

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: LCRA Dalchau Service Center – 3505 Montopolis Dr., Austin, TX 78744

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: Josh Sendejar, TWDB Support Staff

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Alternate Eddy 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>	Tim Loftus
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	----	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<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>	Gary Spicer
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Maria Martinez	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	----
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Anai Padilla
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Sarah Schlessinger	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Vacant	<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: (Member): Linda Christie; (Alternates): Lynne Hamlin, Jennifer Walker; (Interested Parties): Valerie Miller, Sarah Houston, James Theiss, James Foutz, Heather Dalrymple, James Hemple, Perry Fowler, Meghan Bock, Cameron Turner, Bryan McMath, Veronica Osegueda, John Sutton, Shae Luther, Daniel Rice, & Ruthie Redmond.

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

1. Introduction: Meeting began at 10:32 a.m.
2. Presentation: Kathy Frevert, Senior Environmental Scientist – California State Water Resources Control Board

See meeting documents at link above for presentation slides.

3. Approval of minutes from the June 20, 2018 meeting

Minutes approved with edit of attendee name (Cary Betz).

4. Public Comment
No public comments were received.

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5. Update from Texas Water Development Board

- Water Loss Audit and Conservation Plan data has been made publicly available online [<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/historical-annual-report.asp>].
 - o Includes three reports & a graph of uses/goals for each utility
- Conservation Tool:
 - o Contract out for water conservation planning tool. The Tool will essentially be an Excel worksheet to help entities assess the cost and savings benefit for water conservation activities.
 - o Contract has not been finalized.
 - o Hoping to have the tool completed by the end of October.
- Member Nominations:
 - o Nominations for two council members (TWDB and River Authorities) are planned to be taken to the September 9th TWDB Board Meeting.

6. Reports from Workgroups

- a. Agriculture: Nothing to report
- b. Commercial & Institutional: Nothing to report
- c. Industrial: Nothing to report
- d. Municipal: No meeting held, plan to schedule a workgroup meeting to discuss Water Loss Audit BMP revisions
- e. Public Awareness: Nothing to report
- f. Water Loss: Nothing to report
- g. Wholesale & Regional Water Authorities: Email request has been sent using wholesale provider contacts from TWDB asking about updates on conservation activities to include in the council's 2018 legislative report.

7. Discussion regarding the 2018 Legislative Report

- a. Content Updates
 - Charge 1: Monitor trends in water conservation implementation
 - Ag Update: Need reference for update
 - Water Loss Workgroup: Mentioned under Municipal Conservation. Perhaps include formation of workgroup as response/support to TWDB on Water Loss Audit/training.

Kevin Kluge will review and propose any necessary edits on Municipal section TWDB will define 'Educational Programs' in Table 2.

Charge 2: Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion in the Best Management Practices Guide

Currently Includes: BMPs, Water Loss Audit/Data Validation, Flow Sensors, Advances Metering Infrastructure

Comments:

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- Think audience
- Define data validation

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

To be included: Water, Texas Film Contest

Linda Christie will draft language for this section.

Discussed with this charge was the idea of briefly referencing complex resources within the report and including the complete reference material on the Save Texas Water website.

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

Discussion for this charge centered on the Alliance for Water Efficiency changing its website structure. Previously the Council worked with AWE to create a water resources library, however AWE will be making some content restricted to members only.

The Council, going forward, may decide to re-organize the Save Texas Water website to become a resource library. It was brought up that there are currently some data-hub project going on throughout the state and perhaps the Council could point users to those resources rather than attempting to recreate them.

Sarah Schlessinger will draft some language regarding the Data Resource Hub projects and the Councils' monitoring of available resources.

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

Include that the Blue Legacy Awards will be given out on March 13, 2019, Texas Water Day.

Include in the report that a new category (Innovative Projects) was added.

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

- Remove 'However' in 3rd bullet point.

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.

- There was discussion on not mentioning the 140 goal recommendation from the 2004 Task Force.

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- Discuss roadmap/ “How will we get there” with conservation goals, including best management practices.
 - o The conservation planning tool should help with the how
 - o Section should include discussion on municipal goals and water loss
- Focus should be on the near-term.
- There was discussion on creating a recognition program for utilities with exemplary conservation plans.
 - o There are 600 entities required to submit conservation plans.
 - o Would need a committee to verify awards.
 - o May schedule a follow-up phone call.

b. Legislative Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Adoption of enforceable time-of-day limitations on outdoor watering.

Several members were not comfortable with including number of days per week within this recommendation. It was brought up that smaller utilities may not be able to enforce it and may restrict eligibility for TWDB funding for those smaller utilities.

It was also brought up that Kathy Frevert mentioned in her presentation that California stayed away from days per week restrictions and chose to institute goals to be achieved.

The majority of the Council was comfortable with this recommendation if days per week was removed.

Recommendation 2: Enhanced data collection, management, accessibility.

The question was asked if this recommendation was enough of a priority to leave in, given that there are some data hub projects currently going on.

The Council believes that yes, it should still be included.

Recommendation 5: Prioritizing municipal conservation research in higher education.

It was suggested that the title of this recommendation be changed as the current language could seem to suggest that municipal conservation should take precedent over other areas of research.

Recommendation 6: Clarification of Legislative Charge – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee.

Ken Kramer raised issue with leaving the recommendation open-ended. Ken will discuss the recommendation with David Villarreal.

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Recommendation 8: Proposed Legislation for Research and Academic Classroom Instruction for all Urban Water Using Sectors.

Need clarification of intent of recommendation.

8. Announcement of conferences and events
No new conferences or events mentioned.
9. Future Meeting Dates and Locations
September 6th [*Thursday*] – LCRA Dalchau Service Center
October 16th [*Tuesday*] – LCRA Dalchau Service Center
10. Adjourn: The meeting ended at 1:13 p.m.