

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Thursday September 1, 2011

Time: 10:05 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman	<i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Linda Christie
<i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i>	Brad Smith	<i>River Authorities</i>	Jim Parks
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Higher Education</i>	Justin Weinheimer
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker	<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Refining & Chemical Manufacturing</i>	---
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer
<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Luana Buckner
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Alternate Kelley Faulk	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Mel Davis
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	Gene Montgomery	<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Hughes Abell	<i>TCEQ</i>	Alternate Chris Loft
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	---	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Steven Bednarz
		<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert

At 10:05 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 opened for public comment for which there was none.

Council support staff provided updates to the Council website (www.savetexaswater.org). Updates to the website included the following:

- Dedicated Best Management Practices (BMPs) page
- Dedicated Awards in Conservation page
- Revisions and new content to workgroup's pages
- Homepage navigation updates

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

- Agricultural Workgroup – Did not have a meeting or conference call. The group continues to think about Best Management Practices that they would like to revise or add.
- Commercial and Institutional Workgroup - Did not have a meeting or conference call. The group would like to postpone its efforts until they receive a draft of some new guidance on BMPs that are currently being developed on a national basis. National drafts are expected later this year.
- Industrial Workgroup - Did not have a meeting or conference call. The group was waiting to receive a new workgroup chair and from there outline a course of action.
- Municipal Workgroup – A conference call was held on August 30 and the group discussed division of labor into nine categories with category leaders. Categories, potential leaders and participants were identified. A timeline is currently being drafted and participants are being

contacted.

- Wholesale Suppliers Workgroup – A conference call was held on August 4 and the group discussed developing a timeline and schedule to complete the development of eight new BMPs. The group agreed to spend some time gathering their thoughts on potential new BMPs. A timeline has recently been produced.
- Public Awareness Workgroup – A conference call was held on August 3 and the group discussed finalizing the Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture and promoting the deadline by press release and email announcements. There was some discussion on the selection committee for that award. Additionally the group will begin working on the municipal recognition award.

The next item on the agenda was to formally approve the selection of two workgroup chairs. C.E. Williams asked for nominations for a new chair for the Industrial workgroup. Gene Montgomery was nominated and selected. Nora Mullarkey was also officially approved as a workgroup chair for the Wholesale Suppliers workgroup.

The next item was a discussion on the Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture. The Public Awareness workgroup and the Agricultural workgroup worked together to review and develop the agriculture nomination packet. This is the first time that the award will be determined through the evaluation of nomination applications. Collecting the nominations and information about the farming operations through an application seemed the best way to keep things fair and consistent. The workgroup felt that the nomination packet is ready to make available. The Council agreed that an email announcement followed up with a press release can be distributed as soon as possible. The workgroup also identified a selection committee who will review all the applications and rank them with a judging form. That process will take place probably on a conference call in early November. The nomination packet states that winners are selected by an expert selection committee that represents farmers, conservation groups, state agencies, and universities. Therefore, as of right now the folks that will make up the selection committee will be:

- WCAC- Denise Hickey
- Texas A&M Agrilife - Charles Swanson
- Texas Department of Agriculture - Richard Eyster (Rural Economic Development)
- Texas Farm Bureau – Jay Bragg

The next item on the agenda was a discussion regarding the process for updating the BMP Guide and the various levels of involvement for interested stakeholders. A Stakeholder Participation Process was developed to outline the order of stages that all workgroups would follow as each BMP is developed. This helps to ensure that BMP development is done so in a consistent and open process that allows for stakeholder engagement. The process allows for meetings and work sessions to take place and it also allows for public comment on drafted material. Another tool that can be tied into that process is an online tracking tool that will allow interested parties to follow or track the development of individual BMPs. Council support staff will work on developing that web page tool.

In relation to developing new BMPs there was some discussion on the framework of a BMP. When the BMP guide was originally developed in 2004 a framework for structuring a BMP was also developed. There was some discussion on making a few additional changes to the framework as the council begins to move forward with developing new and revised BMPs.

The next item of discussion was approval of an invitational mailing packet. The mailing packet consists of a general letter in which the council introduces its activities and objectives and encourages new

stakeholders to complete a stakeholder interest form. Along with the letter are a one page fact sheet and a stakeholder interest form. The packet will be mailed out and possibly followed up with a press release.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on implementing Senate Bill 181 (S.B. 181). During the 82nd legislative session S.B. 181 was passed. Section 2 and 3 of that bill are related to Water Use Reporting and Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD) Methodology. The statute identifies the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC) to work together to develop a uniform and consistent methodology and guidance for calculating water use and conservation. It directs the agencies to use this methodology in evaluating water conservation plans and reports. Some key deadlines are as follows:

- Jan 2013- methodology, guidance, and reporting program must be completely developed.
- Jan 2015 – TWDB shall submit the first reports with the most recent data collected through this reporting program.

Today's objective is to identify council members who are interested in participating in the 181 Committee. The identified interested participants are the following:

Bill Hoffman	Ken Kramer
Carole Davis	Linda Christie
Denise Hickey	Nora Mullarkey
Gene Montgomery	Robert Mace
Jim Parks	Ruthanne Beilue
Justin Weinheimer	Scott Swanson
Karen Guz	Steve Bednarz

Texas Water Development Board General Counsel provided a summery overview of Proposition 2. Proposition 2 will be on the ballot in November 2011 for Texas voters to consider.

The closing item on the agenda was a recap of upcoming events as listed:

- Water Conservation Forum in Houston, TX October 25, presented by Sierra Club and Alliance for Water Efficiency
- Financial Planning webinar on September 15, presented by American Water Works Association (AWWA)
- Carole Baker presents Water IQ at Opening Session of United Nations on September 16.
- North Texas Water Conservation Symposium in Arlington, TX on November 18, presented by Tarrant Regional Water District, Dallas Water Utilities, and North Texas Municipal Water District.

The Council confirmed the November 2 meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office. The Council also set a meeting on January 18 at 10:00 a.m. at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.