

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2013
 Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:35 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>	Karl Fennessey
<i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i>	Brad Smith	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker	<i>Higher Education</i>	Kevin Wagner
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dean Minchillo
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Stacey Steinbach
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Rusty Ray
<i>Electric Generation</i>	-----	<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	----
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway	<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg	<i>TCEQ</i>	Chris Loft
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Lara Zent	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	-----
<i>River Authorities</i>	Jim Parks	<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	-----
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz		

At 10:00 AM the meeting was called to order by C.E. Williams. The minutes were approved from the August 26, 2013 meeting without discussion. The group introduced themselves and special recognition was given to new Council members in attendance and Texas Water Development Board Member Bech Bruun.

John Sutton with Texas Water Development Board gave a brief overview of the agency’s current discussions on conservation education grant program funding possibilities. Texas Water Development Board intends to develop the concept for selection of programs and have it in place after the first of the year. The selection process could take a couple of months.

Katherine Thigpen with Texas Water Development Board gave an update on where the best management practices developed throughout the summer are in their approval process. The seven Municipal and five Agriculture Best Management Practices are in the final stage. Those best management practices should be posted to the Texas Water Development Board web site shortly.

The Council discussed ideas on future activities and schedule. The topic centered around required reports and the different issues in reporting whether it was incorrect reports or not turning in the documents on time. Texas Water Development Board will plan to make a presentation at the next Council meeting.

The Council brainstormed ideas on where they can improve regional water planning reporting statistics including providing input on the wide range of issues Texas Water Development Board faces in receiving reports. The Council would like to pursue efforts in education to get cities to take water loss seriously.

Additionally, the Council discussed the upcoming bond election including a 20% portion earmarked for Agriculture and Conservation efforts. Members would like to be involved with developing rules for the process for allocating the funds.

At the beginning of 2014, the Council will begin work on their next report to the Legislature on conservation efforts in Texas. The Council brainstormed some options of ideas to include in the report next year. There was focus on a "lessons learned" section of the document to point out areas of improvement or adapting to challenges in conservation efforts. Additionally, there is a need for a distinction to be made for conservation as an ongoing effort throughout the state and drought measures as a temporary response to conditions. The Council discussed a cost analysis or cost benefit portion of the document as well. Efforts to get the cities involved with water conservation would center on rates being determined by peak needs.

The Council would also like to include a section in the report for "new ideas," compiling cutting edge technologies and other not yet used conservation efforts in Texas.

The Council also discussed a Training and Education program put together by the Council with collaboration from other experts. The focus would be on training Conservation Coordinators and developing a certification program. Carole Baker agreed to head up the effort and will be communicating with Council support staff to schedule meetings and work on materials.

Because the Council has several new members, the workgroups were asked to affirm their chairs at the present time. The chairs are as follows:

- Agriculture: Jay Bragg
- Commercial & Institutional: Bill Hoffman
- Industrial: Karl Fennessey
- Municipal: Karen Guz
- Public Awareness: Denise Hickey
- Wholesale: Nora Mullarkey

Each workgroup also gave a brief update on their Best Management Practices and activities moving forward. The Agriculture workgroup would like to develop a Brush Control Best Management Practice which is more encompassing. The Industrial workgroup would like to work on revising Best Management Practices to include new standards. The Commercial and Institutional workgroup is continuing work on a Best Management Practice and consult with industry experts. The Municipal workgroup is interested in developing Best Management Practices relating to water use scheduling. The Public Awareness workgroup plans to be involved in the legislature report throughout the next year.

The Council discussed upcoming conferences.

- The Blue Legacy Award(s) in Agriculture will be presented at the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show, during the 13th Annual Texas Commodity Symposium on December 4.
- The 73rd Annual Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors in Fort Worth is October 28-30.
- Bell County Water Symposium in Clearwater on November 14.

- 7th Annual North Texas Regional Water Conservation Symposium in Irving on November 7.
- Texas Water Summit in Austin November 13-15.
- American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association Annual Conference in Austin Nov. 4-8.
- Irrigation Show and Education Conference in Austin November 4-8.
- The Society of Petroleum Engineers will host a workshop October 21-22.
- AWWA Fall Seminar October 24 in Austin.

The Council scheduled the next two meetings of the Water Conservation Advisory Council at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Austin Field Office.

- Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.