

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Summary of Minutes

Date: October 17, 2024

Time: 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Lower Colorado River Authority
3601 Lake Austin Blvd.
Austin, TX 78703

Meeting Chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitator: Denise Livingston, Council Staff Support

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Leslie Patterson Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman Eddy Trevino
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	David Villarreal Addie Stone	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Sarah Schlessinger Colin McDonald
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Marty Kelly Vanessa Chapman	<i>Higher Education</i>	Robert Mace Allen Berthold
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	John Foster Mitch Comine	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Charles Ring John Bender
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Sam Marie Hermitte Erika Mancha	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Craig Elam Justin Newton
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear Wayne Wilson	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Greg Carter Ryan Bayle
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Tracy Hill Salvador Gandara	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway Cory Pomeroy
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz, Chair Joyce Warren	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Whitney Milberger Jeffery Knight
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Adam Foster Melia Starnes	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Dustan Compton Linda Christie
<i>River Authorities</i>	Stacy Pandey Amy Muttoni	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Kyle Eppler Jason Knobloch
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Jennifer Walker Marisa Bruno	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe Earl Foster
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert Tom McLemore		

Also present: Alicia Lee, Annika Schiller, Chris Loft, Curtis Smith, Daniel Nix, Dawn Walker-Hughes, Dean Minchillo, Hope Wells, Jessica Woods, Natalie Houston, Paige Bain, Perry Fowler, Ruby Perez, Sarah Kinkle, Sarah Riggins **TWDB Staff** –Antonio Delgado, Charlotte Gilbert, Denise Livingston, John Dupnik, Karen Sanders, Lauren Bos, Taylor Nickell, Temple McKinnon, Yun Cho.

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1. The meeting started at 10:33 am
2. Roll call- A quorum of the Advisory Council was present at the meeting.
3. Public Comment – No public comments.
4. Approval of Minutes – Aubrey moved to approve the minutes from August’s meeting. CJ seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. TWDB Update – Sam Marie Hermitte gave the TWDB report.
 - Bryan McMath has been appointed as the new Executive Administrator
 - Tonya Miller was appointed to the Texas Water Development Board, making the Board the first all-woman board in TWDB history.
 - The Texas Water Foundation was chosen to receive the Texas Water Fund grant to develop a statewide water awareness campaign.
 - The following three studies will be conducted by TWDB over the next two years:
 - i. evaluate our population and water demand projections methodologies.
 - ii. update TWDB’s technical note on Outdoor Water Use.
 - iii. assess non-surveyed and exempt groundwater use
 - Draft regional water plans are due to TWDB March 5, 2025.
6. Discussion 2024 Legislative Report: The majority of the meeting focused on the final draft of the legislative report. Items addressed:
 - The cover letter, executive summary, and introduction were accepted.
 - The council had discussions on:
 - Need Table of Contents
 - Commercial and Institutional
 - a. Need to add verbiage clarifying the need for more accurate reporting in all sectors.
 - b. Consideration 1 contains two thoughts. Second piece needs to be added to a later charge. This was placed in Charge 7.
 - c. Chart 1 contains ICI, but it is not in summary.
 - d. The second chart will be removed.
 - Municipal
 - a. Tables need to be titled and cited.
 - b. Whitney will also create a graph to help further explain trends.
 - Water loss- Jennifer requested several modification to the layout of to the water loss section. There will be no substantial changes to content.
 - The Council discussed adding statements to the recommendations that reflect support of TWDB’s funding requests for agricultural conservation program and TexMesonet.

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- The council reviewed the two additional sections added into Charge 1:
 - a. The One Water Approach
 - b. Texas Water Fund – originally in the water loss section but encompasses more than just water loss.
- Charge 2 – Best Management Practices – no new information. Information was pulled from agriculture, E-LaWN, and Municipal
- Charge 3 – Public Awareness – It was agreed that the last paragraph would be altered to reflect that Texas Water Foundation was selected as the grant recipient and is under contract negotiations with the TWDB.
- No changes to charge 4 or 5.
- Charge 6 – Request rewrite to clarify “wordy” sentence.
- Charge 7 –
 - a. water plans to include phasing “the commercial Institutional Work Group of the Water Conservation Advisory Council will be looking at commercial institutional water use sector use. Potentially making suggestions that can be considered more strongly in future conservation and regional water plans.”
 - b. Change utilities to retail water providers to match Texas code wording.

Whitney moved to approve the 2024 legislative report in its substantial form. CJ seconded the motion. Motion passed with Leslie Patterson (TCEQ), Vanessa Chapman (TPWF), and Sam Hermitte (TWDB) abstaining.

7. Future Meeting Date: Council will meet on November 7 to discuss the next steps and plan for the legislative session. The Council will hold their first quarter meeting on February 6, 2025.

8. Announcement of Conferences and Events –

- National commercial Water Audit Training Certification Program, three-day course – January 28-30
- North Texas Regional Water Conservation Symposium, Thursday November 14. Dustan will provide complementary registration.
- Rio Grande Symposium, November 21. Hosted by Texas Water Foundation
- ICI in Water Conservation Plans, TAWWA symposium.

9. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned by the Presiding Officer at 1:21 pm.