

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Monday, August 3, 2015
 Time: 1:00 pm
 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>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Chris Loft	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	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 Mace	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Alternate Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<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>	-----	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	-----
<i>River Authorities</i>	Alternate Denise Hickey	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Lara Zent
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert		

Also attended: (Alternates) Eddy Trevino, Nora Mullarkey, Jennifer Allis, Jennifer Walker, and Calvin Finch; and (Interested Parties) Dustan Compton, Jade Rutledge, Perry Fowler, Lyda Creus Molanphy, Kevin Kluge, Lauren Graber, Bech Bruun, Logan Dunning, Sarah Rountree Schlessinger, Dub Taylor, Jessica Woods, Jennifer Nations, Michelle Camp, Heather Dalrymple, Mark Jordan, Erin Gooch, and Jonathan Kleinman.

- Approval of Minutes from October 22, 2014

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

- Public Comment

There was no public comment.

- Texas Water Development Board Update from Chairman Bech Bruun

Chairman Bruun provided an update on several items including the first round of funding awarded through the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) and the status of the 2016 Regional Water Plans.

- Review of the Council's activities at Texas Water Day at the Capitol

The Council presented all Blue Legacy Awards as part of Texas Water Day at the Capitol, hosted by the Texas Water Foundation, on March 26, 2015. Moving forward, the presentation of the Blue Legacy Awards will continue to occur during the legislative session.

- Update on best management practices

The Council discussed several 'active' best management practices, and Council workgroups determined the status and extent of efforts needed to move from 'active' to 'final'. Additional discussion focused on existing best management practices and additional practices to consider for development. New codes and standards have been adopted by various industry groups that might be useful for developing these best management practices. The Council also discussed a possible volunteer network to perform peer reviews of program evaluations.

- Review of process related to expiring terms and filling of vacancies

Staff gave an overview of the process related to expiring terms for Council members. Nominations are solicited for terms expiring August 31, 2015, for seven interest groups (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Regional Water Planning Groups, River Authorities, Environmental Groups, Higher Education, Electric Generation, and Rural Water Users) with new terms to expire in 2021. Members are selected from nomination pool and appointed by the Texas Water Development Board.

- Review and discussion on water conservation bills from the 84th Texas Legislature

An overview of the following water conservation bills from the 84th Texas Legislature was provided:

House Bill 949 (Relating to the obligation of certain retail public utilities to mitigate their system water loss);

House Bill 1902 (Relating to the regulation and use of graywater and alternative onsite water);

Senate Bill 551 (Relating to the duty of the Water Conservation Advisory Council to submit a report and recommendations regarding water conservation in this state); and

Senate Bill 1356 (Relating to exemption from the sales tax for certain water-efficient products for a limited period).

- Discussion on future goals and involvement from the Council

The Council discussed how Senate Bill 551 (and related legislative report recommendations) would affect the report timeline, especially as it relates to getting approval from the heads of

the five state agencies represented on the Council. The next meeting will include a more detailed discussion of this topic.

- Reports from Workgroups

There were no reports from workgroups, but a discussion arose revisiting the status of best management practices.

- Announcements of conferences and events

The following events were announced:

August 21, 2015 - Deadline for submission to the *Water, Texas* Film Contest;

August 25-27, 2015 - Texas Groundwater Summit

August 26, 2015 - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality House Bill 1902 stakeholder meeting;

August 28, 2015 - FREE Cyber Security TXWARN Webinar (TAWWA);

October 6, 2015 - Screening of the winning entries for *Water, Texas* Film Contest;

October 7-9, 2015 - WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Expo (Las Vegas, NV);

October 21-23 - Texas Water Foundation "On The Road Again" bus tour to the Lower Rio Grande Valley; and

October 28, 2015 - TAWWA Capital Area Chapter Fall Seminar.

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at 1:00pm at the Texas Parks and Wildlife - Austin Field Office.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.