

## **ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTER**

### **TEXAS WATER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature (2007), via passage of SB 3 and HB 4, directed the establishment of a Water Conservation Advisory Council (Council) to serve as a select and expert resource to state government and the public on water conservation in Texas. This action by the Texas Legislature gives form to one of the principle recommendations put forward by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force in a report submitted to the 79<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in November 2004.

This organizational charter outlines the purpose, goals, form and function of the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council. This is a working document and is subject to change as deemed necessary by the participating members.

#### **Mission Statement**

*To provide a professional forum for the continuing development of water conservation resources, expertise, and progress evaluation of the highest quality for the benefit of Texas—its state leadership, regional and local governments, and general public.*

#### **Goals**

- To fulfill its statutory duties in a manner that effectively and directly complements efforts by public and private entities to implement water conservation strategies to meet their current and future water supply needs,
- To ensure that the Council meets the highest standards of professional integrity in the performance of its duties, and
- To ensure, that in the performance of its duties, the Council is guided by a sense of responsibility to equitably serve all of the citizens in every of region of the state.

#### **Membership**

The council is composed of 23 members appointed by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Appointments are for one member to represent each of the following entities or interest groups:

- (1) Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (2) Texas Department of Agriculture;
- (3) Texas Parks and Wildlife Department;
- (4) Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board;
- (5) Texas Water Development Board;
- (6) regional water planning groups;
- (7) federal agencies;
- (8) municipalities;
- (9) groundwater conservation districts;

- (10) river authorities;
- (11) environmental groups;
- (12) irrigation districts;
- (13) institutional water users;
- (14) professional organizations focused on water conservation;
- (15) higher education;
- (16) agricultural groups;
- (17) refining and chemical manufacturing;
- (18) electric generation;
- (19) mining and recovery of minerals;
- (20) landscape irrigation and horticulture;
- (21) water control and improvement districts;
- (22) rural water users; and
- (23) municipal utility districts.

#### Qualifications

Membership on the Council is based on expertise in water conservation and on an individual's availability to devote time adequate to participate fully in Council activities. In addition, an individual must represent at least one of the 23 interest groups or entities that provisions in statute list for representation on the Council.

#### Terms

Members of the Council serve staggered terms of six years, with seven or eight members' terms, as applicable, expiring August 31 of each odd-numbered year. In making the initial appointments, the TWDB has designated seven members to serve terms expiring August 31, 2009, eight members to serve terms expiring August 31, 2011, and eight members to serve terms expiring August 31, 2013. The TWDB shall fill a vacancy on the Council for an unexpired term by appointing a person who has the same qualifications as required for the person who previously held the vacated position.

#### Definition of Water Conservation

The Council adopts the following working definition of water conservation:

“Those practices, techniques, programs, and technologies that will protect water resources, reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water, or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a water supply is made available for future or alternative uses.”

#### Tasks

Consistent with the duties and requirements of the Council as outlined in HB 4 and SB 3 (80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature), the work of the Council will initially be organized into the following tasks:

- (1) monitor trends in water conservation implementation;
- (2) monitor new technologies for possible inclusion by the Board as best management practices in the best management practices guide developed by the

Water Conservation Implementation Task Force under Chapter 109, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003;

- (3) monitor the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program developed under Section 16.401 and associated local involvement in implementation of the program;
- (4) develop and implement a state water management resource library;
- (5) develop and implement a public recognition program for water conservation;
- (6) monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans; and
- (7) monitor target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the Board and Commission.

Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, the Council shall submit to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives a report on progress made in water conservation in this state.

The Council shall conduct a study to evaluate the desirability of requiring the Board to:

- (1) designate as certified water conservation training facilities entities and programs that provide assistance to retail public utilities in developing water conservation plans under Section 13.146; and
- (2) give preference to certified water conservation training facilities in making loans or grants for water conservation training and education activities.

Not later than December 1, 2008, the Council shall submit a written report containing the findings of this study and the recommendations of the Council to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Consideration of Water Conservation Implementation Task Force Recommendations

In the performance of their duties, the Council and any workgroups of the Council shall consider and give appropriate weight to the applicable discussion and recommendations put forward by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force in its report to the 79th Texas Legislature in November 2004.