

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: 9 June 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>	---	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Alternate Helen Dulac
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	---	<i>Higher Education</i>	Tim Loftus
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Mitch Conine	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Alternate John Bender
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Sam Hermitte	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	---
<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>	---	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Valerie Miller	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	---
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	---		

Also present: Alternates – Eddy Trevino, Jennifer Walker; Interested Parties – Christopher Charles, Chris Loft, Emily Young, Isabel Martinez, Jennifer Nations, Katherine Drury, Kenny Smith, Kevin Kluge, Natalie Houston; TWDB Staff – Dir. Kathleen Jackson, Jennifer White, Bryan McMath, Temple McKinnon, John Sutton, Yun Cho, Daniel Rice, Kyla Peterson, Mark Sheffield, Shae Luther, Travis Brice,

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

1. Introduction

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Dir. Kathleen Jackson, TWDB Board Member, addressed the council thanking them for their continued work in water conservation.

2. Approval of minutes from the March 10, 2020 meeting

Donna Howe made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
Anai Padilla seconded the motion.

No one was opposed. The minutes were accepted as written.

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3. Public Comment

There was no public comment

4. TWDB Update

Sam Hermitte gave the following update from TWDB:

- TWDB has combined the Agricultural and Municipal Water Conservation departments to form the Conservation Department. John Sutton is now the manager of the Conservation Department, and Kyla Peterson now serves as Team Lead in Agricultural Water Conservation.
- Mark Mathis is the new Water Loss Specialist with TWDB.
- TWDB approved 7 Agricultural Conservation Grants totaling just under \$1.2 million.
- TWDB Conservation Staff held two Water Loss, Use, and Conservation webinars in April. These webinars provided the required water loss audit training and were able to reach about 400 people.
- Report Updates – Online data collection is open and staff continue to respond and provide technical assistance regarding report requirements and submittals.
 - Water Loss Audit: 4,029 entities were required to submit a 2020 WLA by May 1st. As of June 4th, 2,463 (61%) have been submitted.
 - Annual Water Conservation Report: 844 entities were required to submit by May 1st. As of June 4th, 566 (67%) have been submitted.
 - Reminder emails have been sent to those who have yet to submit over the last two weeks. Staff have seen an increase in requests for access and phone calls.
- Texas Water Loss Audit Validation Study
 - Study nearing completion, draft report expected in July.

5. Workgroup Updates:

Josh began with a brief summary of workgroup initiatives discussed previously.

a. Agricultural

John Bender provided an update on the workgroup. He noted that the workgroup has not met since the last WCAC meeting, with the legislative session concluded the workgroup will resume working on its initiatives.

b. Commercial & Institutional

Bill Hoffman provided an update for the workgroup. It was noted that there is still a need to conduct an analysis with city CI Water Audits. Bill is willing to contact cities with the council's permission. Mr. Hoffman also noted that a CI Water Auditor Guidebook has been developed. Seasonality is also an important initiative, Bill has conducted a preliminary assessment using Region C data and will look to discuss the assessment at a future workgroup meeting with CI and Municipal stakeholders.

c. Industrial

No update for the workgroup provided.

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d. Municipal

Karen Guz began with an update on HB 2439 from the 2019 legislative session. This bill restricts local governments ability to regulate building materials used in construction. After the bill's passage there was concern water conservation ordinances could be affected. After discussion with lawmakers this session, Senate Bill 1090 has passed which would exempt plumbing ordinances utilized in an entity's water conservation plan from the restrictions in HB 2439.

It was noted that the workgroup did hold a joint meeting with the Water Loss Workgroup in April, while discussion was held regarding the Municipal Workgroup's initiatives, additional discussion will be needed. Potential recommendations for targets and goals were a topic of discussion, with possibly looking at Residential GPCD as opposed to Total GPCD. However, this might not be an easy change as the Regional Water Planning Groups utilize Total GPCD in their efforts. There are two studies relating to advance metering infrastructure (AMI) that are currently underway which will provide some critical information on the uses of AMI data. The workgroup identified the need for a committee to further discuss Rainwater Harvesting, and the workgroup also noted that a presentation from Kevin Kluge regarding the intersection of urban and water planning would be useful as discussion continues on this initiative.

e. Public Awareness

Josh noted the workgroup is seeking new leadership and has not met.

f. Water Loss

Jennifer Walker gave the update for the workgroup. The Workgroup met in April along with the Municipal Workgroup. Water Loss Metrics were discussed and will need continued discussion. As part of this discussion, it was noted that perhaps TWDB could provide some language on the decision to align with national/international standards in moving away from water loss percentage. Differences in reporting was also discussed, with future changes to the AWWA form resulting in additional differences to TWDB's form. TWDB staff are working to summarize those differences for future workgroup discussion.

Finally, Winter Storm Uri and associated water losses were discussed by the workgroup. It was decided that utilities need guidance on how best to account for losses associated with the storm, as these losses will be reported on the 2022 Water Loss Audit. A committee was formed within the workgroup to discuss how best to handle reporting these losses and drafting guidance for utilities.

g. Wholesale and Regional Water Authorities

Dustan Compton provided the update for the workgroup. The workgroup has not met since the last council meeting. Dustan will coordinate with Josh to schedule a workgroup meeting.

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6. Other Business

Josh reminded the council there will be six members whose terms will end on August 31, 2021. Five of these members have open nomination periods. Deadline for nominations is next Friday, June 18th.

The members whose terms are ending and their respective interest groups are:

- Electric Generation: Greg Carter
- Environmental Groups: Ken Kramer
- Regional Water Planning Groups: Aubrey Spear
- River Authorities: Valerie Miller
- Rural Water Users: Celia Eaves

Any member seeking reappointment will need to submit a nomination by close of business on June 18th, self-nominations are permitted. Additional information can be found on the council's website, www.savetexaswater.org.

7. Announcement of Conferences and Events

June 14 - 17: AWWA Annual Conference, Virtual
<https://www.awwa.org/ace/>

July 15: Deadline for Abstracts, AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference. Denver, CO, March 27 – 30, 2022.
<https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Sustainable-Water-Management>

September: CI Water Auditor Training in Sante Fe, more info to come.

December 7 -9: North American Water Loss Conference, Austin, TX
<https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Water-Loss>

8. Future Meeting Dates and Locations

Thursday, September 9th at 10:00 a.m. (Tentatively Remote)

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.