

## Summary of Minutes

### Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Austin, TX 78719

Texas Parks and Wildlife–Airport Commerce Park, Building 6 conference room

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Alternate Eddie Trevino
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Alternate David Villarreal	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	-----
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Steven Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	-----	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Alternate Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	-----
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	John Mueller	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Alternate Doug Christensen
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	-----	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Matt Phillips	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	-----
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert		

Also attended: (Alternates) Mark Froehlich, Lynne Hamlin, Ruthanne Haut, Denise Hickey, and Jennifer Walker; and (Interested Parties) Dub Taylor, Valerie Miller, Jennifer Nations, Allen Berthold, Jamie Olson, Kimberly Horndeski, Jonathan Kleinman, Mark Warden, Lindsay Kovar, Jason Pierce, Ruthie Redmond, Jessica Woods, Faith Smith, John Bender, Heather Dalrymple, Suzanne King, and Charlie Flatten.

- Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2017, meeting

The Council took up minutes from the previous meeting. Minutes were approved.

- Public Comment

There was no public comment.

- Update from Texas Water Development Board

Mindy Conyers reminded the group that eight council members' terms expire this August 31. The nomination period is now open and nomination materials should be submitted by June 30. Texas Water Code, Chapter 10, directs the Texas Water Development Board to appoint members to the council. More information is posted at [www.savetexaswater.org](http://www.savetexaswater.org).

- Reports from Workgroups

- Agriculture - nothing to report
- Commercial & Institutional - Eddie Trevino reported that the workgroup will meet via conference call on June 8 at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the draft best management practices guide.
- Industrial - nothing to report
- Municipal - Karen Guz solicited thoughts from the group on the concept of marketing water conservation in the internet age with an emphasis on social media applications and whether or not the municipal workgroup should explore the topic further.
- Public Awareness - Denise Hickey will plan a workgroup conference call to facilitate further discussion of the topic mentioned above.
- Wholesale - Dustan Compton reported that the workgroup hosted a conference call on May 18 that focused on best management practices and the workgroup's recently updated webpage.

- Update on water conservation bills filed during the 85th Texas Legislature

Ken Kramer provided the update along with a handout that is now posted online at [http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/doc/KKramer\\_85R\\_summary053117.pdf](http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/doc/KKramer_85R_summary053117.pdf).

The following bills from the 85th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature were discussed:

House Bill 1573 (relating to personnel requirements for water loss auditors);

House Bill 1648 (relating to the designation of a water conservation coordinator by a retail public water utility to implement a water conservation plan);

House Bill 2240 (relating to a requirement that certain recipients of financial assistance from the Water Development Board adopt certain restrictions on water use by their customers);

Senate Bill 1511 (relating to the state and regional water planning process and the funding of projects included in the state water plan);

House Bill 965 (relating to the authority of a retail public water utility to require an operator of a correctional facility to comply with water conservation measures);

Senate Bill 1172 (relating to the regulation of seed by a political subdivision);

Senate Bill 538 (relating to state and local planning for and responses to drought); and

House Bill 2948 (relating to the state and regional water planning process).

Next the group discussed implementation of House Bill 1573 which requires the Texas Water Development Board to “make training on water loss auditing available without charge from the board’s website.” Karen Guz mentioned the possibility of forming a working group to assist with that effort. Jennifer Walker agreed to lead the effort. Other interested parties identified in the meeting included Dustan Compton, Jonathan Kleinman, Valerie Miller, Ruthie Redmond, Donna Howe, Aubrey Spear, Karen Guz, Jennifer Allis, and Dub Taylor.

John Sutton, manager of municipal conservation programs at TWDB, mentioned that TWDB staff recently completed fifteen in-person water loss audit training workshops across the state with over 100 entities attending and thanked the group for offering assistance with implementation moving forward. With regard to House Bill 1648, Mr. Sutton stated that the improved online reporting page could include a method for providing information on the designated conservation coordinator. More information will be shared with the group as the effort progresses. No formal action was taken.

- Update on the proposal to outsource prioritized municipal best management practices

Karen Guz noted that a survey will be distributed to the group soon to gauge opinions on how to prioritize the best management practices in need of updates. No formal action was taken.

- Discussion and possible action on a proposal to designate a subcommittee to update the council’s bylaws

Karen Guz provided an overview of the proposal put forth by Robert Mace (not present). Jennifer Allis expressed interest in assisting with the effort. No formal action was taken.

- Announcement of conferences and events

June 7: Free webinar on *PACE: A new tool for big water savings in the ICI sector*. Registration at [www.texaslivingwaters.org](http://www.texaslivingwaters.org). A WaterSmart webinar will also be broadcast just prior to the PACE webinar. See [www.watersmart.com](http://www.watersmart.com) for more information.

June 12-14: Annual conference of the American Water Works Association in Philadelphia, PA. During the program, Ms. Carole Baker will be inducted into the Water Industry Hall of Fame.

Both the San Antonio Water System ([www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org)) and the Lower Colorado River Authority ([www.lcra.org](http://www.lcra.org)) have water conservation related job openings.

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 10:30 AM in room A504 at the Lower Colorado River Authority’s Dalchau Service Center located at 3505 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX, 78744.

- Presentation on the role of the Texas Comptroller’s Office with freshwater mussels by Kimberly Horndeski.

Presentation slides posted to [www.savetexaswater.org](http://www.savetexaswater.org). Anyone interested in contributing to this effort can contact Kimberly at [Kimberly.Horndeski@cpa.texas.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Horndeski@cpa.texas.gov) or 512-305-9827.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.