

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Friday-July 24, 2009
Time: 10:02 am – 1:15 pm
Location: Conference Room - Bldg 6
Austin Field Office - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
1340 Airport Commerce Drive - Austin, TX

Meeting called by: C.E. Williams, Presiding Officer
Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

Council Members in attendance are listed below:

Scott Swanson	Comer Tuck	Gary Walker	Ken Kramer	Janet Adams
C. E. Williams	Kelly Hall Gene	Steve Bednarz	Bill Hoffman	
Carole Baker	Montgomery	Richard Egg	Cindy Loeffler	
Jim Parks	Wilson Scaling	Wayne Halbert	Karen Guz	

Alternates in place of Council Members:

Linda Christie for Jim Oliver
John Chisholm for Luana Bucker

At 10:02 am the Council meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer C.E. Williams. Council members and members of the audience introduced themselves and the presiding officer welcomed everyone. The first item on the agenda was the approval of the previous council meeting minutes. The previous minutes were approved. The floor was opened for public comment for which two representatives of Niagara Conservation shared some information about their new office in central Texas.

The presiding officer called on the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff for briefings on a few items. The following items were discussed and a hand out was provided.

- ❖ TWDB' Strategic Planning Timeline – The strategic planning process is estimated to begin around October 2009 thru early Spring 2010.
- ❖ TWDB' timeline for fiscal year 2010 Research and Planning Fund grants – The timeframe to submit some suggested research topic ideas is in September 2009.
- ❖ Assignment of TWDB Supporting Staff for Workgroups – A list of TWDB staff assigned to workgroups was provided to council members.

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The Council then received some information from TWDB staff about the Rainwater Harvesting Award at the TWDB. Staff provided some background about the award and the Council approved having a web link from the Council's website to the award information webpage.

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The Council then began discussion about the proposed draft work plan. There was some discussion about including more than just state agencies when it comes to monitoring trends in water conservation.

There was discussion about suggesting some study topics for the Texas Legislature's interim committees and incorporating that effort into the Council work plan. It was stated that Council should keep the following timeline in mind for the interim committee activities:

- ❖ Topics for interim studies should be submitted by August 2009;
- ❖ Interim committees may meet in Spring 2010;
- ❖ Interim reports are developed and submitted to Texas Legislature by September – October 2010.
- ❖ Legislative session begins in January 2011.

Some of the following are objectives that the Council stated they would like to accomplish during the interim session:

- ❖ Prepare recommendations to amend Council's long term charges.
- ❖ Ken Kramer offered to look into developing a presentation from the Council in the event that the Council may be allowed to provide feedback to the Sunset Review Committee reviewing the state's water resource agencies.
- ❖ Arrange to meet with the Legislatures' Natural Resource Committees during the interim session. The topic of such a meeting would be to discuss how the state can continue to advance water conservation in Texas. It was suggested that a presentation be prepared. The presentation would focus on the Council's objectives and recommendations for achieving their charges and progressing water conservation in Texas.
- ❖ Considering providing a recommendation to the committees that they explore how the state can provide guidance or help to water user groups with Drought Management.

The Council continued further discussion on their work plan. The Council agreed to have each workgroup accomplish the following items by September 28, 2009:

- ❖ Develop a short list of suggested research concept ideas to submit to the TWDB.
- ❖ Develop a finalized workgroup work plan outlining the objectives and action items for the work period of January 2009- December 2010.

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The Council was given a brief update on the status of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds from EPA that are being managed by the TWDB.

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The Council then moved on to workgroup chairs for their status update on workgroup activities:

- ❖ WG 1-The Public Awareness & Recognition workgroup reported on the following items :

- Setting up guidelines and criteria by which the Council, as well as water user groups, can monitor public awareness programs.
 - Promoting the Council's on-line Water Conservation Survey.
 - The Texas Water Foundation' upcoming water event in November 2009.
 - Possible ideas for a water conservation recognition award.
 - Water IQ status updates.
- ❖ WG 2- The Metrics & Trends workgroup reported on the following items :
 - Upcoming projects at the TWDB for developing service area boundaries for water utilities.
 - Upcoming projects at the State Demographer's Office for developing web and GIS based tools for population estimates.
 - Focusing the workgroup's near term activities on water use categories.
 - Focusing the workgroup's near term activities on metrics for multifamily housing.
- ❖ WG 3- The Regional Strategy Implementation workgroup reported on the following items :
 - Upcoming conference call to be scheduled.
- ❖ WG 4-Resource Library & BMP workgroup reported on the following items :
 - Focusing the workgroup's future activities of discussions with Alliance for Water Efficiency.
 - Focusing the workgroup's near term activities on working further on the process for adding new BMPs.
- ❖ WG 5-Water & Energy Efficiency workgroup reported on the following items :
 - Upcoming meeting with SECO to be scheduled.

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The Council discussed agenda items for the next council meeting. The potential items for the next council meeting included the following:

- ❖ Briefing from TWDB staff on the agency's potentially available budget for advisory council activities.
- ❖ Briefing from TWDB on the agency's plan for future coordination on Metrics & Measurement activities.
- ❖ Briefing on use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funds for water conservation projects (Green Projects Reserve) in TWDB funding programs
- ❖ Discussion on process for revisions to the Best Management Practices Guide
- ❖ Discussion and possible approval of Council's Work Plan.
- ❖ Discussion and possible approval of a prioritized list of research topic concepts to submit to the TWDB.

The next Council meeting date was set for Monday- September 28, 2009. Location for this meeting is now confirmed at the Austin Field Office-Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin, Texas.

Council meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.