

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: September 6, 2018

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: LCRA Dalchau Service Center – 3505 Montopolis Dr. Austin, TX 78744

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: Josh Sendejar, TWDB Staff Support

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Dan Hunter	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Alternate Denise Hickey
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	Tim Loftus
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Steve Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Kevin Kluge	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Alternate Greg Carter
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Alternate Paul Kaspar	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Anai Padilla
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>		<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Valerie Miller	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Celia Eaves
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Alternate Mark Froehlich
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert		

Also present: (Alternates) – David Villareal, Karen Magid; (Interested Parties) – Scott Swanson, Ryan Skrobarczyk, James Theiss, Tammy Carter, Natalie Houston, James Hemple, Meghan Bock, Kathleen Ligon, Ruthie Redmond, Veronica Osegueda, John Sutton, Shae Luther, Daniel Rice.

10:00 a.m. Registration

10:30 a.m. Call to Order

1. Introduction

Meeting Began: 10:31 a.m.

Two new members of the Council were officially introduced. The nominations of Kevin Kluge to represent the TWDB as well as Valerie Miller of LCRA to represent River Authorities were confirmed by the Board of Directors of the Texas Water Development Board the morning of September 6th.

2. Approval of minutes from the July 18, 2018 meeting

Meeting Minutes were approved by the Council with no edits needed.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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

4. Update from Texas Water Development Board

- The BMP Report has been drafted and is currently making its rounds at TWDB.
- The Municipal Water Conservation Planning Tool is under development, with an anticipated release of early December.
- Guidance document for water-use and GPCD to be updated (after the completion of the WCAC Legislative Report and revised BMPs).

5. Reports from Workgroups

- a. Agriculture - None
- b. Commercial & Institutional - None
- c. Industrial - None
- d. Municipal - None
- e. Public Awareness

The Blue Legacy Awards will be presented on March 13, 2019 at the Water Day at the Capitol event. Nominations for the BLA are set to open on September 15th and close on December 15th. Flyers announcing the opening of the nomination period will be available at the October 16th meeting, Josh will also distribute the flyer digitally for dispersal.

- f. Water Loss - None
- g. Wholesale & Regional Water Authorities - None

6. Discussion of and Possible Action on the 2018 Legislative Report

Members/Alternates in Attendance: 21

a. Legislative Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Adoption of enforceable time-of-day limitations on outdoor watering.

Ken Kramer made changes to the recommendation in response to concerns from the Council to make clear that the recommendation applied only to entities seeking financial assistance from TWDB.

Aubrey Spear stated that he would include his minority report in regard to this recommendation, citing that utilities have many variables they need to juggle, and this recommendation may limit their ability to serve their communities.

Discussion held on this recommendation included comments that time of day restrictions should be applicable across the state, the recommendation itself

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

does specify what time of day only that a provision should be enforceable. Questions arose including how this recommendation would deal with irrigator testing and fertilizer application, Karen Guz stated that this recommendation does not specify on how enforcement should take place, that would be up to the local community.

Greg Carter also commented that this recommendation may be too restrictive for small utility systems. Ken Kramer stated that the provisions of the recommendation include accommodation for small systems with the discretion given to TWDB.

A preliminary vote was taken which received 10 affirmative votes.

After the preliminary vote, the recommendation was withdrawn.

Recommendation 2: Enhanced data collection, management, and accessibility.

Discussion revolved around the broadness of the recommendation. Several members expressed an interest in clarifying the goal of enhancing the data collection surrounding Agricultural, ICI, and other water reuse sectors. It is suggested that the background information be revised and reorganized to better clarify the intent of the recommendation.

The recommendation was brought to a vote to be accepted pending the discussed revisions. 17 Members voted to approve the recommendation.

The Recommendation is accepted with discussed amendments.

Recommendation 3: Funding the statewide water conservation public awareness program.

This recommendation had some revisions from TWDB staff and removed references to Water IQ specifically, hoping that a generalized recommendation to give greater freedom to program development.

The recommendation was brought to a vote and 18 members voted to approve the recommendation.

The Recommendation is accepted.

Recommendation 4: Maintain funding for agricultural water conservation and research programs.

There was no discussion/comment regarding this recommendation.

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

The recommendation was brought to a vote and 17 members voted to accept the recommendation as written.

The Recommendation was accepted as written.

Recommendation 5: Prioritizing municipal conservation research in higher education.

A comment regarding the recommendation was to replace the word 'request' with 'direct'. Another comment was that this recommendation does not provide enough direction.

Karen Guz asked the Council if perhaps this would be more appropriate as a project for the Council rather than a Legislative Recommendation.

A motion was made to table this recommendation and instead create a workgroup to spearhead the recommendation subject as a project of the Council.

The motion was brought to a vote and 18 members voted affirmatively.

This recommendation is tabled to instead create a workgroup and conduct the work proposed in the recommendation as a project of the Council.

Recommendation 6: Clarification of Legislative Charge – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee.

This recommendation was withdrawn by David Villareal, on behalf of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee.

Recommendation 7: Funding to enhance the accuracy and value of water loss audits.

There was a comment on this language that it does not follow the other recommendations in mentioning the recommendation would be subject to available state revenue.

Ken Kramer (author of the recommendation) would like to make changes to include clarifying language and working with the TWDB to develop an appropriate funding amount.

The Recommendation was called to a vote and 18 members voted to approve the recommendation with the discussed modifications.

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

The Recommendation was approved with discussed revisions.

Recommendation 8: Continue funding for the Texas Project for Ag Water Efficiency.

Jay Bragg commented that a change to the title of the recommendation may be necessary to differentiate it from the recommendation concerning Data Collection. Changing the name to 'Continue funding for the Texas Ag Water Efficiency Education & Demonstration Project'.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation with the title changes, 18 members voted to accept.

The Recommendation was accepted with the title change.

7. Announcement of conferences and events
 - Water Reuse Conference
September 9 – 12, 2018; Austin, TX
<https://watereuse.org/news-events/conferences/annual-watereuse-symposium/>
 - Texas Desal Conference
September 13 – 14, 2018; Austin, TX
<http://www.texasdesal.com/events/2018-conference/>
 - Water & Planning Connect (American Planning Association)
September 11 – 12, 2018; Kansas City, MO
<https://www.planning.org/conference/water/>
8. Future Meeting Dates and Locations
 - a. Tuesday, October 16, 2018 @ 10:30 a.m. – LCRA Dalchau Service Center
9. Adjourn
 - The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.