

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Time: 11:00 am

Location: 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Austin, TX 78719

Texas Parks and Wildlife–Airport Commerce Park, Building 6 conference room

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Alternate 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>	Carole Baker
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	-----
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	-----	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Alternate Jessica Kohlrenken	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	-----
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Alternate Brian Wenberg	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway
<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>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Matt Phillips	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Celia Eaves
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	-----		

Also attended: (Alternates) Mark Froehlich, Ruthanne Haut, Denise Hickey, and Eddie Trevino; and (Interested Parties) Heather Dalrymple, Beth Hood, Brad Barnds, Tim Loftus, Dan Merchant, John Bender, Scott Swanson, Sam Hermitte, Ruthie Redmond, Cameron Turner, and Lyda Creus Molanphy.

- Approval of Minutes from October 25, 2016, meeting

The Council took up minutes from the previous meeting. Minutes were approved.

- Public Comment

There was no public comment.

- Update from Texas Water Development Board

John Sutton provided an update on the water loss, use, and conservation (LUC) database. For more information, see the posted presentation slides from the 2017 Water for Texas conference at <http://waterfortexas.twdb.texas.gov/doc/presentations/p02.pdf>.

- Reports from Workgroups

- Agriculture - nothing to report
- Commercial & Institutional - A draft of the BMP guide is complete, and the workgroup plans to finalize it soon.
- Industrial - nothing to report
- Municipal - The workgroup plans to meet soon to discuss a proposal to outsource some of the work required to complete necessary updates to the municipal best management practices.
- Public Awareness - see next agenda item
- Wholesale - nothing to report

- Discussion and possible action on Blue Legacy Award nominations

Denise Hickey gave an overview of the nominations received and scoring to date for the 2017 blue legacy awards which will be presented on March 22 as part of Texas Water Day at the Capitol in Austin. The council discussed an entry that scored well but did not quite fit into any existing award categories. A motion was made to create a special category; the motion passed without opposition. The Public Awareness workgroup will meet soon via conference call to confirm details for that special category, to discuss the final details for the awards presentation, and to discuss clarifying whether a previous recipient can or cannot reapply for a different program or project.

- Discussion and possible action on updates to savetexaswater.org

If any research papers are submitted for posting on the resources page, the paper will be forwarded to the appropriate workgroup for review and consideration. No action taken.

- Discussion and possible action on council work plan for the biennium

Discussion began with an overview of the council's report to the Texas Legislature which included recommendations to advance water conservation in the state. Ken Kramer reported that in his experience the report and recommendations were well received and that it was understood the recommendations tied to funding would probably not be dealt with this legislative session. House Bill 1573 by Representative Price relating to personnel requirements for water loss auditors was filed on February 6. Not related to a particular recommendation but of interest to the council nonetheless is Senate Bill 538 by Senator Hinojosa (relating to state and local planning for and responses to drought) which would expand the membership of the council and would authorize the council to work on drought response in addition to water conservation.

Discussion then shifted to the distinction between discussing the council's recommendations and lobbying on behalf of the council. The consensus from council members was to state clearly that discussions were occurring on behalf of an organization and not on behalf of the council. Providing invited testimony about the council's report or responding to specific requests for information would not be considered lobbying. No formal action was taken.

Carole Baker provided an overview of the Texas Water Foundation's upcoming "Texas Water Day at the Capitol" event which will include a speaker symposium, a reception, and exhibits. Contact Carole if your organization is interested in hosting an exhibit booth. Karen Guz mentioned that the Mitchell Foundation offered to pay for the design and construction of an educational display about the council. No formal action was taken.

The next topic focused on a plan to prioritize and update municipal best management practices. Karen Guz described a potential collaboration between the council and the Mitchell Foundation to fund the work required to update specific best management practices that the council designates as top priorities and that required extensive effort. The best management practices development process that is documented on the council's website would not be changed as a result of this effort. The municipal workgroup will meet via conference call to discuss this idea further. No formal action was taken.

Next, Bill Hoffman gave an overview of recently updated codes and building standards related to water use efficiency. ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) is working on energy efficiency codes and is developing "191P: Standard for the Conservation of Water Use in Building, Site, and Mechanical Systems". ANSI (American National Standards Institute) and IAPMO (International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials) are working to revise their green codes as well. Mr. Hoffman noted that each of these in some way reference the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program which has never been fully funded. Mr. Hoffman then reminded the group that water conservation rebates over \$600 are considered taxable income. He also mentioned that the U.S. Department of Energy's "Better Buildings Challenge" inspired an effort to create water conservation training and/or certification similar to Energy Star training available within the commercial and institutional sector. Karen Guz also mentioned the 2030 initiatives (such as SA2030) and noted the difficulty in benchmarking water use metrics. Mr. Hoffman will keep the council updated on all of these efforts. No formal action was taken.

Carole Baker noted concern about funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program, which includes plumbing standards that Texas adopted years ago, from plumbers, builders, and those who manufacture WaterSense products. Karen Guz suggested documenting the importance of the WaterSense program to water conservation efforts in Texas including municipal plumbing codes and passive water conservation savings. Carole Baker also mentioned that the Texas Water Foundation is involved in educational efforts related to the fact that water conservation rebates are considered taxable income. No formal action was taken.

Aubrey Spear stated that regional water planning groups are beginning a new planning cycle and might benefit from information on recent tools, best management practices, or other information related to water conservation. Karen Guz noted that part of the council's work plan will include updating best management practices and referenced the current research project by Averitt and Associates that is investigating how best to measure water conservation efforts statewide. Karen

Guz also mentioned research related to tracking how much water is saved as a result of these efforts.

- Presentation on “Sourcewater: The Water Exchange for the Energy Ecosystem” by Joshua Adler

Presentation slides posted to www.savetexaswater.org.

- Announcement of conferences and events

February 10th is the deadline to submit session proposals and/or session topics to the planning committee for the 2017 Texas Groundwater Summit (August 29-31, 2017).

February 22 is the Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium in Houston.

March 22 is Texas Water Day at the Capitol in Austin, hosted by the Texas Water Foundation.

Texas Water 2017 is April 10-13 in Austin.

The High-Performance Buildings & Workplaces conference is May 17 & 18 in Arlington.

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 10:30 AM at 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, 78719, in the building 6 conference room.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.