

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 14, 2017

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: 3505 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX 78744

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>	Bill Hoffman
<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>	-----
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Robert Mace	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	-----
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Maria Martinez	<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>	Sarah Schlessinger	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	-----	<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) Mark Froehlich, Lynne Hamlin, Denise Hickey, Kevin Kluge, Eddie Trevino, and Jennifer Walker; and (Interested Parties) Dan Strub, Cameron Turner, Jessica Woods, Beth Hood, Lacey Smith, Tim Loftus, Perry Fowler, Sam Hermitte, and Charlie Flatten.

- Approval of Minutes from May 31, 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

Dr. Robert Mace reminded the group that the deadline for submitting nominations to fill the vacant higher education seat on the council is Monday, September 18th.

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John Sutton provided updates on the recently completed water conservation study by Averitt and Associates, the implementation of House Bill 1573 (relating to personnel requirements for water loss auditors), and the rulemaking process related to House Bill 1648 (relating to the designation of a water conservation coordinator).

- Reports from Workgroups

- Agriculture – nothing to report
- Commercial & Institutional – Bill Hoffman recently completed a draft best management practices guide for the commercial and institutional sectors.
- Industrial – nothing to report
- Municipal – Karen Guz mentioned the ongoing plan to update municipal conservation best management practices.
- Public Awareness – Denise Hickey noted that the workgroup will meet soon via conference call to discuss social media applications and related topics.
- Wholesale – nothing to report

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

Karen Guz noted that the efforts to update municipal best management practices (BMPs) will kick off officially in early 2018. In the meantime, development of a survey to gauge top priorities continues. A draft survey was distributed, and any comments should be submitted as soon as possible to wcac@twdb.texas.gov.

A call was made for volunteers to serve as content providers and reviewers. TWDB staff will create and share a master list of all municipal BMPs that notes the date of the latest revision. No formal action was taken.

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

Robert Mace noted that the council's bylaws could be strengthened with minor updates to the section describing decisions of the council. In addition, the bylaws state that council members shall elect one member as the presiding officer but do not outline a procedure for said election.

Dr. Mace then proposed forming a subcommittee to explore updating the bylaws further. Sarah Schlessinger made a formal motion which was seconded by Donna Howe. A formal vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with sixteen members and three alternates voting favorably. Robert Mace will chair the subcommittee which also includes Sarah Schlessinger, Cindy Loeffler, and Jennifer Allis, though all are welcome to provide comments on the effort.

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- Update and possible action on a proposal to form a new workgroup focused on water loss audit training

Jennifer Walker described the idea behind forming a workgroup related to implementation of House Bill 1573 (85R). An exploratory meeting was held on August 22 at the Lower Colorado River Authority's Redbud Center where Daniel Rice, TWDB water loss specialist, presented an abridged version of the in-person training currently provided by TWDB.

The council then discussed what specifically a formal workgroup might seek to accomplish. Ken Kramer proposed that in the long-term the workgroup could focus on the broad topic of water loss auditing whereas the initial goal of the group relates to providing assistance in the implementation of House Bill 1573 and developing water loss audit training.

Dr. Kramer made a motion to formalize a new group to be named the Water Loss Workgroup, and Cindy Loeffler seconded the motion. A formal vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with sixteen members and three alternates voting favorably. Council support staff will create a new webpage for the workgroup where meetings, documents, and related information can be posted (www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/workgroup/waterloss.asp).

- Announcement of conferences and events

The abstract submission deadline for [Texas Water 2018](http://www.texaswater2018.com/) is Monday, September 18.

Texas Desal 2017 occurs September 20-21 in Austin. (<http://texasdesal2017.com/>)

The Hill Country Alliance's 2017 Leadership Summit occurs September 21 at Camp Lucy in Dripping Springs. (www.hillcountryalliance.org/LeadershipSummit)

The Wild and Scenic Film Festival occurs September 28 in Kerrville, October 12 in Mason, and a future date in Fredericksburg. More information at www.hillcountryalliance.org/wildandscenic.

The 10th annual WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition occurs October 3-6, 2017, in Las Vegas, NV. (www.watersmartinnovations.com)

The Water, Texas Film Contest runs through October 6, and winning films will be screened on October 23rd at the Marchesa Theatre in Austin. (<http://www.texaswater.org/>)

The Texas Water Conservation Association Fall Conference occurs October 18-20, 2017, in San Antonio. More information at www.twca.org.

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) will host five Mobile Leadership Trainings this fall: October 26 (Conroe), November 1 (Beeville), November 6 (Fort Stockton), November 8 (Amarillo), and November 16 (Temple). More information at texasgroundwater.org.

The Rainwater Revival + Hill Country Living Festival occurs Saturday, November 4, in Dripping Springs. www.hillcountryalliance.org/rainwaterrevival/

The 11th annual North Texas Regional Water Conservation Symposium will be held on Tuesday, November 14th, at the University of Texas at Arlington.

The Central Texas Water Efficiency Network's annual conference will be held on February 1, 2018, in Austin.

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The Gulf Coast Water Efficiency Network's conference occurs March 22, 2018, in Houston.

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is Monday, November 6, 2017, at 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Austin, TX, 78719, in the building 6 conference room.

The first meeting of 2018 will occur on January 17th at 10:30 a.m. at 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Austin, TX, 78719, in the building 6 conference room.

- Presentation on "Estimating the conservation potential of the commercial, institutional, and industrial water-use sectors in Texas water supply planning regions C and K" by Lacey Smith.

Presentation slides posted to www.savetexaswater.org.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.