

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday November 2, 2011
 Time: 10:05 a.m. – 11:45am.
 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>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dean Minchillo
<i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i>	Brad Smith	<i>River Authorities</i>	Alternate Denise Hickey
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Higher Education</i>	Justin Weinheimer
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker	<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Refining & Chemical Manufacturing</i>	-----
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer
<i>Electric Generation</i>	-----	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	-----
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	-----	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Richard Egg
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	Gene Montgomery	<i>TWDB</i>	TWDB Staff Members present
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>		<i>TCEQ</i>	Scott Swanson
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	-----	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Steve Bednarz
		<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Alternate Zelina Serra

At 10:05 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 for which there was none.

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) bmps.
- Commercial and Institutional Workgroup – A joint conference call with the Industrial Workgroup took place earlier this month. 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 - A joint conference call with the Commercial & Institutional Workgroup took place earlier this month. 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 would take the lead in reaching out to the industry stakeholders.

- Municipal Workgroup – The workgroup chair and members are in the process of recruiting subject matter experts to contribute towards the development of new bmps.
- Wholesale Suppliers Workgroup – The workgroup recently held a conference call to discuss the draft of a new bmp. The workgroup would like to possibly schedule an in person meeting sometime in February.
- Public Awareness Workgroup – The workgroup is in the process of corresponding with the agricultural award selection committee. They are also preparing to finalize the Municipal Blue Legacy Award.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on implementing Senate Bill 181 (S.B. 181). During the 82nd legislative session S.B. 181 was passed. Section 2 and 3 of that bill are related to Water Use Reporting and Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD) Methodology. The statute identifies the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC) to work together to develop a uniform and consistent methodology and guidance for calculating water use and conservation. It directs the agencies to use this methodology in evaluating water conservation plans and reports. Some key deadlines are as follows:

- Jan 2013- methodology, guidance, and reporting program must be completely developed.
- Jan 2015 – TWDB shall submit the first reports with the most recent data collected through this reporting program.

The identified interested participants are the following:

Bill Hoffman	Ken Kramer
Carole Davis	Linda Christie
Denise Hickey	Nora Mullarkey
Gene Montgomery	Robert Mace
Jim Parks	Ruthanne Beilue
Justin Weinheimer	Scott Swanson
Karen Guz	Steve Bednarz
	Donna Howe

TWDB and TCEQ staff provided a brief explanation of the factors being considered as the two agencies look at preparing to implement the required changes dictated by SB 181.

There was discussion on the role of the two agencies. TWDB and TCEQ are to approve and adopt rule revisions, administer reporting forms, and develop guidance.

TCEQ staff stated that they plan to draft revised language in their rules by Nov 15. The scope of the revisions would not be a major undertaking and would only involve drafting some brief new phrasing. TCEQ and TWDB plan to review their rules and definitions and provide the SB 181 committee with those thoughts. A SB 181 Committee meeting is scheduled for November 9th. After the committee meeting

takes place TCEQ staff will use the feedback as they move forward in their internal process to develop rule changes. At this point in the process it is not necessary to have the actual methodology prepared and ready for use. For revisions to the rules it is only necessary to have certain semantics prepared such as definitions and terms like "Texas Water Use Methodology". It was stated that the two agencies would prefer to avoid referencing specific tools in the actual rules; any terms such as "gpcd tool", "gpcd calculator". Instead the rules should be broader and refer to a reporting system that utilizes a "Texas Water Use Methodology". Rules and definitions will also need to include additional definitions and terms such as "institutional", "water loss". Both agencies plan to make every effort to define terms in a consistent manner.

There was also discussion on the role of gpcd tools and calculators in relation to agency required reports. One viewpoint suggested that gpcd tools and calculators should be developed as BMPs that serve as optional supplements to the agency's required reports. It should not be necessary to develop a gpcd tool or calculator in order to meet the requirements of SB 181. The availability of tools and calculators as BMPs would allow utilities to complete a more detailed analysis of their system if they desired to complete that level of analysis. However, that level of analysis should not be a required component of completing TCEQ or TWDB required reports. There were other varying viewpoints brought out in discussion amongst the Council stating that GPCD tools and calculators are desirable components to be considered for use with reporting. This is a topic area that needs further discussion among the SB 181 committee.

It was also discussed that it may not be necessary to develop metrics for all water use categories in order to satisfy the requirements of SB 181. Instead the agency's required reports would collect utility data in sectors. This would be referred to "Texas Water Use Methodology" and would be inherent in the actual reporting forms. It was stated that any data collection and data calculation represented in required reports would be simple in nature rather than complex and detailed like a calculator tool might be. At this time, the only water use category that would be able to utilize a unique form of measurement (metric) would be the residential water use category. The unique form of measurement would be gpcd for this category.

It was also stated that reporting forms should provide options for users who can only complete basic levels of reporting. There is also a need for additional guidance related to service population (permanent and temporary) that could be developed by TWDB and made available as a guidance document for the agency reporting forms.

There was discussion on the topic area of agricultural metrics, agricultural metering and reporting, perspectives of data collection and evapo-transpiration (ET) networks.

There was also discussion on ensuring consistency throughout this process. With the many reports across the two agencies SB 181 provides a good opportunity to bring in more consistency with definitions and reporting. This is a topic area that needs further discussion among the SB 181 committee.

The Council confirmed the January 18, 2012 meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office. The Council also set a meeting on February 21, 2012 at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.