

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: 10 March 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Remote (GoToMeeting)

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>	Sarah Schlessinger
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Kimberly Horndeski	<i>Higher Education</i>	Tim Loftus
<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>	---	<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>	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>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	---		

Also present: Alternates – Eddy Trevino, Jennifer Walker, Whitney Milberger; Interested Parties – Allen Berthold, Chris Loft, Christianne Castleberry, Christopher Charles, Emily Young, Jason Pierce, Jennifer Nations, Jessica Woods, Kenny Smith, Molly Ballesteros, Natalie Houston, Sarah Robinson; TWDB Staff – John Sutton, Temple McKinnon, Yun Cho, Daniel Rice, Shae Luther, Travis Brice, Kyla Peterson, Heather Rose,

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

1. Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Approval of minutes from the December 9, 2020 meeting

Aubrey Spear made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
Sarah Schlessinger seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, the minutes were accepted as written.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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4. Presentation: [Texas American Water Works Association \(TAWWA\)'s Education Division](#); Christianne Castleberry: Division Chair/ Castleberry Engineering
5. Update on Workgroup Initiatives for 2021
Karen Guz began discussion by stating some workgroup efforts may have been delayed due to recent weather. Ms. Guz opened the floor to any workgroup updates.

Wholesale:

Dustan Compton noted the Wholesale Workgroup was able to meet and continued discussion on BMP updates as well the potential of drafting a survey for Wholesale providers focusing on challenges they face from a Wholesale perspective.

Municipal:

Karen Guz noted that while the workgroup has not met, a survey for municipal stakeholders has previously been discussed. There may be specific impacts from the freeze that would be beneficial to understand.

SAWS experienced both water quality and water quantity issues as a result of the recent freeze. Record production was seen as the system was re-pressurized and could have multiple impacts to consumption data. The aftermath of the freeze will also likely have impacts.

Aubrey Spear noted that Lubbock was fortunate that previous investment in back-up power generation spared them from power outages. However, during the event customer call-ins increased from 25 to as much as 600 per day. Peak demand was also seen on several days during the freeze. Lubbock, being used to swings in the weather, was better prepared than some this time.

Agricultural:

Charles Ring noted that the workgroup is looking to continue development of BMPs as well as increasing participation of producers and producer groups.

Commercial & Institutional:

Bill Hoffman noted that he will be teaching a Level I Commercial Auditor course in New Mexico focusing on restaurants and similar facilities.

Public Awareness:

Sarah Schlessinger noted that the 2021 Blue Legacy Process is complete. 8 nominations were received in the Municipal Category, and 3 in the Agricultural category.

The Winners are:

BLA in Agriculture:

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Non-Producer: North Plains GCD
Innovative Project: Amarillo Water Management Team

BLA in Municipal:

Population <10,000: City of Horseshoe Bay
Population 10,000 - 50,000: Brushy Creek MUD
Population 100,000 - 500,000: McAllen Public Utilities
River Authority/Regional Water District: Tarrant Regional Water District

The awards presentation will be included as part of the 2021 Texas Water Conference's larger awards presentation. Attendees will be able to participate; more information will be sent out as it becomes available. Sarah also extended thanks to TAWWA for hosting the awards presentation and sponsoring the awards.

Water Loss:

Jennifer Walker noted that the workgroup plans to meet in the next few weeks, likely in tandem with the Municipal Workgroup.

TWDB Update:

Sam Hermitte noted that there have been several staff changes as it relates to the council. Kevin Kluge has accepted an opportunity with Austin Water and is no longer with the agency. Cameron Turner, former Manager of Agricultural Conservation, has moved positions to TWDB's Procurement and Contract Services team.

Submittal rates for the Water Loss Audit (due May 1st) current sit at 7%.
Submittal rates for the Water conservation Annual Report (also due May 1st) currently sit at 8%.

TWDB will be hosting two Water Loss Workshops (scheduled for April 8th & April 22nd).
Registration info to be sent out this week.

Water Loss Validation Study, which originally had 11 participants, may have 1 or 2 needing to drop out due to impacts from the winter storm and/or available staff resources. Initial 1-on-1 consultations scheduled to start this week.

TWDB Ag Grants received 29 proposals totaling over \$6.5 million with \$1.2 million in available funds. Selected proposals planned to be taken to the Board in May.

6. Other Business

Josh noted that there are 6 Members whose terms will end on August 31, 2021. He will be sending out notices to those Members individually. A nomination will be opened at

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the beginning of June and recommendations are expected to be taken to a late August or early September TWDB Board Meeting.

7. Announcement of Conferences and Events

March 10 – 13: [Spring Bloom](#) – San Antonio, TX (virtual)

March 29 – April 1: [Texas Water Conference](#) – Austin, TX (virtual)

April 20 & 21: [Central TX Water Conservation Symposium](#) – Austin, TX (virtual)

April 30: [Texas Water Leaders](#) application deadline

8. Future Meeting Dates and Locations

- Wednesday, June 9th 10:00 a.m. (Virtual [Tentatively])
- Thursday, September 9th 10:00 a.m. (Virtual [Tentatively])

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.