

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Thursday May 9, 2013
 Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon.
 Location: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
 Conference Room – Building 6
 1340 Airport Commerce – Austin, TX

Meeting chaired by: C.E. Williams, Presiding Officer
 Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman	<i>Refining & Chemical Manufacturing</i>	---
<i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i>	Brad Smith	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker	<i>Higher Education</i>	Kevin Wagner
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dean Minchillo
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	---	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Stacey Steinbach
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Richard Egg
<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer	<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Richard Eyster
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	Gene Montgomery	<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Hughes Abell	<i>TCEQ</i>	Chris Loft
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Lara Zent	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Steve Bednarz
<i>River Authorities</i>	Alternate Denise Hickey	<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz		

At 9:30 am the meeting was called to order by presiding officer C.E. Williams. The first item on the agenda was the approval of previous Council minutes. The minutes were approved without discussion. The floor was then opened for public comment for which there was none.

The next items on the agenda dealt with the Blue Legacy awards:

- The 2013 *Municipal* Blue Legacy Awards were presented at Texas Water 2013 in Galveston.
- Discussion of the 2013 *Agricultural* Blue Legacy Awards included location of award presentation (reduce travel burden on winners) and timing (advertising at Farm Shows in the summer/fall coincides with presentation of award). The Agricultural Workgroup will discuss these issues further.
- Creation of a Blue Legacy Award for *Manufacturing and Industry* was also discussed and approved (see also the Industrial category of the San Antonio Water Saver Award).
- Donations toward purchase of the actual awards are being handled by the Texas Water Foundation on behalf of the Council.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on possible action on Best Management Practices.

- Agricultural Best Management Practices: 5 updated Best Management Practices are ready for public comment period including Furrow Diking, Land Leveling, Contour Farming, Conversion to Dryland, and Brush Control Practices.
- Industrial Best Management Practices: A discussion of how to group the current list of Industrial best management practices included possibly dividing the list into Technical best management

practices (by specific water use sector) and Procedural best management practices (for Cross-Sectors). Volunteers are needed for further work on these items.

- Municipal Best Management Practices: The Council voted to approve the currently posted Municipal best management practices which will now be sent to the Texas Water Development Board and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for further review, approval and adoption. A conference call will be scheduled to refine a draft version of the golf course related best management practice.
- Landscape Best Management Practices: A discussion took place regarding determination of the target audience for the Landscape best management practices. The main focus centered on whether to create a technical issues guide for municipal landscape irrigation or a resource guide that directs users to existing documents. The need for specific information for Texas was emphasized. A review of existing resources will be completed and the issue will be revisited within the Landscape Workgroup.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on the revised introduction to the Municipal Best Management Practices guide. The frequency with which the term “voluntary” occurs was questioned. Alternate word choices included “recommended”, “suggested”, and “recognized”. TWDB staff will write an amended introductory paragraph that will be distributed via email and posted for comments on the Council website as soon as possible.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on the revised Commercial and Institutional Best Management Practices Guide. Further work to be completed on the “Large Landscape” component of the guide. The Council voted to approve the existing document.

The next item on the agenda was an update from the workgroups on their activities. All of the workgroups are discussing updates and revisions to specific best management practices.

The next item on the agenda was a report on the Council’s display at Water Day at the Texas State Capitol on March 28th which was well attended. Videos from the event are on the Texas Water Foundation’s website.

TWDB staff member Kevin Kluge presented on the water use surveys for 2012 and the revisions implemented to meet Senate Bill 181 requirements. The power point presentation can be found on the Council’s website.

TWDB staff member John Sutton presented on the status of Water Conservation Plan Annual Reports (60% response rate) and Water Loss Audit Annual Reports (57% response rate) which were due May 1st. Questions related to difficulty in determining water savings were discussed.

The next item on the agenda was a review and discussion of the current status of water conservation bills in the 83rd Texas Legislature. The review included House Bill 4, House Bill 178, House Bill 1461, House Bill 857, House Bill 2781, House Bill 3605, Senate Bill 1169, Senate Bill 198, Senate Bill 199, Senate Bill 654, Senate Bill 700, and Senate Bill 385.

TWDB staff member Comer Tuck gave an overview of the process for approval of Water Conservation Advisory Council Members and reminded those in attendance that nominations to fill the eight terms expiring at the end of August 2013 are due May 31st.

A discussion on possible future activities of the Council included identifying research gaps and highlighting the need for non-irrigation research in water conservation and the possibility of creating a

lower level, broader recognition (or certification or designation) by the Council for achievement in water savings.

A calendar link to upcoming events is available on the Council's homepage www.savetexaswater.org

The next scheduled meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is Wednesday June 26, 2013 at 9:30am. The meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Austin Field Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.