

## Summary of Minutes

### Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Thursday April 1, 2010  
 Time: 10:02 am – 1:14 pm  
 Location: 1501 North Congress Ave  
 Austin, Texas 78711  
 Conference Rooms of Robert E. Johnson Bldg

Meeting chaired by: Robert Mace, Council Member  
 Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

Council Members in attendance are listed below:

<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman	<i>Refining &amp; Chemical Manufacturing</i>	
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker	<i>Landscape Irrigation &amp; Horticulture</i>	Kelly Hall
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>		<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Richard Egg
<i>Electric Generation</i>		<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Alternate ~ Kelley Stripling	<i>TCEQ</i>	Scott Swanson
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	Gene Montgomery	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Steven Bednarz
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Janet Adams	<i>Higher Education</i>	
<i>Water Control &amp; Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate ~ Linda Christie	<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert
<i>River Authorities</i>	Jim Parks	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Wilson Scaling
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz		

At 10:02 am the meeting was called to order by Council Member Robert Mace. The first item on the agenda was the approval of the previous council meeting minutes. The previous minutes were approved. The floor was opened for public comment for which there was none.

The next item on the agenda was a status report from the workgroup chairs:

#### WG 1 Public Awareness and Recognition

WG 1 gave an update on workgroup activities. There was a report on the results of the survey efforts. Approximately 25 users responded and their responses were captured and presented in a series of charts and diagrams. There was some concern as to whether the results are inconclusive since the response rate was so small. There was also some concern about the anonymity of the responses and how that could be connected back to specific regions and utilities. Comments suggested that a survey effort of this type can be very difficult and inconclusive because of the poor response rate. Most users are very hesitant to respond to something voluntarily or even respond to something that looks very similar to previous forms they have already responded to. It was suggested that maybe some core questions could be included on report forms that TWDB or TCEQ are already requiring. In other discussions it was stated that Carole Baker is working with Wayne Halbert on a Recognition Award to present at the Irrigation Expo in Fall 2010. The discussion also mentioned that the Council has a seat on the blue ribbon panel for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's excellence awards.

## WG 2 Metrics and Trends

WG 2 gave an update on workgroup activities. It was reported that Workgroup 2 members reviewed the New Mexico Office of State Engineer (NMOSE) GPCD Calculator to gauge the usefulness of such a tool in Texas. The initial feedback indicates that there is positive response from Texas utilities and providers about the potential use of such a tool in Texas. In addition to that, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Board Member Lewis McMahan stated that he is aware that there is a gap in information for utilities and providers and that such a GPCD Tool such as that from New Mexico could prove to be very useful for utilities. He stated that he would work with the Council and TWDB Board Members to support progress in this effort. Detailed minutes on the recent workgroup meeting were provided along with additional handouts. Some key points from this GPCD discussion include:

- Self calculation & reporting of Total GPCD.
- Calculator is relatively simple to use.
- Calculator would need to be tweaked for the unique situation of Texas utilities and providers.
- Calculator calculates sector based GPCD.
- Presentation of report analysis could be improved.
- Tool provides utilities and providers with more detailed information to manage their conservation efforts.
- Concern about which population figures to use; standardized estimates would be necessary.
- The potential to incorporate a GPCD tool into the TWDB's Water Conservation Annual Report form and Utility Profile form.

## WG3 Regional Strategy Implementation

WG 3 gave an update on workgroup activities relating to possible meeting discussions with Regional Planning Group Chairs. A draft letter was shared with the council for their review and approval. There was some discussion about asking the Regional Planning Group Chairs to meet all at once. In the past there were group meetings of the chairs but this been discontinued in recent years.

A presentation was given by TCEQ Member Scott Swanson on water conservation plan implementation reports received by TCEQ. He showed examples that the information in the reports range from insignificant to valuable detailed data.

## WG 4 Resource Library and Best Management Practices (BMPs)

WG 4 gave an update about the BMP solicitation process and letter. There was some discussion as to who the letter will be sent to. It was suggested that the notice letter be included in the TWDB *Texas Water* news letter as well as be sent electronically to the Council's list of interested parties. It was also suggested that the Council members distribute the notice to other associations and organizations.

The next item on the agenda was a briefing on the House Natural Resources Committee meeting on March 9, 2010. At that meeting, Council Members presentations included: C.E. Williams gave an update on the Council's progress; Robert Mace reported on the water conservation plan activities of the TWDB; Ken Kramer reported on Sierra Club and their recent reports; Karen Guz gave a report on water conservation efforts and water conservation planning; Carole Baker gave a report on the Alliance for Water Efficiency efforts and progress; and North Texas Municipal Water District representatives reported on their water conservation efforts.

The next item on the agenda was a briefing on TWDB's Fiscal Year 2010 Research and Planning Grants. Robert Mace stated that the Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) were recently posted and details about those RFQs can be found at the TWDB's agency website. Handouts describing the two water conservation related projects were handed out to the Council.

The next item on the agenda was a briefing on TWDB's Legislative Appropriations Requests and Exceptional Items. Robert Mace reported that items will be presented in May and finalized by the TWDB Board and staff in July.

The next item on the agenda was discussion on the schedule, format and content for the Council's December 2010 report to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature. Workgroups will develop their first draft by May 14<sup>th</sup> and provide that draft to TWDB Support Staff. A well developed draft will be provided at the May 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

The next meeting date was set for May 26, 2010 at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department-Austin Field Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm.