

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Summary of Minutes

Date: November 7, 2024

Time: 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: (if virtual public meeting location is wherever the presiding officer is located)

Conservation Conference Room CR-A238,

San Antonio Water System Office, 2800 US Hwy 281 N., San Antonio, TX 78212

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 Vacant	<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 Conine	<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 Wils	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Greg Carter Ryan Bayle
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Troy 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
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Adam Foster Julia Stanford	<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 Mary Alice Boehm McKaughan
<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: Aaron Waters, Alicia Lee, Annika Schiller, Dawn Walker-Hughes, Dean Minchillo, James Redfield, Jennifer Barr, Lisa Gregg, Margo Watson, Marshall Elliot, Mike Howe, Natalie Houston, Paige Bain, Paula Szymanski, Sarah Riggins, Virginia Collier **TWDB Staff** –Antonio Delgado, Brittany Condry, Denise Livingston, John Sutton, Yun Cho.

1. The meeting started at 10:33 am
2. Roll call- A quorum of the Advisory Council was present at the meeting.

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- Jennifer Allis, alternate for TCEQ, announced her retirement and that this will be her last meeting.
 - Alternate for Department of Agriculture, Addie Stone, is no longer with the agency. DA has not appointed a new alternate at this time.
3. Public Comment – No public comments.
- Karen mentioned changes to the Council.
 - i. Adam Foster was appointed last August to represent the groundwater districts. Julia Stanford remains the alternate for groundwater districts.
 - ii. Kyle Eppler appointed Mary Alice Boehm McKaughan as his alternate to represent rural water users.
4. Review October 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes – There was no discussion or recommended changes to the October meeting minutes. Action on the minutes will take place at the next in-person meeting.
5. TWDB Update – No TWDB report.
6. Discussion of next steps:
- The legislative report is currently being finalized, formatted, and reviewed by Joyce Warren, Whitney Milberger, Erika Mancha, and Robert Mace.
 - TWDB’s Government Relations Office will distribute the legislative report.
 - Discussion of possible presentations:
 - i. Geospatial analysis to enhance understanding of outdoor watering.
 - ii. PACE Program – Doug Taylor. This program funds energy and water efficiency projects paid for by the savings derived from the energy or water savings.
 - iii. AWWA has a committee looking at better methods of enforcement of topics such as; drought rules, back flow preventors, etc.
 - iv. Sam recommended a presentation by Chelsea Haines, Association of California Water Agencies
 - v. Workgroups may want presentations specific to their area.
7. Discussion was held on workgroup assignments:
- Agricultural. John Bender gave an overview of the upcoming work plan for the agricultural workgroup and a possible draft of a new BMP using ground penetrating radar in irrigation scheduling. The ag workgroup will also be reviewing existing BMPs to update or re-evaluate.
 - Commercial and Institutional – Bill Hoffman gave update on the upcoming work plan for the CI workgroup including but not limited to:
 - i. Discuss creating an on-line library of water audits
 - ii. The water efficiency auditors’ program for Texas CI is currently being implemented with the first class in Ontario, California next January.
 - iii. Connect with national efforts to efficiency metrics and benchmarks for the largest water use sectors
 - E-LaWN -Whitney Milberger discussed looking for speakers for upcoming E-LaWN meetings that will help move the conversation on the workgroup’s 2025-2026 workplan focus.
 - i. Advancement of non-potable landscape irrigation,
 - ii. Improving community associations and homeowner association partnerships acceptable practices of landscape water conservation,
 - TNLA
 - iii. Landscape irrigation water budgeting practices; and

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- iv. Dean Minchillo discussed the goal of enhancements and methodologies to make water conservation plans more impactful. What are potential incentives? In addition, this is a topic that spans several, if not all, workgroups.
 - v. Discussion held on review of the BMP on enforcement of Texas irrigation standards. (BMP 9.3)
- Industrial – No report
 - Municipal – Karen gave a summary of the municipal focus over the next biennium.
 - i. Geospatial analysis also ties into the E-LaWN group with a focus on outdoor watering.
 - ii. Municipal workgroup will also review municipal BMPs for possible updates.
 - iii. Work with E-LaWN, TCEQ, and other interested parties to look at DCP templates with the intent to incorporate findings from the 2023-24 drought plan survey. TCEQ voiced their interest in updating their DCP template within their authority of what they can require.
 - Public Awareness – Discussion was held on the successful updating and selection of awardees for the Blue Legacy awards. Colin McDonald gave a status report and is currently trying to figure out the best platform(s) to showcase the winners.
 - i. Public Awareness campaign – Texas Water Foundation is currently in contract negotiations with the TWDB. The public awareness workgroup will report on the campaign in the 2026 legislative report.
 - ii. Discussion held on obtaining water data for Bastrop County to match with tree ring. Approximately 150 years of data.
 - Water Loss- Discussion on improving water metrics
 - i. Proactive infrastructure replacement
 - ii. Production meter replacement
 - iii. More cost-effective leak detection – additional crewsMarshall will be presenting at TAWWA -WL meeting on December 5
 - Wholesale/Rural Water
 - i. Stacy will be drafting a BMP wholesale incentives
 - ii. Dustan will be drafting a public awareness BMP.
 - iii. Wholesale/rural water conservation will also partner with other workgroups on some of the items that overlap workgroup areas.
8. Announcement of Conferences and Events
- Water for Texas hosted by TWDB – January 27-29, 2025.
 - Working with ICI customers presentation by TAWWA – Nov 13
 - Household Water Use Index Q3 2024 presentation by Flume
 - [Lone Star Hort Forum](#) hosted by Texas Nursery and Landscape Association – January 6-8, 2025
9. Future Meetings:
- February 6, 2025
10. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 11:54 am

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Note:

The terms expiring in 2025:

John Foster – Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Adam Foster –Groundwater Districts

Wayne Halbert – Irrigation Districts

Bill Hoffman – Institutional Water Users

Sarah Schlessinger – Professional Organization – Water Conservation Focus

Charles Ring – Agriculture

Craig Elam – Refining/Chemical Manufacturing

CJ Tredway – Mining and Recovery of Minerals

Dustan Compton – Water Control and Improvement Districts

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