9 into a recommendation to maintain or increase funding for agricultural water conservation research, education, and outreach. The motion passed with 17 yeas (15 members and 2 alternates), zero nays, and one member abstaining.

#8. Jay Bragg presented this recommendation to add the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board as a non-voting delegate in each regional water planning group, and a motion was made to include it in the draft report. The motion passed with 17 yeas (15 members and 2 alternates), zero nays, and one member abstaining.

#9. This recommendation was discussed (and combined) with #7 above.

#10. Jay Bragg provided a brief overview of this recommendation related to establishing a premium finance program to assist with participation in the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT). The council discussed considering this recommendation at some point in the future. No formal action was taken.

#11. Ken Kramer presented a synopsis of this recommendation related to enforceable time-of-day outdoor watering limitations and enforceable seasonal or year-round day-of-the-week or days-of-the-week outdoor turf watering limitations for entities seeking financial assistance for water supply projects from the Texas Water Development Board. Discussion centered on whether a state mandate was preferred over local rules. Dr. Kramer agreed with striking all provisions except those related to time-of-day limitations. A motion was made to include the recommendation with minor amendments in the draft report. The motion passed with 16 yeas (14 members and 2 alternates), zero nays, and one member abstaining.

#12. Karen Guz summarized this recommendation as a way to provide customer access to water use data similar to information provided in an electric bill. A motion was made to reference the

need for further study within the report. The motion passed with 16 yeas (14 members and 2 alternates), zero nays, and one member abstaining.

The council then discussed draft report content related to progress made on legislative charges. Karen Guz suggested edits to the tables showing water conservation annual report data. Ken Kramer suggested revisiting the text to determine whether adjustments should be made related to the discussions and actions on recommendations to be included in the report. Kevin Wagner suggested that the report could use more graphics to break up the text. Karl Fennessey volunteered to provide revised text for the section under charge 1 related to manufacturing and electric power generation.

- Discussion and possible action on amendments to report draft submitted *after* July 11, 2016

No discussion or action on this item.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.