

## Summary of Minutes

### Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday January 18, 2012

Time: 10:07 a.m. – 12noon.

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>River Authorities</i>	Jim Parks
<i>Landscape Irrigation &amp; Horticulture</i>	Brad Smith	<i>Higher Education</i>	Justin Weinheimer
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker	<i>Refining &amp; Chemical Manufacturing</i>	-----
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	-----	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Stacey Steinbach
<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Richard Egg
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	-----	<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	Gene Montgomery	<i>TCEQ</i>	Scott Swanson
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Hughes Abell	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Steve Bednarz
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Janet Adams	<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert
<i>Water Control &amp; Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dean Minchillo		

At 10:07 am the meeting was called to order by the 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 opened for public comment in which the following two items were brought to attention:

- The Research Team of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is soliciting input on ideas for research topics relating to the conservation and development of the state's water resources. As directed by §15.404 of the Texas Water Code, the research must be related to the conservation and development of water resources. Generally, the research topics should address practical problems and not be duplicative of previously completed or ongoing research. TWDB would appreciate receiving your suggestions regarding potential research topics, along with a brief explanation of why it is needed, what questions will be answered, who will benefit, and the estimated cost of the research.  
[http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/home/doc/stakeholder/FY2012\\_Research\\_Topics.pdf](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/home/doc/stakeholder/FY2012_Research_Topics.pdf)
  
- TWDB Planning staff has asked WCAC members to please read the following and if interested in the subject to please review and comment on the draft report for this TWDB funded research project. As part of our research and planning program, TWDB has contracted with BBC Research and Consulting to identify and evaluate potential "tools" to evaluate water savings achieved by municipal water conservation efforts. Key findings and recommendations are summarized in the executive summary. The draft final report, including its contracted tasks in Section 1 of the report, is available on the TWDB website for RWPG and public comment at the link below:  
<https://www.twdb.state.tx.us/wrpi/rwp/docu.asp>

The next item on the agenda was an update on workgroup activities.

- Agricultural Workgroup –The group continues to think about Best Management Practices (bmps) that they would like to revise or add. They have developed a brief outline for a priority and review process for developing bmps. One factor that this workgroup would like to focus on is ensuring that these conservation bmps are as consistent as possible with the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) technical guides.
- Commercial and Institutional Workgroup – The group would like to postpone its efforts until they receive a draft of some new guidance on bmps that are currently being developed on a national basis. National drafts are expected later this year.
- Industrial Workgroup - The workgroup choose not to launch an effort for revising or developing new bmps. Instead they want to establish better communications with stakeholder interest groups in order to gather information for industrial case studies. The workgroup identified council members who would take the lead in reaching out to the industry stakeholders.
- Municipal Workgroup – The workgroup chair and members are in the process of finalizing task assignments and recruiting subject matter experts to contribute towards the development of new bmps. The workgroup has developed a timeline of scheduled activities.
- Wholesale Suppliers Workgroup – The workgroup is in the process of developing new draft bmps. The workgroup would like to possibly schedule an in person meeting sometime in February.
- Public Awareness Workgroup – The workgroup recently completed the 2011 Agricultural Blue Legacy Awards. They are currently promoting the 2012 Municipal Blue Legacy Awards.

The next item on the agenda was a brief update about the recent 2011 Agricultural Blue Legacy Awards. These awards were presented in December 2011 at the Texas Irrigation Expo. Write-ups on the winners can be found here: <http://www.savetexaswater.org/awards/AG/2011/AgIndex.htm>

Currently the Council is promoting the 2012 Municipal Blue Legacy Awards. The deadline for this award is February 29, 2012. More information can be found here: <http://www.savetexaswater.org/awards/MUN/2012/MunIndex.htm>

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on water conservation activities during periods of drought. A copy of the presentation can be found here: <http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/agendas/doc/Drought%20Activites.pdf>

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on implementing Senate Bill 181 (S.B. 181). It was suggested that the committee focus their future discussions on developing guidance. A meeting will be set up in the near future. More details and specific information on the activities of the SB 181 committee can be found here: <http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/workgroup/SB181index.htm>

There was some discussion on other activities and upcoming events. A calendar link to upcoming events will be posted on the Council's homepage in the near future. The Council also wants to start outlining future timelines and activities for producing their next legislative report.

The Council scheduled the following dates for upcoming meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council:

- Tuesday February 21, 2012 at 10am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office.
- Thursday March 22, 2012 at 9am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office.
- Wednesday May 16, 2012 at 9am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 12noon.

After the lunch break and the meeting was concluded, council member Gene Montgomery presented some information on the work he has done to revise the New Mexico GPCD Calculator. He would like to receive comments on the tool. The tool can be found here:

<http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/workgroup/SB181index.htm>