

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

## Summary of Minutes

### Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: 22 September 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>	Alternate Karen Magid
<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>	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>	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>	Alternate Jennifer Walker	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert		

Also present: Alternates – John Bender, Kimberley Horndeski, Whitney Milberger, Eddy Trevino, Jessica Woods; Interested Parties – Chelsea Atkinson, Molly Ballesteros, Andrew Chastain-Howley, Christopher Charles, Mary Ann Dickinson, Trent Jennings, Isabel Martinez, Peter Mayer, Karen Menard, Jennifer Nations, Paula Paciorek, Ryan Skrobarczyk, Dan Strub, Kirk Welch, Emily Young; TWDB Staff – John Sutton, Cameron Tuner, Yun Cho, Shae Luther, Travis Brice, Daniel Rice, Kyla Peterson, Heather Rose.

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

1. Introduction  
The meeting began at 10:10 a.m.
2. Public Comment  
There was no public comment.
3. Discussion and potential action on proposed changes to water efficiency standards  
The meeting began with Mary Ann Dickinson of the Alliance for Water Efficiency and Peter Mayer with Water Demand Management gave an overview of the proposed changes.

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Several key points were made:

- Current standards were enacted by the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 1992. In 2006, the Water Sense program was created and has become the unofficial standard for many products.
- Current proposed changes would change several key definitions and how the standards are enforced. These changes would also create a new product class without any efficiency standards.
- Several states have their own efficiency standards (Texas included), however it's unclear if those standards will remain intact should these rule changes pass.
- These products consume both water and energy, changes to efficiency standards could be costly in multiple ways.
- Efficiency standards for clothes washers have provided the greatest water savings among all water-related fixtures (toilets, sinks, etc.)
- Having consistent water efficiency standards provides a level playing-field for manufacturers. Creating a product class without water efficiency standards not only creates a problem from a water conservation standpoint, but also from a manufacturing standpoint as products without efficiency standards and oversight could provide substantial competition.
- Should these standards pass, litigation is expected. However, the outcome is unclear.
- More information can be found at:  
<https://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/news/proposed-doe-showerhead-and-clothes-washer-regulations-would-severely-reduce-water-efficiency>

K. Guz then asked for comments from council membership regarding action related to this development.

Bill Hoffman stated his view is the WCAC should sign AWE's letter to the DOE.

C.J. Tredway stated she was uncomfortable with the WCAC signing or sending a letter commenting on the proposed changes as a group.

Craig Elam, Aubrey Spear, and Greg Carter share C.J. Tredway's sentiment.

Kevin Kluge noted that TWDB is currently considering making comments. A document was created for internal discussion and shared with the WCAC regarding the potential impacts the proposed changes could have on state water supply planning.

Jennifer Walker stated she is glad that TWDB is looking into this. While she would like the WCAC to consider signing on to AWE's letter, it may not be necessary as member's individual organizations may be taking their own action.

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K. Guz made a motion for the Council to make a formal recommendation that TWDB continue analysis on impacts the proposed rule changes would have on state water planning.

B. Hoffman seconded the motion and noted it should be mentioned the potential impacts these changes could have regarding the state's water resources.

A vote resulted in 16 affirmative votes, with 6 members abstaining from voting (Jennifer Allis – TCEQ, David Villarreal – TDA, John Foster – TSSWCB, Kevin Kluge – TWDB, Maria Martinez – Federal Agencies, and Valerie Miller – River Authorities) and 1 member absent. The motion passed.

4. Other Business

Acceptance of meeting minutes and Other Business postponed for October 29<sup>th</sup> WCAC Meeting.

5. Announcement of Conferences and Events

October 6-8: [North Texas Outdoor Watering Summit](#); Remote

October 28 – 29: [Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium](#); Remote

6. Future Meeting Dates and Locations

10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.