

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: 25 June 2020
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>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	Tim Loftus
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	John Foster	<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>	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>	--
<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>	Wayne Halbert		

Also present: Alternates – Denise Hickey, John Bender, Jessica Woods, Jennifer Walker, Kimberly Horndeski, Karen Magid, TJ Helton, Whitney Milberger; Interested Parties – Adam Conner, Allen Berthold, Chelsea Atkinson, Chris Charles, Isabel Martinez, Paula Paciorek, Perry Fowler, Ryan Skrobarczyk, Tommy McClung; TWDB Staff – John Dupnik, John Sutton, Daniel Rice, Laurie Gehlsen, Shae Luther, Antonio Delgado, Kyla Peterson, Bryan McMath, Claire Boyer.

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

TWDB and Work Group Updates can be found at the link above

10:00 a.m. Call to Order

1. Introduction

The meeting began at 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of minutes from the April 30, 2020 meeting

Meeting minutes were approved as written.

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3. Public Comment

Mr. Perry Fowler noted that August 11th is 811 Day. Due to circumstances with COVID-19, Texas 811 will be utilizing digital media to celebrate this year. Texas 811 will be reaching out to partners to help spread the message.

4. Discussion on the second draft of the 2020 WCAC Legislative Report

K. Kluge noted that given the situation regarding COVID-19, it is anticipated that the upcoming legislative session will be very concerned with budget. K. Kluge asked if the Council thought it would be appropriate to acknowledge the situation within the report, acknowledging that the work put into the recommendations was done prior to the pandemic.

K. Guz noted this acknowledgement could easily be put into the Executive Summary.

CJ Tredway voiced support for acknowledging the pandemic in the summary. It is also mentioned in each recommendation with the language 'pending available funding during the 2022 - 2023 biennium'.

C. Loeffler agreed with acknowledging the situation. She also noted that including language relating to conservation being the least expensive and most effective in terms of investment would be beneficial.

Several other members voiced their support for acknowledging the current situation. It was also noted that conservation is essential to meeting future water demands.

S. Schelssinger noted that the Texas Water Foundation worked on a report with the Alliance for Water Efficiency on Economic Impacts on the Texas Economy as it relates to water. Information from this report could be referenced and used in the acknowledgement.

Charge 1:

Agricultural Water Conservation:

Revisions were made to this section. John Bender summarized section contents and added bullet points. The length of the section was cut down by about 60%.

K. Guz noted that the length was good and seemed to still retain the important information within.

A comment from Tim Loftus was discussed regarding a citation for the brush control portions of the section. John Foster will provide sources that can be used in the section.

L. Martinsson asked how the Council should handle minor edits/feedback to the draft.

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K. Guz stated minor edits/changes to wording can be sent to Josh who will coordinate with the section author.

Discussion was then brought up regarding how the portion of the section regarding brush control did not seem to fit within 'trends' of the section. It was suggested to perhaps change the heading which reads 'Rangeland Conservation' to 'Water Conservation through Brush Control'. There was no opposition to the change.

Commercial & Institutional Water Conservation:

K. Guz began discussion by stating that the CI and Municipal work groups held a conference call to discuss metrics regarding the section.

K. Guz drafted revisions to address three areas within the CI sector:

- Definitions: not used consistently
- NAICS coding/Energy Star Portfolio Manager
- Outlines for three projects for future development:
 - Improve Customer Coding
 - Enhance Understanding of Water Use Patterns by Category
 - Develop Efficiency Metrics by Sector

Manufacturing and Electric Power Generation:

Greg Carter added to the existing language for the section and provided a source for citation.

Municipal:

K. Guz revised the previous draft. The section is still needing data from the 2019 Conservation Annual Reports. K. Guz noted that with the release of the updated Texas Water Scorecard, could site some of the information found in the update for this section.

K. Kramer noted that he drafted some information for inclusion mentioning the publishing of the update.

K. Guz noted that information from the Scorecard could also be utilized in terms of BMP implementation.

K. Guz mentioned that there were a few issues from the last meeting that have yet to be addressed:

- The issue of changes in water loss data has not been acknowledged.
- The Council could include some information from the Scorecard and interesting trends.
- Not seeing major improvements with water loss trends. Could be that utilities are diving deeper into their water loss data.

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Paula Paciorek noted that the City of Houston has historically had a lower water loss percentage. The City is currently undergoing a third-party assessment to determine if there is increased loss or if it is reflective of more accurate data.

B. Hoffman noted this speaks to the need for third party validation.

A. Spear noted that increased conservation with lower production can look like increased water loss.

K. Guz will draft language on using percentage in metrics.

Wholesale:

Dustan Compton revised the section based on feedback from the last WCAC meeting. The section was summarized including bullet points to highlight specific feedback received from wholesale suppliers throughout the state.

K. Guz noted that this section does get more specific than others within the report.

D. Compton stated that he realizes the Council would like to be as consistent as possible throughout the report.

D. Howe stated perhaps the full list could be incorporated into an appendix.

K. Kramer noted that many of the bullet points are general and generic, perhaps could shorten the section but listing strategies while including a few specific examples.

D. Compton agreed the section could be shortened.

K. Guz noted that shortening the section while not losing the message of progress made is crucial.

T. Loftus noted that some of the more general information could be put into the introductory paragraph.

Charge 2:

A section regarding ET Networks was drafted by Dustan Compton. D. Compton noted that the section is lengthy and is open to any comments/feedback.

B. Hoffman noted the section needs to stress the importance of this data.

C. Loeffler noted the percentage of agricultural irrigation should be used to stress ET's importance.

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J. Bender noted that the percentage is written in the Ag section of Charge 1 and can easily be included here.

Josh noted that there is a lot of good information in the draft. However, with this charge revolving around technologies for inclusion to the BMP Guide, need to make a clear connection of how the Council intends to move in that direction with ET. There is at least one Ag BMP ([Irrigation Scheduling](#)) which mentions ET data, need to develop language on how municipal and wholesale could incorporate into the BMP Guide.

D. Compton and K. Guz will work on revisions to this portion of the section.

K. Guz asked the Council if there would be potential to add AMI to the section in terms of its ability to aid in conservation. Could highlight conversion to AMI as well as encourage quantification.

Several members agreed it should be acknowledged/mentioned.

Charge 3 & 4:

Minor additions/revisions were made, no discussion on additional revisions was had.

Charge 5:

Josh updated the section with photos from the 2019 Blue Legacy Awards.

Charge 6:

K. Kramer noted that he drafted this section of the report however, during his research he discovered that there is not a great handle on what is being implemented. Mr. Kramer encouraged the Council to follow up with Regional Water Planning Groups in the future. Mr. Kramer also noted that the 140 GPCD goal mentioned by the Water Conservation Implementation Taskforce seems to have become a hinderance for continued progress.

Several members supported the notion of addressing the 140 GPCD mentioned by the Water Conservation Implementation Taskforce. It was noted that while many utilities have met or surpassed 140 GPCD in terms of conservation, others have not. Regardless, 140 GPCD should not be an end goal.

D. Howe noted perhaps this could be brought up in future trainings for conservation coordinators.

Charge 7:

A draft has not been made for this section.

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K. Guz noted that this could be where it is mentioned the WCAC will take up discussion on the 140 GPCD goal formerly recommended by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force.

K. Guz will draft a relatively short section and confer with K. Kramer.

Recommendations:

Josh noted that John Bender revised and restructured the Legislative Recommendations relating to Ag. As part of this, he rearranged the ask statement from the beginning of the recommendation to the end, as seen in the 2018 WCAC Report. Josh reminded the Council that during the drafting of the recommendations, the ask statement was placed at the beginning for review. Going forward, the recommendations will need to be reorganized for the final report draft.

Discussion was then turned to Recommendation #4 (Data Trends in Water Use). Revisions to the draft seem to have removed mention of industrial and municipal sectors. CJ Tredway mentioned she provided those updates from discussion held at the March WCAC Meeting, where the group discussed the recommendations being focused on all trends rather than solely municipal and industrial. It was also stated that there was some language from the March WCAC Meeting that needs to be revisited for this recommendation.

Deadlines:

July 9th: Comments on current draft due to Josh.

July 10th: Next Draft of the report sent out to Council.

July 22nd: Revisions due to Josh.

July 23rd: Revisions sent out.

July 30th: Final Comments due.

July 31st: Draft sent out.

5. Other Business

K. Guz mentioned the current state of the EPA's WaterSense program.

6. Announcement of Conferences and Events

July 15th – Texas Water 2020 (virtual) <https://www.txwater.org/>

7. Future Meeting Dates and Locations

Thursday, August 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Virtual (Tentatively)

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.