

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Friday March 23, 2012

Time: 9:00 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 & Horticulture</i>	-----	<i>Higher Education</i>	-----
<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 & Chemical Manufacturing</i>	-----
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	-----
<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Richard Egg
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	-----	<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Richard Eyster
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Hughes Abell	<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Lara Zent	<i>TCEQ</i>	Scott Swanson
<i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	Linda Christie	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Steve Bednarz
		<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert

At 9:00 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 item was brought to attention:

- An announcement was made about an upcoming conference, USCID Water Management Conference taking place in Austin, TX April 3-6, 2012.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the 2012 Municipal Blue Legacy Award. The following winners will receive their awards at the Texas Water Conference in San Antonio April 11, 2012.

- San Antonio Water System (SAWS) for their conservation rate structure program.
- City of McKinney Office of Environmental Stewardship for their public awareness program.
- New Braunfels Water Utilities for their water leak detection program.
- Travis County Water Control Improvement District (WCID 17) for their water reuse program.

Next, an update was given on a recent report published by the Texas Water Development Board. The report is titled, *An Assessment of Water Conservation* (http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/TWDB_TSSWCB_82nd.pdf). Every five years, the Texas Water Development Board and the State Soil and Water Conservation Board are to jointly conduct a study of the ways to improve or expand water conservation efforts and report to the legislature. The report is a supplement to the State Water Plan and includes:

- an assessment of both agricultural and municipal water conservation issues;
- information on existing conservation efforts by the TWDB and the State Soil and Water Conservation Board;
- information on existing conservation efforts by municipalities receiving funding from the board,;
- a discussion of future conservation needs;
- an analysis of programmatic approaches and funding for additional conservation efforts;
- an assessment of existing statutory authority and whether changes are needed to more effectively promote and fund conservation projects; and
- an assessment of the board's agricultural water conservation program.

An update was given on the activities of the SB 181 Committee. The committee plans to have a series of conference calls in April to brainstorm and discuss content ideas for the guidance document that will be developed. The schedule can be found here:

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

TWDB staff member, Kevin Kluge, presented a few proposed changes that will be made to the Water Use Survey. He is seeking comments on those proposed changes. Information can be found here:

<http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/workgroup/web181/RelatedDocs/SB181WUS%20changes%20040312.pdf>

The next item on the agenda was a representative from the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE). MaryAnn Dickinson spoke about some of the research efforts of the AWE and how the alliance was looking to work more closely with Texas on some of their research needs. Some potential topic ideas included:

- A Texas specific analysis report to look at the correlation between job creation and water efficiency initiatives.
- An analysis of cost effective investments in terms of strategies in the state water plan.

There was some discussion on the next council legislative report. A schedule was provided and the council discussed how they were going to focus on demonstrating progress they have made as well as focus on observations of current water conservation efforts.

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

- Agricultural Workgroup –The group continues to consider Best Management Practices (bmps) that they would like to revise. 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. The agricultural workgroup also shared a recommendation on suggested metrics for reporting. During the discussion it was suggested that there should be a unique set of metrics for goals and a set of metrics for reporting. Council members suggested that there is a need for more research on developing tools that allow producers to evaluate and measure economic returns.
- Commercial and Institutional Workgroup – The group is looking at developing bmps related to landscape water management plans and landscape irrigation design. It was pointed out that the commercial, institutional, and industrial sectors would also benefit by having some type of water management plan in place. The group discussed the possibility of developing some bmps on how to develop a water management plan within these major water use sectors. It

was also pointed out that currently there are efforts in others states where ICI bmps are being developed. It would not be beneficial to start from scratch and duplicate efforts but rather wait until those efforts are complete and work with those resources.

- Industrial Workgroup - This workgroup has recently been working in conjunction with the Commercial and Institutional Workgroup.
- Municipal Workgroup – The workgroup chair and members are in the process setting an open public comment period on a set of eight bmps that have been drafted. The bmps will be posted to the workgroup webpage and stakeholders will be able to access the documents.
- Wholesale Suppliers Workgroup – The workgroup is in the process of developing new draft bmps as well as setting an open public comment period on a set of bmps that have been drafted.
- Public Awareness Workgroup – The workgroup recently completed the 2012 Municipal Blue Legacy Awards. Award winners will be presented with an award at the Texas Water Conference on Wednesday April 11.

There was some discussion on other activities and upcoming events. A calendar link to upcoming events is available on the Council's homepage. An update was also given on the work efforts that council member, Gene Montgomery, has completed on the New Mexico gallons per capita per day (GPCD) calculator. He has created a new version that is available for download on the council website. On the the May 16th council meeting there will be a work session to discuss the revisions to the calculator. Gene has communicated with Cheri Vogel in New Mexico, and they seem very pleased with the changes and would like to move forward in using them in the near future.

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

- Wednesday May 16, 2012 at 9:30am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office.
- Wednesday June 20, 2012 at 9:30am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office.

A presentation was given by representatives of the *Texas Water Smart Coalition*. They provided a background on their marketing research and presented some of the media spots that they are developing. They expressed interest in working together with other local and regional suppliers on their water conservation messaging. Many council members expressed concern about duplicative efforts and confusing the audiences with multiple messages. Overall the Council strongly encouraged the coalition to work closely with existing conservation campaigns such as *Water IQ* and *Save water. Nothing can replace it.*

The meeting was adjourned at 12noon.