

Progress Made in Water Conservation in Texas

A report prepared for the
85th Texas Legislature
December 2016

Submitted by the
Water Conservation Advisory Council
www.savetexaswater.org

I. Executive Summary *{to be completed after report is written; aim for two pages max}*

The 80th Texas Legislature created the Water Conservation Advisory Council to provide the resource of a select group of professional with expertise in water conservation. This report summarizes the Council's activities related to their seven statutory charges and includes recommendations for legislation to advance water conservation in Texas.

{open with graphs, then discuss the 'why/how'; previous reports gave quick summary per charge- keep list or just summarize?}

Charge 1: Monitor trends in water conservation implementation

Charge 2: Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion by the Texas Water Development Board as best management practices in the Best Management Practices Guide developed by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force

Charge 3: Monitor the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program and associated local involvement in implementation of the program

Charge 4: Develop and implement a state water management resource library

Charge 5: Develop and implement a public recognition program for water conservation

Charge 6: Monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans

Charge 7: Monitor target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Texas Water Development Board

Recommendations to advance water conservation in Texas

{list}

II. Background and Operation of the Council

{maybe include a bit on the historical development of the WCAC, including some info on the Task Force, and note that this is the 5th report/10th year of the WCAC.}

Table 1. Current Members of the Water Conservation Advisory Council

Interest Group	Member	Term Ends
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Mr. Charlie Moehlenbrock	2017
Texas Department of Agriculture	Mr. Dan Hunter	2017
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Ms. Cindy Loeffler	2021
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	Mr. John Foster	2019
Texas Water Development Board	Dr. Robert E. Mace	2017
Regional Water Planning Groups	Mr. C.E. Williams	2021
Federal Agencies	Mr. John Mueller	2017
Municipalities	Ms. Karen Guz	2017
Groundwater Conservation Districts	Ms. Sarah Schlessinger	2019
River Authorities	Mr. Matt Phillips	2021
Environmental Groups	Dr. Ken Kramer	2021
Irrigation Districts	Mr. Wayne Halbert	2019
Institutional Water Users	Mr. H.W. "Bill" Hoffman	2019
Professional Organizations-Water Conservation	Ms. Carole Baker	2019
Higher Education	Dr. Kevin Wagner	2021
Agricultural Groups	Mr. Jay Bragg	2019
Refining and Chemical Manufacturing	Mr. Karl Fennessey	2017
Electric Generation	Mr. Gary Spicer	2021
Mining and Recovery of Minerals	Ms. C.J. Tredway	2019
Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture	Mr. Brad Smith	2017
Water Control and Improvement Districts	Ms. Linda Christie	2019
Rural Water Users	Ms. Celia Eaves	2021
Municipal Utility Districts	Ms. Donna Howe	2017

Table 2. Current Alternates of the Water Conservation Advisory Council

Interest Group	Alternates
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Ms. Jennifer Allis
Texas Department of Agriculture	Dr. David Villarreal
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Ms. Lynne Hamlin
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	Mr. Steve Bednarz
Texas Water Development Board	Ms. Jessica Kohlrenken
Regional Water Planning Groups	Ms. Denise Hickey
Federal Agencies	Mr. Brian Wenberg
Municipalities	Ms. Ruthanne Haut
Groundwater Conservation Districts	Mr. John Dupnik
River Authorities	Mr. Brad Brunett
Environmental Groups	Ms. Jennifer Walker
Irrigation Districts	VACANT
Institutional Water Users	Mr. Eddie Trevino
Professional Organizations-Water Conservation	Ms. Nora Mullarkey
Higher Education	Dr. John Tracy
Agricultural Groups	Mr. Billy Howe
Refining and Chemical Manufacturing	Mr. Craig Elam
Electric Generation	Mr. Rick Jeanes
Mining and Recovery of Minerals	VACANT
Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture	Mr. Doug Christensen
Water Control and Improvement Districts	Mr. Dustan Compton
Rural Water Users	Ms. Deborah McMullan
Municipal Utility Districts	Mr. Mark Froehlich

III. Acknowledgments

IV. Summary of Progress Made in Water Conservation in Texas

The Texas Legislature recognized the importance of water conservation and, in 2007, created the Water Conservation Advisory Council to provide the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, the Legislature, the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, political subdivisions, and the public with the resource of a select council with expertise in water conservation. The legislature tasked the Council with seven specific charges:

- Charge 1: Monitor trends in water conservation implementation
- Charge 2: Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion by the Texas Water Development Board as best management practices in the Best Management Practices Guide developed by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force
- Charge 3: Monitor the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program and associated local involvement in implementation of the program
- Charge 4: Develop and implement a state water management resource library
- Charge 5: Develop and implement a public recognition program for water conservation
- Charge 6: Monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans
- Charge 7: Monitor target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Texas Water Development Board

The legislature directed the Council to deliver a report on progress made in relation to these charges to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives no later than December 1 of each even-numbered year. This is the fifth report to state leadership that briefly addresses each charge and identifies key findings for advancing water conservation efforts in Texas. In addition, the 84th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 551 directing the Council to include in their report “recommendations for legislation to advance water conservation in this state, which may include conservation through the reduction of the amount of water lost because of evaporation”.

Charge 1: Monitor trends in water conservation implementation

{Preliminary content to be provided by WCAC/workgroups.}

Charge 2: Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion by the Texas Water Development Board as best management practices in the Best Management Practices Guide developed by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force

{Preliminary content to be provided by TWDB staff.}

Charge 3: Monitor the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program and associated local involvement in implementation of the program

{Preliminary content to be provided by TWDB staff.}

Charge 4: Develop and implement a state water management resource library

{Preliminary content to be provided by TWDB staff.}

Charge 5: Develop and implement a public recognition program for water conservation

{Preliminary content to be provided by TWDB staff.}

Charge 6: Monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans

{Preliminary content to be provided by Ken Kramer and TWDB staff.}

Charge 7: Monitor target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Texas Water Development Board

{Preliminary content to be provided by WCAC.}

Recommendations to advance water conservation in Texas

{To be determined: Will these be separate from the charges or will there be one recc per charge or...?}

VI. Advancing Water Conservation Efforts

{Consider whether this section heading is still appropriate (maybe some concluding thoughts?). Also, revisit whether we will still need all of these additional sections now that recommendations are required/included in the report.}

Action by the 84th Texas Legislature on Water Conservation

{Major content to be provided by Ken Kramer.}

{The following are the additional section headings from the last report.}

Agricultural Water Conservation Incentives

Drought Planning

Energy Water Nexus

Enhanced Data Collection, Verification, and Analysis

Water Loss Audits

Public Awareness

Water Conservation Education Grants

Research Opportunities in Water Conservation

Training and Certification for Water Conservation Professionals
