

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Workgroup Meeting and Conference Call
Workgroup:

Date: November 30, 2023
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: Remote (GoToMeeting)

<u>Members/Alternates</u>	<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>TWDB Staff</u>
Dustan Compton Leslie Peterson Jennifer Allis Earl Foster Whitney Milberger Stacy Pandey	Ted Pick Jason Pierce Virginia Collier Hector Ortiz	Temple McKinnon Loren Whitman Jaclyn Buck Denise Livingston

Links from meeting conversation:

TCEQ presentation:



Wholesale and
Retail WCP DCP req

[Water is Awesome](#) – Regional landscape initiative.

<https://savetexaswater.org/bmp/wholesale/index.html>

<https://www.tnlaonline.org/tcwsp.html>

- I. Introduction of Participants
- II. Discussion of 2024 Conservation and Drought Plan Updates – Jennifer Allis, TCEQ gave presentation on TCEQ requirements for drought contingency plans. Presentation slides attached.
 - Required 5-year submittals.
 - Water Conservation Plans and Water Conservation Implementation Reports
 - Surface water right with 1000 acre-feet or more
 - Submit WCP and WCIT to TCEQ
 - Submit WCP to TWDB
 - Drought Contingency Plans
 - Retail public water supplier with 330 (+) connections.
 - DCP to TCEQ
 - WCP to TWDB
 - Wholesale public water supplier
 - DCP to TCEQ

- Irrigation district
 - DCP to TCEQ
- How to submit.
 - Submit by January 1, 2024, via email wcp@tceq.texas.gov
 - Include **5-year plan submittal** in subject line.
 - Retail public water suppliers with less than 3300 connections must have adopted DCP available for inspection by TCEQ but are not required to submit.
- Consideration for revising plans.
 - DCPs should be revised as often as necessary, especially as triggers or measures change over time.
 - WCPs should be revised every 5 years.
 - Plans that are revised and adopted in between the 50year submittal deadlines, the updated plans must be submitted to TCEQ within 90 days of adoption.
- Coordinate with Regional Planning Groups
 - Submittal cycle coincides with the regional water planning process.
 - Copies of plans are required to be provided to the RWPG.
 - Include documentation of coordination with the RGPG
 - Copy of letter
 - Copy of email message

Discussion included individual water provider status updates of plan progress, resources available, etc.:

North Texas Municipal Water District

- Currently finalizing their DCP because they also provide model templates for member cities.
- Model plans include mandatory and optional components.
- Meeting one on one with conservation coordinators.
- Updated definitions of pools and ponds, specifically to address all of the new "Lagoon" neighborhoods being built in our region.

Upper Trinity Regional Water District

- Plans are out for review and include model plans for customers.
- Trinity DCPs will now have mandatory twice weekly watering schedules versus the previous volunteer option. Plans also address a variance for new landscape not to exceed 30 days.
- Contracts include "must adopt like-minded measures".
- Encouraging customers to push consistent education of customers of water schedules including websites, newsletters, and water bills.

Question for Upper Trinity: Whenever you have wholesalers do their own watering schedule, do you find that there is confusion with adjoining neighbors that are in another utility?

- Stages are tied to outdoor watering. I.e., stage 1 twice weekly schedule, stage 2 once a week and stage 3, no outdoor watering.

City of Houston using Goldwater software to track and meet their goals with customer cities.

Dustan – Tarrant Regional Water District Strategic Plan created 10 years ago included analysis of effective water conservation program and the cost per acre foot. Would like to know what research is out there for most cost-effective conservation programs and what studies are being done.

Most beneficial savings at the time, replacement of old inefficient toilets. Other incentives, I.e., watering schedules, landscape design were ordinance based and faced political challenges.

North Texas Regional Water Providers published a regional landscape initiative document. [Water is Awesome](#) contains the document with important BMPs that have been shared with members and customer cities.

TAWWA and other partners are in the process of compiling the results of a drought survey sent to all conservation coordinators to see what is working or not working with their drought plans, any success stories, or main challenges. Results are estimated to be distributed by the end of the year.

III. Discussion on Wholesale Best Management Practices Progress - Dustan gave an overview of the current BMPs on the TWDB website.

BMPs in discussion/draft

- Wholesale conservation rates – Donna Howe, Lead
- Water Conservation education and public awareness – Denise Hickey, Lead
- Providing financial incentives directly to customer’s end users – Stacy Pandey, Lead

Other possible BMPs discussed last March:

- How to deal with drought
- Land-use or building code recommendations that are not in city limits.

IV. Legislative Recommendations – No recommendations at this time.

V. Other Discussion – Follow up discussion on BMPs in draft form. TWDB staff will look for drafts and distribute to leads.

How are entities dealing with landscape companies that operate in an area but don’t own land in the area. Landscapers are the controllers for the irrigation systems, and they set to water without regard to the prescribed water schedule set by the utility. How can you do an enforcement action if they don’t have property in the city?

Whitney Milberger is working on a similar issue with Houston but it isn’t a conservation focus as indicated in the scenario. The topic will be further discussed in future meetings.

Ultimately the water user is responsible but large commercial entities just factor the additional fees into the cost for water.

Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA) has a water smart program specifically designed for irrigation and landscape contractors. It is a certification aimed at creating a LEAD-status to show that they are conservation minded. <https://www.tnlaonline.org/tcwsp.html>

Future meeting to be determined.

VI. Adjourn 10:50