

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

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: 6 August, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Remote (GoToMeeting)

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer
Meeting Facilitators: Josh Sendejar, Council Staff Support

<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>	---
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	Tim Loftus
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	John Foster	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Charles Ring
<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>	Greg Carter
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	---	<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>	Leah Martinsson	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Dustan Compton
<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 – Kimberly Horndeski, John Bender, Jessica Woods, Jennifer Walker, Karen Magid, Eddy Trevino; Interested Parties – C.E. Williams, Jason Pierce, Karen Menard, Natalie Houston, Jennifer Nations, Paula Paciorek, Raquel Mullen, Isabel Martinez, Chuck West, Christopher Charles, Neil Weems, Tommy McClung, Scott Swanson, Perry Fowler, Allen Berthold, Molly Ballesteros, Adam Conner; TWDB Staff – John Sutton, Cameron Turner, Shae Luther, Travis Brice, Laurie Gehlsen, Kyla Peterson, Bryan McMath, Heather Rose, Yun Cho.

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

1. Introduction
The meeting began at 10:04 a.m.
2. Approval of minutes from the June 25, 2020 meeting
Bill Hoffman motioned to accept the minutes as written.
Aubrey Spear seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, none opposed.
The minutes were approved.

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3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Discussion and potential action on the 2020 WCAC Legislative Report Draft

Executive Summary:

Karen Guz began by discussing the Executive Summary portion of the report. The question was posed should the Council acknowledge the pandemic within the context of the Council's recommendations. CJ Tredway and Ken Kramer expressed support for recognizing the impact on the legislature's ability to address the recommendations.

K. Guz also noted the summary should be used to highlight where notable progress has been made. Some thoughts to highlight include new or existing technology, conservation gains, per capita goals and water loss metrics.

Kevin Kluge noted it might also be noteworthy to include innovative ideas within the summary as well as iterate that conservation is the most effective way to meet future water demands, relating to the recommendations.

K. Guz finished discussion by noting the Council can circle back to this portion after reviewing changes in the remainder of the draft. Her hope was to have ideas for the summary discussed and decided so a draft can be made at a later date.

Discussion then focused on those portions of the report which have had updates during the revision/update period, which is summarized below.

Summary of Recommendations:

Josh noted that TWDB's Board was previously updated on the Council's recommendations. Josh summarized the recommendations and reached out to the authors of the recommendations for their feedback. Josh used those summaries within this draft of the report.

Bill Hoffman noted that there seemed to be a disconnect between the language of Recommendation 4 and the language in the summary and this issue will need to be reconciled.

It was suggested the page number the recommendations begin on should be put into the Summary of Legislative Recommendations for anyone interested in reading further.

Several members noted there was a typo within the summary of Recommendation 4.

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Introduction:

The Introduction within the current draft is taken from the 2018 WCAC Report. Members discussed the graphic included in the introduction; it was decided to remove the graphic as it was meant to make a connection to the 2017 State Water Plan. The second paragraph of the introduction was decided to be removed as well. It was brought up that the graphic should be re-inserted upon update of the State Water Plan.

Charge 1:

Josh asked John Bender about including an appendix in pertaining to the original draft of the Agricultural Water Conservation section. John Bender noted that he believed the summarized section retained all information in the original draft and an appendix is not needed.

Bill Hoffman noted he is working on a report which can be used for citation within the Manufacturing and Electric Power Generation portion of the report. Ken Kramer suggested the report be put on the WCAC website and provide a link within the legislative report, rather than include the entirety of the report as an appendix as discussed prior. A revision to an existing sentence within the section was proposed to include a link to the proposed report.

TWDB staff updated numbers for tables in the Municipal and Wholesale Water Conservation Sections. Karen Guz noted that numbers within the Municipal section seem to note a down-ward trend. There is a disparity in population data in the Table 1, TWDB will look into the disparity.

Charge 7:

Charge 7 aimed to highlight discussions the Council plans to further going forward.

Regarding the Total GPCD portion, discussion centered on how different utilities may have GPCD based on their customer profile, comparing GPCD may not a suitable metric across the board.

While many utilities can surpass the 140 GPCD conservation goal recommended by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force in 2004, 140 GPCD could still be a substantial goal for some utilities.

Regarding the Water Loss Metrics portion, two main points were discussed. The first being percent Water Loss is not a good metric. The other being other metrics are confusing. It was discussed that the purpose of this portion was highlight that while there is not a definitive answer, the Council is committed to continuing the conversation.

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Recommendations:

Josh noted that some formatting changes had been made to align some recommendations into their final format.

Discussion turned to Recommendation 4 (Advancing use of data to understand trends in water use). A sentence in the first paragraph, was discussed (“Understanding when water is used is not currently part of the water planning analysis”), there was some confusion about the meaning of this sentence. After discussion, a revision was decided upon (“Understanding seasonal water use is not currently used in the TWDB water analysis”).

Discussion then turned to seasonality within the recommendation. As industrial was removed from most of the recommendation, Ken Kramer noted that over the 50-year planning horizon, changes in electric generation and manufacturing will occur which will be affected by seasonal change.

Aubrey Spear also noted that while Regional Water Planning Groups may look at annual water use, cities will rely on seasonality trends to meet peak day demands.

K. Guz noted that the purpose of the recommendation was to better understand water use. If the recommendation moves forward within the legislature, the focus becomes what is most practical for TWDB.

Executive Summary:

Discussion turned back to the Executive Summary.

K. Guz proposed a draft section update after voting on the report. A draft would then be sent out to Council for feedback prior to the finalization of the report. None were opposed.

K. Kramer motioned to approve the 2020 WCAC Legislative Report pending non-substantive clarifications & revisions. Greg Carter seconded the motion.

Vote:

Two Members were absent from the meeting: Sarah Schlessinger and Maria Martinez

Two Members chose to abstain from this vote: Kevin Kluge (TWDB) and Jennifer Allis (TCEQ).

No Members Opposed.

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The motion passes with 19 votes for approval.

A deadline for updates and revisions was decided for September 1st.

Members and Alternates can expect to see a 'semi-final' version of the report around that date for final review prior to finalization.

5. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

6. Announcement of Conferences and Events

September 1 – 3: [Texas Groundwater Summit](#)

September 3: Texas Water Development Board plans to name the 2019 Rain Catcher Awards

October (Date TBD): North Texas Outdoor Watering Summit

7. Future Meeting Dates and Locations

Discussion was had on using an online survey service to determine the next meeting date. The Council will aim for October to discuss work group work plans for 2021.

A survey will be sent to the Council to schedule the next WCAC Meeting. A preference will be given to Thursdays based on availability voiced by WCAC Members and Alternates.

8. Adjourn

Cindy Loeffler motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Ken Kramer seconded the motion.

There were none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.