

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: 29 October 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Remote (GoToMeeting)

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer
Meeting Facilitator: 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 Denise Hickey
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	Alternate Karen Magid
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	---	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Charles Ring
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Kevin Kluge	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	---	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Greg Carter
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	---	<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>	Leah Martinsson	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	---
<i>River Authorities</i>	Valerie Miller	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Celia Eaves
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	---		

Also present: Alternates – Eddy Trevino, Jennifer Walker, John Bender, Whitney Milberger; Interested Parties – Allen Berthold, Emily Young, Isabel Martinez, Jennifer Nations, Jonathan Kleinman, Perry Fowler, Ryan Skrobarczyk; TWDB Staff – Temple McKinnon, Sarah Backhouse, Yun Cho, John Sutton, Cameron Turner, Travis Brice, Emma Jones, Shae Luther, Kyla Peterson, Daniel Rice, Heather Rose,

** Documents can be found at: <http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/council-meetings.asp>**

1. Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 10: 02 a.m.

Kevin Kluge gave a quick update from TWDB:

- Water Loss Audit Validation
- The contract for the Water Loss Audit Validation Study has been executed with Cavanaugh and Associates. The study will include water loss audit Level 1 validations of 10 water utilities and a report to the TWDB describing the validations as well as an assessment of future validation efforts in Texas. The draft report is due on June 1, 2021. Beyond the current study, TWDB staff have discussed a possible expanded pilot validation project utilizing State Revolving Fund fees in FY22 and FY23.
- TWDB water loss audits and annual conservation reports

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TWDB Staff are preparing for the 2020 water loss audits and annual conservation reports, which will be due May 1st of 2021. All entities will be required to submit a water loss audit this year. Future water loss audit trainings are planned to be conducted online.

- Comment letters for DOE Water Efficiency Rule Changes

Two letters were sent from TWDB's Executive Administrator to the DOE asking them to consider the affects to state water planning process as a result of these potential changes. Passive savings provide significant savings within the context of water planning.

2. Approval of minutes from the August 6, 2020 and September 22, 2020 meetings
Donna Howe made a motion to subject the minutes from the August 6th WCAC Meeting. Bill Hoffman seconded the motion.

Bill Hoffman made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 22nd meeting. Donna Howe seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the minutes.
The minutes were accepted.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Discussion on Workgroup Initiatives for 2021

- a. Agricultural

Charles Ring delivered the report for the workgroup which consisted of four main focus areas:

- Broaden participation from producer groups and individual producers
- Soil Health
- ET Networks (further discussion and updates to existing BMPs)
- Brush Control (further discussion)

K. Guz asked if the workgroup was familiar with any ties between soil health, climate change, and water conservation.

Charles Ring noted that much of the discussion from northern states focuses on drainage from an abundance of water, which does not encompass the issues seen in much of Texas, particularly along the coast.

- b. Commercial & Institutional

Bill Hoffman began the update by recognizing Eddy Trevino and additional staff of the State Energy Conservation Office for completing the [2020 Water](#)

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Conservation Design Standards, which updates water efficiency measures for state-funded buildings.

For the upcoming year, the Commercial & Institutional workgroup would like to focus on the following initiatives:

- NAICS Coding/Benchmarking
- Compiling and analyzing city Water Audits for CI facilities
- Seasonality of water use
- Create a repository for info on CI conservation issues
- Continue emphasizing conservation in academia
- Create an educational program for CI Water Auditors

Bill Hoffman has developed a curriculum for this effort.

K. Guz noted that the Council will want to keep up with water efficiency efforts going on nationally. There is also a need to highlight those national efforts specifically for Texans.

Jonathan Kleinman noted that the Council should have a discussion and determine who amongst the Council's membership should champion the effort to market to audiences to generate a wider distribution area.

Josh mentioned that Sarah Schlessinger had noted in the past about a possible partnership between the Council and the Texas Water Foundation as the TWF begins to re-work their website. Would need an update on progress of this effort.

c. Industrial

Craig Elam noted that much of the 'low-hanging fruit' in water conservation for industry has been picked.

K. Guz stated that there are issues within other workgroups that may wish to collaborate with the Industrial Workgroup.

B. Hoffman noted that while larger industries have undergone this work, there is still opportunity within smaller industries which the workgroup could provide resources on.

d. Municipal

K. Guz gave the report for the Municipal Workgroup, which would like to focus on the following initiatives:

- AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure)

K. Guz noted this would fit within the Council's charge to *Monitoring Technology*. This initiative would focus on monitoring what is happening

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across the state, who is undertaking the shift to AMI, and how far along they are.

- Rainwater Harvesting/Alternative Water Sources

There are growing opportunities within the state. Understanding and providing resources on the management of these projects is important.

- Targets and Goals

The Council referenced the furthered discussion on updating the 140 Total GPCD. Further discussion is needed to discuss an updated target.

- Water Planning & Land Use

Discussion was brought up within the workgroup on exploring the intersection between city and urban planning and water planning.

- Water Use and Long-term Planning Goals

TWDB Staff noted that the Averitt report, [Statewide Water Conservation Quantification Project](#), published by TWDB could be useful in that effort.

e. Public Awareness

Denise Hickey gave the report for the workgroup.

- 2021 Blue Legacy Awards

Denise has been working with Josh to update a press release and text for the Save Texas Water website. Josh will update the website with this new information on Monday, November 2nd, which will be the opening of the nomination period. The deadline for nominations will be December 15th, which will provide about a month and a half for submissions.

- Workgroup Leadership

Denise announced that she will be retiring in January. As a result, the Public Awareness Workgroup will require new leadership, a new Alternate will also need to be named for Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation.

K. Guz congratulated Denise on her retirement and noted that perhaps the Council could reach out to water conservation coordinators to find an interested individual to fill the vacancy.

It was also brought up that Carole Baker has voiced interest in leading the effort of judging the 2021 Blue Legacy Awards.

K. Guz noted the workgroup could also work on clarifying progress on the resource library & statewide awareness campaign efforts.

f. Water Loss

Jennifer Walker gave the update for the workgroup. The workgroup held a joint conference call with the Municipal Workgroup on Monday, October 26th.

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Discussion centered on four topics, which the workgroup will continue discussion to determine their initiatives.

Discussion included the following topics:

- Metrics

Discussion on metrics used in water loss and being able to communicate for meaningful conversations.

- Communication

Communicating the importance of the issues pertaining to water loss to the general public and other audiences.

- Validation

Continuing the conversation around validation, including the efforts currently being undertaken by TWDB.

- Differences in reporting

An update to AWWA's water loss reporting form will result in further differences from TWDB's form.

g. Wholesale and Regional Water Authorities

Dustan Compton was not present for the meeting. Josh did give a brief summary of a work group conference call that took place on Thursday, October 22nd.

The workgroup discussed the following workgroup initiatives:

- BMP Updates

There are three BMPs the workgroup is considering updating:

- Wholesale Conservation Rates
- Water Conservation Education and Public Awareness
- Providing Incentives Directly to Customer's End-Users

- Expanding representation and participation within the workgroup.

It was also discussed within the workgroup call that the use of technology is key, especially during this time, is incredibly important. The workgroup would like to incorporate this into developing BMPs, and other resources.

Donna Howe noted that she has followed up on the Conservation Rates BMP since the workgroup call. Several people she has contacted noted that there is not much support in this area at this time.

5. Other Business

Kevin Kluge noted that TWDB has acquired some funding from the USGS to study mining water use and projections. TWDB may be reaching out to representatives within the mining community regarding this study.

6. Announcement of Conferences and Events

November 10 – 12th: [North Texas Regional Water Conservation Symposium](#)

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7. Future Meeting Dates and Locations
Wednesday, December 9th 10:00 a.m.

8. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.