

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Monday, April 25, 2016
 Time: 1:00 pm
 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>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Charlie Moehlenbrock	<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>	Alternate Steven Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Alternate Jessica Kohlrenken	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Karl Fennessey
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Electric Generation</i>	-----
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Alternate Brian Wenberg	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	-----
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Alternate Doug Christensen
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Sarah Schlessinger	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	-----	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	-----
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert		

Also attended: (Alternates) Jennifer Allis, Craig Elam, Denise Hickey, Nora Mullarkey, Eddy Trevino, and Jennifer Walker; and (Interested Parties) Kathleen Jackson, Jennifer White, Tim Loftus, Veronica Osegueda, Dan Strub, Cameron Turner, Natalie Houston, Beth Hood, Sam Hermitte, Perry Fowler, Jonathan Kleinman, Antonio Delgado, and Cary Betz.

- Approval of Minutes from March 7, 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

Board member Kathleen Jackson provided a brief update on activities of the Texas Water Development Board including the latest news on SWIFT funding and the 2017 Draft State Water Plan.

- Update and possible action on best management practices

The council voted unanimously to approve an updated best management practice on Technical Assistance and Outreach submitted by the Wholesale Water Providers workgroup. The vote sends the best management practice to TWDB for final review and approval before incorporating it into the online best management practices guide.

- Discussion of first draft of the report to the legislature

Mindy Conyers provided an overview of the status of the report to the legislature. The deadline for providing assigned content to TWDB for the second draft of the report is May 23.

John Sutton presented on target and goal guidelines in relation to Charge 7 (“Monitor target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Texas Water Development Board”). Presentation slides posted to www.savetexaswater.org/.

- Discussion and possible action on Blue Legacy Awards

The council discussed the nomination packets and related dates for the Blue Legacy Awards then voted to post the updated packets on the website immediately. A media blitz reminding potential applicants of the November deadline will occur in September.

- Reports from Workgroups

Agriculture - Jay Bragg reported that the workgroup received comments from TWDB on their revised agricultural best management practice and will host a conference call in early May to discuss them.

Commercial & Institutional - Bill Hoffman stated that progress has been made on analyzing data for the legislative report. Some discussion occurred on the role of total dissolved solids in commercial and institutional water conservation.

Industrial - Nothing to report.

Municipal - Karen Guz stated the workgroup will host a conference call soon to discuss the updated best management practice on System Water Audit and Water Loss. Some discussion occurred on how Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) addresses water conservation and whether the council should create a best management practice related to the PACE program.

Public Awareness - Denise Hickey stated the workgroup will host a conference call soon.

Wholesale - Nora Mullarkey stated that some preliminary work on a recommendation for the legislative report has been completed. Ms. Mullarkey also resigned as chair of this workgroup because she has retired from the Lower Colorado River Authority.

- Presentation on House Bill 949 (relating to the obligation of certain retail public utilities to mitigate their system water loss) by John Sutton.

Presentation slides posted to www.savetexaswater.org/.

- Announcements of conferences and events

The following events were announced:

May 1 → Water Texas Films 2016 contest begins (deadline September 1).

May 3&4 → High-Performance Buildings & Workplaces Conference (a National Facilities Management & Technology Conference) in Austin.

May 16 → Texas Water Foundation honors Carlos Rubinstein at their Rainmaker Award Dinner in Austin.

August 23-25 → Texas Groundwater Summit in San Marcos, hosted by the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts.

C.E. Williams, Presiding Officer of the Council and member representing Regional Water Planning Groups, announced his resignation from the council. TWDB staff will solicit nominations to fill that vacancy as soon as possible.

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The next meeting of the Water Conservation Advisory Council is scheduled for Thursday, June 30, 2016, at 1:00 PM at the Texas Parks and Wildlife - Austin Field Office.

Additional future meeting dates include August 1 and October 25 (note: the August meeting date was changed from August 3).

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.