

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Monday, August 25, 2014
 Time: 1:00 pm – 2:15 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>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman	<i>Refining & Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Karl Fennessey
<i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i>	Brad Smith	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	----	<i>Higher Education</i>	Calvin Finch
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	Linda Christie
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Lynne Hamlin	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	---
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Steven Bednarz
<i>Electric Generation</i>	Gary Spicer	<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	David Villarreal
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway	<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Jay Bragg	<i>TCEQ</i>	Chris Loft
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Lara Zent	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	John Mueller
<i>River Authorities</i>	Jim Parks	<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	----
<i>Municipalities</i>	----		

Approval of Minutes from the June 10, 2014

The Council took up minutes from the prior meeting. It was noted that the agenda mentioned the April meeting date but the Council moved to approve the minutes from the June 10th meeting. Minutes were approved.

Texas Water Development Board Update from Chairman Carlos Rubinstein

Chairman Rubinstein provided an update on Texas Water Development Board and House Bill 4 Implementation. The Chairman explained where the TWDB was with the House Bill 4 Implementation Timeline. The TWDB has been hosting work sessions across the state to accept comments. Chairman Rubinstein discussed the manner of submittal of comments along with the types of comments TWDB has received including a special emphasis on water conservation. TWDB plans to take the Rule to adoption ahead of schedule in December 2014. Chairman Rubinstein mentioned TWDB would begin accepting applications for projects for funding through SWIFT. He explained the manner of leverage and anticipated funding capacity for the first decade for the financing incentives in relation to the House Bill 4 legislation.

Additionally, Chairman Rubinstein gave the Council an update on the structure of TWDB. Six teams were formed that support the Regional Water Planning groups with a financial advisor, engineer, and team lead that manage projects from beginning to completion.

Chairman Rubinstein highlighted the work of Doug Shaw, TWDB's Rural and Agricultural Ombudsman, who has been working to reach all corners of Texas. The agency is very focused on rural Texas. The Chairman also focused on creating more opportunity for Water Science & Conservation to thrive even more at the agency.

Chairman Rubinstein opened the floor for discussions and questions.

Public Comment

Kevin Kluge, Texas Water Development Board staff, gave an update on Senate Bill 181 which required the TWDB and TCEQ to collaborate with the Council on a report to collect water use by categories. Kevin will bring results at the next meeting and will continue to work on the report that will include around 300 utilities who submitted data. The Council will have an opportunity to see a draft once it is complete.

Discussion and Action on Blue Legacy Award Timeline and Nomination Packets

The Council discussed the Blue Legacy Award timeline for nominations, judging, and award ceremony approved the September 2nd – November 3rd nomination period. Awards will be judged during November and award winners will be notified in December.

There was a discussion on the judging sheets. Council Support will send out the sheets as requested. Additionally, the Council requested changes to the labels of the categories in the Municipal Award packet which would no longer include labels, only population numbers.

The Council discussed options for an award ceremony in spring 2015 during the Legislative session. There are a couple options including Texas Water Day in April or the Texas Rural Water Association's conference in late January. Lara Zent offered to work the Council to put this together if the Council would like to do the ceremony with them.

Discussion on and Action on Content for the 2014 WCAC Legislative Report

The Council brought up changes to the 2014 Legislative Report and specifically a listing of outstanding items on the report.

The first couple of items were assigned to TWDB staff including a map of the Regional Water Planning Groups, Projected Population Growth and indiscriminate edits.

Council Support will send a paragraph for approval from the Ag Workgroup to Jay Bragg.

More information on ICI conservation success stories was requested to be included at the June 10th Council meeting. The Council agreed not to include in the 2014 report.

Ken Kramer will send Charge 6 information on September 12th.

The Council had discussed including cities with drought management at the June 10th meeting. Denise Hickey offered to send over information on a wholesale water provider.

The Council decided not to include more information on the training for water conservation professionals.

TWDB will take the lead on the concluding thoughts section.

The Council agreed to merge the Appendices F & E.

Jay Bragg will send information to reference in the Brush Control discussion.

All figures in the report need to be sent to Council Support in the excel form in order to edit for consistency.

Bill Hoffman will send total numbers for graphs.

The Council had a discussion on appendix charts included in the report that represent data from 2011.

The Council discussed the non-Ag water use and trends chart on if the data was old and if the chart has a source. Council Support will move the chart to a better place in the report and add a second pie chart with a non-Ag and Ag chart.

Jay Bragg will look over Appendix N and edit for the Ag Work Group.

Denise Hickey turned in more graphs and information. Council members will read over and offer any edits to the material.

Report is still on track for approval by the Council for the meeting in October.

Reports from Workgroups

Agriculture: No Report

Commercial & Institutional: No Report.

Industrial: No report.

Municipal: No Report

Public Awareness: No Report

Wholesale: No report.

Announcements of Conferences and Events

September 3rd: Conservation and Reuse Division for AWWA Texas will have a meeting in Georgetown

September 11th & 12th: Texas H2O in Ft. Worth

October 7-11th: Water Smart Innovations in Las Vegas

October 21st: Site visit to the Miller/Coors Brewery in Ft. Worth

November 4th: North Texas Water Conservation Symposium in Grapevine

TWDB HB 3605 Comment Period ends September 7th.

Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The Council will meet again on October 22nd at 1 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.