

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Workgroup Conference Call
Workgroup: Wholesale Water Suppliers and Regional Water Authorities

Date: 22 October 2020
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Remote (Conference Call)

<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>TWDB Staff</u>
Dustan Compton Jennifer Allis Valerie Miller Donna Howe Aubrey Spear		Karen Menard Raquel Mullen Molly Ballesteros	Shae Luther Josh Sendejar John Sutton

I. Introduction of Participants
The conference call began at 9:33 a.m.

II. Summary Review of 2020 WCAC Legislative Report
Final approval of the report was voted upon in the September WCAC Meeting with a contingency for any revisions for clarification purposes. There have been several revisions and the report has been sent for printing.

Dustan C. noted that a call for Wholesale Providers to provide feedback was sent out as part of the efforts of the workgroup for the report. A lot of feedback was received and summarized for the Wholesale portion of the report.

- Included what entities are doing around the state
- Summary of entities who submitted feedback was included in a footnote within the report

Dustan closed discussion by stating this has been an effort of the workgroup over the last 10 months or so and will begin the process for the next report in a year or so.

III. BMP Progress
Current Initiatives for the workgroup posted on savetexaswater.org

There are three BMPs currently being considered within the workgroup:

- Wholesale Conservation Rates
- Water Conservation Education and Public Awareness
- Providing Financial Incentives Directly to Customer’s End-Users

Wholesale Conservation Rates:

Donna Howe asked about the Conservation Rates BMP and if anyone knew of any specifics going on in that area. Dustan C. stated he was not aware of any.

Karen Menard stated the City of Dallas has a two-stage rate structure for wholesale customers. The City also has a five-year clause, so a customer is not tied in.

Valerie Miller stated LCRA's customers pay a monthly 'reservation' fee at the beginning of the month and the remainder of the cost charged at the end of the month. There are also steep fines levied if an entity goes over their amount.

Donna Howe noted it may be a good idea to have someone in this area to help with the development of a BMP.

Dustan stated that perhaps we could send a call out for conservation rate structures within the wholesale community.

Donna is willing to continue working on this BMP, Valerie Miller is willing to help. Donna stated she will reach out to a rate analyst to get their input.

Water Conservation Education and Public Awareness

It has been a while since discussing this BMP. If any interested party has an active education and outreach program, please let Dustan know. Dustan would like to have greater representation from entities around the state. Dustan will continue working on the Public Awareness BMP.

Providing Financial Incentives Directly to Customer's End-Users:
Dustan asked regarding financial incentives for wholesalers.

Valerie Miller stated LCRA does provide some financial incentives directly to homeowners. Valerie stated that while participation has been variable, this year they are seeing a large increase in participation.

Dustan proposed changing the name of the Financial Incentives BMP to simply Incentives. Karen Menard stated that within her program, there are incentives they provide to their member city's and their residents that are not financial in nature.

Karen Menard stated that she has heard great things about Tarrant Regional WD's Wholesale portal, would be interested in learning more about it, and using that as a case study regarding the use of technology. Would be good to underscore the importance of technology given current circumstances.

Valerie M. stated that LCRA is looking to initiate something similar by the end of next year.

Josh mentioned that a few of the ideas discussed, including creating a 'Resource' page for wholesale suppliers could be incorporated into the workgroup's main page. The page currently has some outdated information and creating a place where wholesale providers could find links to other programs, 'case-studies', etc. could help generate interest and participation within the workgroup.

- IV. Potential Work Group Initiatives and Activities for 2021
Development of BMPs, expand upon the need for collaboration on water conservation efforts.

Karen Menard also noted that focusing on the use of technology, especially during this time, is incredibly important.

- V. Other Discussion

A brief discussion on increasing representation throughout the state within the workgroup. Karen Menard mentioned several wholesale entities that she would be willing to reach out to in an effort to gauge their interest in the group. Dustan asked for TWDB to share a list of wholesale providers who turned in reports, Josh stated he will work with staff to get an updated list.

Josh reminded the workgroup that the next WCAC Meeting is next Thursday, October 29th. He also mentioned that if there are any other individuals the group is aware of who would like to participate, please make them aware of the next WCAC meeting, and have them contact him or the appropriate work group chair to get involved with the Council and work group efforts.

- VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.