

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 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>	Alternate Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Alternate 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>	-----
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Robert Mace	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Karl Fennessey
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Alternate Brian Wenberg	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Brad Smith
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Stacey Steinbach	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Matt Phillips	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	-----
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	-----		

Also attended: (Alternates) Craig Elam, Calvin Finch, Mark Froehlich, Ruthanne Haut, Eddy Trevino, and Jennifer Walker; and (Interested Parties) Carmen Cernosek, Colleen Zarek, Matthew Berg, Denise Hickey, Jason Pierce, Jasper van Heesch, Allen Berthold, Natalie Houston, Dub Taylor, Kip Averitt, Stephen Cortes, Linzy Brakefield, Sanjeev Kalaswad, Jonathan Kleinman, Perry L. Fowler, Michelle Camp, Mark Jordan, Stacy Pandey, Sarah Richards, and Bill Morris.

- Approval of Minutes from September 30, 2015 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

Robert Mace provided a brief update on the Texas Water Development Board including the February 5, 2016, deadline for abridged applications for SWIFT (State Water Implementation Fund for Texas) and the December 14, 2015, hearing on emergency flood funding.

- Water Conservation Advisory Council update by staff

The vacancies on the council were filled at the October 28, 2015, meeting of the Texas Water Development Board. New and returning council members were encouraged to identify an alternate and to confirm their interest in specific council workgroups. The process for development and approval of best management practices was discussed. The council also discussed whether comments are solicited from 'the public' or from 'stakeholders' and determined that using the word 'stakeholders' was probably more appropriate. Timelines for a receiving stakeholder comments on draft best management practices and getting final versions to the council prior to a vote were also discussed, with thirty days set as the minimum comment period and three weeks out as the minimum timeframe for getting documents to the council.

- Possible action on selection of a presiding officer and vice-presiding officer

Council support staff provided an overview of the portion of the by-laws related to selecting a presiding officer and a vice-presiding officer for the council. After a call for nominations, Ken Kramer nominated C.E. Williams for presiding officer. The council voted to confirm the selection without opposition. Robert Mace was nominated to serve as vice-presiding officer, and the council voted to confirm without opposition.

- Presentation on the Goldwater Project by the Honorable Kip Averitt of Averitt & Associates
Presentation slides posted to www.savetexaswater.org/.

- Reports from Workgroups

Agriculture - The workgroup had nothing to report.

Commercial & Institutional - The Commercial and Institutional workgroup has been working on their best management practices guide. Bill Hoffman requested case studies, examples, and details about how water is used, as well as information on benchmarks from meeting attendees.

Industrial - The workgroup had nothing to report but did request information on any case studies on industrial water conservation.

Municipal - The workgroup has updated and edited three best management practices that will soon be ready for stakeholder comment. The council discussed how much time a draft should be posted to allow for comment and decided that a document should be posted for a minimum of thirty days.

Public Awareness - The workgroup had nothing to report.

Wholesale - The workgroup plans to host a conference call meeting in the near future.

- Discussion and possible action on 2016 report to the legislature

The Council discussed a draft letter provided by Bill Hoffman related to the council's efforts to identify research opportunities in water conservation. Kevin Wagner mentioned the Texas Water Research Coordination Network. Robert Mace provided an overview of the state agencies' perspective with regard to the legislative report process. Karen Guz mentioned that the report should highlight water conservation plans, the importance of data collected from those plans, and the usefulness of those data to utilities, researchers, and beyond. No formal action was taken.

- Announcements of conferences and events

The following events were announced:

January 7, 2016 - SWIFT Funding Workshop (Houston);

February 1 & 2, 2016 - Extreme Events and Climate Adaptation Planning Workshop (Houston);

February 2, 2016 - Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium (Austin);

February 24, 2016 - Texas Panhandle - South Plains Water Conservation Symposium (Amarillo);

March 9, 2016 - Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium (Houston); and

April 1-30, 2016 - National Mayors Challenge for Water Conservation.

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at 1:00pm at the Texas Parks and Wildlife - Austin Field Office.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.