

*** Meeting minutes should be considered DRAFT until approved at the next council meeting. ***

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: LCRA Headquarters (3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Austin, TX) and online

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: Josh Sendejar, Council Staff Support

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	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>	Alternate Helen Dulac
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Johanna Valente*	<i>Higher Education</i>	Alternate Allen Berthold*
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Mitch Conine	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Charles Ring
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Sam Hermitte*	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Greg Carter*
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Maria Martinez	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	---
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz*	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	---
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Leah Martinsson*	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Dustan Compton*
<i>River Authorities</i>	Valerie Miller*	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Kyle Eppler*
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Jennifer Walker	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe*
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>			

* - indicates attendance in person

Also present: Alternates – Deborah McMullan, Eddy Trevino, Paula Paciorek; Interested Parties – Abbie Gardner, Brandon Leister, Chris Loft, Dan Strub, Guy Fipps, Jason Pierce, Jennifer Nations, Jessica Woods, Joe Fazio, Kevin Kluge, Kimberley Rhodes, LaTrichia Spikes, Marcin Tyszka, Natalie Houston, Peter Mayer, Raquel Mullen, Sarah Gruen, Sarah Musiker; TWDB Staff – Erika Mancha, John Sutton, Katie Dahlberg, Nathan Leber, Yun Cho, Daniel Rice, Kyla Peterson, Shae Luther, Travis Brice.

** Documents can be found at: <https://savetexaswater.org/meeting/council-meetings.html> **

10:30 a.m. Call to Order

1. Introduction

The meeting began at 10:38 a.m.

Josh began by briefly introducing the members who have been recently appointed/re-appointed to serve on the Council: Greg Carter (Electric Generation), Aubrey Spear (Regional Water Planning Groups), Valerie Miller (River Authorities), Jennifer Walker (Environmental Groups), Robert Mace (Higher Education), Kyle Eppler (Rural Water Users), Johanna Valente (TPWD).

*** Meeting minutes should be considered DRAFT until approved at the next council meeting. ***

2. Presentation: *Texas Single Family Per Capita Trends*; Joe Fazio and Peter Mayer – Flume
3. Approval of minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting
Greg Carter made a motion to accept the minutes as written.
Bill Hoffman seconded the motion.

No one was opposed, the minutes were accepted as written.

4. Public Comment
There was no public comment.

5. TWDB Update

Sam Hermitte gave an update from TWDB:

- Erika Mancha has been appointed as the new Director for the Conservation and Innovative Water Technologies Division of TWDB.
- Daniel Rice has been designated as the Team Lead for Municipal Water Conservation.
- The 2022 Ag Grant Application Period will be opening soon.
- The 2021 Rain Catcher Awards were awarded in September, 4 awards to given in total, 1 in each of the categories of Commercial, Governmental, Educational, and Residential.
 - o Additional information will be on the TWDB website soon.
- The WLUC (Water Loss, Use, and Conservation) Application will open on January 3, 2022. The Water Use Survey is due March 1st and the Water Loss Audit and Annual Conservation Report is due May 1st.
- Water Loss Audit Validation Study Preliminary Results
 - o **Ask John**
- Water Loss, Use, & Conservation (WLUC) Training Webinar planned for December 14th with a Data Validation Advanced Class one-hour session that afternoon.
- TWDB's Projections & Socioeconomic Analysis department plans to release draft projects for the 2026 Regional Water Plans for livestock, manufacturing, and steam-electric power in January 2022. Excel files and dashboard formats will be available.
- TWDB's Water Use & Planning Data department plans to include a dashboard for historical public water system data when the Water Use Survey opens in January 2022.
- TWDB is conducting a mining water use study with USGS and UT Bureau of Economic Geology. The study should be completed in June 2022.

*** Meeting minutes should be considered DRAFT until approved at the next council meeting. ***

6. Workgroup Updates:

a. Agricultural

Charles Ring gave an update on the workgroup's activities. The workgroup met on September 3rd and discussed updating BMPs, looking into statewide ET data availability and surveying agricultural water users on access to ET data.

b. Commercial & Institutional

The Alliance for Water Efficiency have completed Phase 1 of the [Cooling Tower Study](#). The Labs from the 21st Century document and WaterSense for Business documents will be updated.

Training for national Certified Water Auditors is being developed on several fronts.

d. Municipal

Karen Guz noted that the noted the Municipal workgroup was able to meet in August and continued discussion on the 140 GPCD target discussed by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force (the predecessor to the Council) and best ways to revise those targets given current practices and technologies.

Karen also mentioned the Water Loss Workgroup met in tandem with the Municipal group and continued their discussion on developing guidance on reporting water losses from Winter Storm Uri, data validity, and differences between the TWDB Water Loss Audit form and AWWA's Water Loss Form.

g. Wholesale and Regional Water Authorities

Dustan Compton noted that he will be setting up a meeting for interested parties to discuss ET data and its availability in early-to-mid December. He will work with Josh to get notification out when a date/time has been set.

7. Discussion: Vice Presiding Office Election

Josh noted that the language within the bylaws states that the Presiding Officer and Vice Presiding Officer shall serve in their respective capacities until their term as a member expires. Though Ms. Valerie Miller has been re-appointed as a Member, her time as Vice Presiding Officer ended with the expiration of her previous term. Thus, the Council will need to conduct an election soon to fill that role.

Josh noted that with the hybridization of Council meetings likely to continue, this will complicate the secret ballot process described for Council elections. To alleviate this, Josh noted he has created a Microsoft Form poll to serve as a virtual ballot where members attending the meeting in person can complete on their personal devices while those attending remotely can complete as well simultaneously.

*** Meeting minutes should be considered DRAFT until approved at the next council meeting. ***

Members that are interested in running for Vice Presiding Officer, please let Josh know. Nominations will be accepted prior to the next meeting as well as the day of the election.

8. Discussion: 2022 WCAC Legislative Report

Josh began the discussion by asking if the Council wanted to utilize the same format in drafting the 2022 legislative report as was used in the 2020 legislative report. For the 2020 report, the legislative recommendations were drafted first, with the body of the report following. Josh noted this seemed to work well. Most members agreed that this process worked well and should be utilized for the 2022 report.

Josh also noted that the workgroups may want to consider and discuss if there are any recommendations from the 2020 report that they would like to include in the 2022 report, as several of the recommendations came from specific workgroups.

9. Other Business

Bill Hoffman noted he is now helping with TAWWA's effort to develop a training program for Water Conservation Coordinators.

Karen Guz noted that the TAWWA Scholarship Fund is accepting donations. Given the circumstances over the last 18 months, the fund has not seen the same level of funding.

10. Announcement of Conferences and Events

November 17- 18: [North Texas Regional Water Conservation Symposium](#)

December 1: Session Proposal Deadline. [Informal Science Education Association \(ISEA\) Conference in Austin, February 17 – 18 2022.](#)

December 7 – 9: [North American Water Loss Conference & Exposition](#)

April 4 - 7, 2022: [Texas Water](#)

June 12 – 15, 2022: [ACE Annual Conference](#)

11. Future Meeting Dates and Locations

A poll will be sent out for available dates in the first two weeks of January

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.