

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: 14 March 2019

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: LCRA Dalchau Service Center; 3500 Montopolis

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz

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>	---	<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>	Alternate Steve Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	---
<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>	---
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Alternate Paul Kaspar	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	---
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	---
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Sarah Schlessinger	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	---
<i>River Authorities</i>	Valerie Miller	<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 – Eddy Trevino, Denise Hickey, Jennifer Walker, Karen Magid; Interested Parties – Ryan Skrobarczyk, Dan Strub, James Hemple, Al Fuentes, Perry Fowler; TWDB Staff – John Sutton, Cameron Turner, Shae Luther, Travis Brice, Whitney Johnson.

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

1. Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m.

2. Approval of minutes from the January 15, 2019 meeting

Minutes were accepted as written.

3. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

4. Update from Texas Water Development Board

- Water Loss Audits, Annual Reports, and Water Conservation Plans are currently being submitted, deadline is May 1st.
- 6 Municipal BMPs are being routed through TWDB for approval, links are available on the TWDB BMPs website for the draft versions of the documents.

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5. Reports from Workgroups

a. Agriculture

No Update Provided

b. Commercial & Institutional

The workgroup will plan to begin mapping coursework and research interests around areas of water conservation and efficiency.

Ken Kramer made a comment that it will be important to gather supporters including people from the legislature, academia, and the water conservation industry.

c. Industrial

At the last meeting, Workgroup Chair Craig Elam suggested the Industrial workgroup be suspended for 2019, as there are no pending issues for the workgroup. As of this meeting, there are still no issues pertinent for workgroup discussion.

d. Municipal

The Gold Star Recognition program aims to recognize Municipal and Wholesale entities who submit outstanding water conservation plans to TWDB or TCEQ. One of the accolades received by awardees would be a logo that can be used in print and/or online.

Jennifer W. made a comment that 'Texas' Water Conservation Advisory as well as the year corresponding to the award cycle (i.e. 2019) should be included in the logo.

Two additional Municipal BMPs are still pending approval for the Council.

The Enforcement of Texas Irrigation Licensing Standards BMP:

The TCEQ's legal department may have some revisions in language regarding the referencing of statute, etc. but the spirit of the BMP does have TCEQ support.

It was suggested that including 'Licensing' in the title may be too specific and does not appropriate encapsulate the information within the BMP. It was suggested to remove 'Licensing' from the BMP title. The BMP will now be titled 'Enforcement of Irrigation Standards BMPs'.

A vote was taken to accept the BMP in substantial form, there were none opposed.

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System Water Audit and Water Loss BMP:

Updates to this BMP include language regarding data validity and increasing communication to construction contractors about calling to locate water lines, as well as reporting any damages that occur.

A vote was held to submit this BMP to TWDB for review, there was no one opposed.

e. Public Awareness

Water Day at the Capitol: 7 Blue Legacy Awards given out.

- Recipients can be found at:

<http://www.savetexaswater.org/awards/index.asp> under Municipal, Agricultural, and Manufacturing Awards for 2019.

f. Water Loss

Discussing conducting an early April meeting/call to go over several items.

g. Wholesale & Regional Water Authorities

Dustan provided an update for the Wholesale workgroup:

- Workgroup will focus on increasing participation.
- 1 Wholesale BMP will be developed, focusing on outreach and education.
 - The workgroup will look to the Municipal BMPs for guidance in an effort to compliment the existing BMP.
- The workgroup will begin preparing for the next legislative update.
- The workgroup is happy to help with the Gold Star Recognition program in whatever way would be appropriate.

Valerie Miller emphasized that at the moment, the workgroup participation consists of Dustan and herself, and they are looking to increase participation. If Council members are aware of any wholesale providers that would be interested, please encourage them to reach out and participate.

6. Discussion and Potential Action on Bylaws Update

At the last meeting, it was discussed amending the bylaws to exclude abstentions from the two-thirds vote. Language was drafted to address this as well as include flexibility when voting on the Legislative Report, which would allow the Council to vote on the report as a whole, or voting on each recommendation individually and a vote to accept the report.

The Council agrees with the drafted revisions with the suggested edit 'at least two-thirds' replace the 'more than' two-thirds vote.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with the discussed edits.

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7. Discussion and Potential Action on Municipal BMPs

- See Municipal Workgroup Update

8. Election of Vice Presiding Officer

Valerie Miller was nominated by Ken Kramer prior to the meeting.

No additional nominations were received on the floor.

A vote was held by secret ballot.

Valerie Miller was confirmed as Vice Presiding Officer.

9. Legislative Update – Ken Kramer

In this session, it seems bills requiring funding are only receiving notice if they are included in the Base Budget recommendations from the Legislative Budget Board or in Exceptional Items received by various state agencies.

If the WCAC in the future would like their recommendations for funding considered, the Council will need to move up its recommendation timeline to align with agency legislative appropriations requests, which are submitted in the spring prior to the legislative session.

H.B. 807	Deals with state/regional water planning, would require regions to set GPCD targets for each municipal water-user group per decade for each region.
S.B. 900	Adds drought management and response responsibilities to the WCAC.
S.B. 2067	State Water Plan must include an assessment of best available science related to trends and factors affecting future water use, including technologies for water conservation, purification, and reuse.
H.B. 2031	Statewide Water Conservation Awareness Plan: TWDB would be able to use outside funds (grants, federal funds, private funds, etc.) to implement the plan.
H.B. 2880	Would require the Meadow’s Center for Water and the Environment to study whether state and local building codes, or other requirements in the state, hinder the use of water conservation technologies including xeriscaping, gray-water use, reclaimed water use, and rainwater harvesting.
H.B. 2957/ S.B. 1379	Would require certain applicants for state funding from TWDB to implement mandatory time of day outdoor watering restrictions.
H.B. 2339/ S.B. 2331	Consolidate various requirements for water conservation plans in the Water Code.
H.B. 3560	Specific to Harris County – implement a pilot program for wastewater reuse at county facilities.
S.B. 1281	Would allow counties/cities to establish its own “PACE” program. Would allow costs to be levied from property taxes. Would establish “PACE” as a state program, administered through the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO).

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S.B. 1294/ S.B. 1295	Sales tax exemption bills; 1294 – specific items used solely for Rainwater Harvesting would be exempt. 1295 – would add ‘water filling stations’ into the code for water-efficient products.
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Additional information can be found here: <https://capitol.texas.gov/>

10. Announcement of Conferences and Events

Texas Water: April 2-5, 2019; Houston, TX

More information: <https://www.txwater.org/>

TAWWA Basic Water Re-Use Course (4.5 CEUs from TCEQ) & UV-AOP Course (4 CEUs).

More information: <https://www.tawwa.org/page/advancedtreatmentcourses>

One Water Summit: September 18 -20th; Austin, TX

Registration opens on March 18th

More information: <http://uswateralliance.org/summit/one-water-summit>

AWWA Sustainability Conference: March 31st – April 3rd

<https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Events-Calendar/ctl/ViewEvent/mid/6794/OccuranceId/84>

Water Loss Conference: December 3rd – 5th

More information: <https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Water-Loss>

Texas Raincatcher Awards: March 28th

TWDB Headquarters

11. Future Meeting Dates and Locations

- Thursday, May 16th

TPWD Airport Commerce Complex

1340 Airport Commerce Dr., Austin, TX 78719

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 a.m.