

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 5, 2012
 Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 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>Refining & Chemical Manufacturing</i>	-----
<i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i>	Brad Smith	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Alternate Jennifer Walker
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Alternate Nora Mullarkey	<i>Higher Education</i>	Kevin Wagner
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	Linda Christie
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Alternate Stacey Steinbach
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Richard Egg
<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer	<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Richard Eyster
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	Gene Montgomery	<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Hughes Abell	<i>TCEQ</i>	Scott Swanson
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Lara Zent	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Steve Bednarz
<i>River Authorities</i>	Jim Parks	<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	-----
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz		

At 9:30 am the meeting was called to order by presiding officer, C.E. Williams. Introductions were given and the first item on the agenda was the approval of previous Council minutes. The minutes were approved without discussion. The floor was then opened for public comment for which there was no comment.

The next item on the agenda was discussion on the timeline and content of the Council’s December 2012 Legislative report. The following bullets highlight the key discussions that took place. Many of the specific editorial comments from the discussion will be reflected in the next version of the draft report at the October 18th meeting.

- A series of tracked changes in the legislative report document were pointed out and Council member Robert Mace explained the importance of expressing the Council’s observations without making formal recommendation statements. There were some broad discussions about the role of the Council and their limitations in terms of making formal recommendations as a Council.
- It was suggested that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) include some written information about the trends among municipalities in terms of conservation efforts that are being implemented. TWDB staff offered to pull out some information from their previous Conservation Plan Annual Reports to include in the Council’s legislative report.
- There was also some discussion about the public awareness aspects of the report. It was pointed out that the public awareness sections of the report should attempt to highlight significant

regional and local efforts in addition to the state agency efforts. There was discussion about how many public awareness programs should be highlighted and included in the body of the report, as well as discussion on how to best approach those highlights in terms of format. The Council agreed that the body of the legislative report would make reference to local and regional public awareness programs as well as reference a link to the Council's website www.savetexaswater.org where more in depth content could be found on a number of public awareness programs across the state. The Council also agreed that they would like for TWDB staff to pursue an effort to collect and house more information on various public awareness efforts and maintain that as an online resource.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on the draft S.B. 181 guidance document. The discussion focused mainly on expanding specific areas of the report to include some additional examples and details to better guide the users on how to evaluate their conservation programs. Many of the specific comments from the discussion will be reflected in the next version of the draft report at the October 18th meeting. An update was given about the status of rulemaking at both the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and TWDB. At the TWDB, draft rules and the draft 181 document will be made available at the September board meeting. At TCEQ, the public comment period is closed and the rules are set to be adopted in November.

There was some discussion on other activities and upcoming events.

- Council member, Scott Swanson indicated that there is a future need for the TWDB, TCEQ, and the Council to explore developing guidance on utility billing software.
- Council member, Robert Mace indicated that there is a need for the TWDB, TCEQ, and the Council to explore developing a white paper on Drought Contingency Effort in the state.
- Council Member, Bill Hoffman expressed that the Council should develop a concise list of resources and needs that would better enable the Council to fulfill its charges.

The Council decided to make and approve the following motions.

- Work towards developing a cohesive statewide message for the different regional planning groups.
- Work towards developing a white paper on Drought Contingency Efforts.
- Work towards developing a concise list of resources and needs that would better enable the Council to fulfill its charges.

A calendar link to upcoming events is available on the Council's homepage. Calendar events can be seen here: <http://wateriq.org/news-info/index.asp>

The Council scheduled the following dates for upcoming meetings of the Water Conservation Advisory Council:

- Thursday October 18, 2012 at 9:30am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Austin Field Office.
- Thursday January 17, 2012 at 9:30am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Austin Field Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.