

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday April 1, 2008
Time: 10:03 AM – 1:20 PM
Location: Center Conference Room, Robert E. Johnson Building
1500 North Congress Ave - Austin, TX

Meeting called by: C.E. Williams, Presiding Officer
Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

Council Members in attendance are listed below:

Scott Swanson	Comer Tuck	Greg Carter	Karen Guz	Ken Petersen
C. E. Williams	Donna Howe	H. W. Bill Hoffman	Steven Bednarz	Richard Egg
Carole Baker	Wayne Halbert	James Parks	Kelly Hall	
	Gene			
Cindy Loeffler	Montgomery	Wilson Scaling	Ken Kramer	

Alternates in place of Council Members:

Phillip Johnson for Vivien Allen	Linda Christie for Jim Oliver
Kelley Stripling for Gary Walker	Greg Ellis for Luana Buckner

At 10:03 am the council meeting was called to order by the Presiding Officer C.E. Williams. The presiding officer welcomed the Water Conservation Advisory Council (Council), the alternates, and the audience. The first item in the agenda was the approval of the last council meeting minutes. Council Member Karen Guz motioned to revise the 1/30/08 council meeting minutes. A handout was passed out with the revisions and the council voted to approve the 1/30/08 minutes with these revisions. Please see Appendix A for suggested revisions.

The next item on the agenda was to open the floor for public comment. There was no public comment and the floor was turned over to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff for a question and answer session about the Annual Water Use Survey. Dan Hardin with the TWDB introduced himself and briefly described the material supplied in the handouts packet. Please see Appendix B for referenced handouts.

On an annual basis the TWDB sends out a survey that was initially designed to determine total water production by municipal water systems. This survey was designed to analyze the water production aspect. What the TWDB currently does, is set in statute according to the Texas Administrative Code 358.5. That code pertains to municipal, industrial, power generation or mining purposes. The state water planning rules clarify that the TWDB is to project water demands for municipal associated commercial and institutional use, manufacturing, irrigation, thermal electric power generation, mining, and livestock water uses. One of the trends we noticed was that the smaller entities and systems were having a hard time filling out detailed information on the survey; so we created a shorter survey that suffices. Overall, the main purpose of the

survey is to gather information for long range water planning. The floor was then opened up for questions and answers.

A question was asked about detailed irrigation surveys that use to be done. In response to that question it was stated that the TWDB is not authorized to conduct surveys of individuals for irrigation and livestock water use. In the past our Conservation Division contracted with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to do a detailed survey every five years, but now use different methods to estimate annual irrigation water use. As far the end product information, it is not in terms of crop yield but rather irrigation water use broken out into surface or groundwater for each county.

A question was raised about the efficiency of water usage in this particular water use area. Research at AgriLife Research is trying to come up with pounds per inch of rain or irrigation. The TWDB now works closely with the Farm Service Agency to get information on total irrigated acreage on a county basis. TWDB staff also works closely with the AgriLife Extension Service to gather evapo-transpiration data to develop irrigation application patterns. It was pointed out that > 50% of Texas' water use goes toward Ag Irrigation usage.

Dan Hardin introduced Kevin Kluge as the TWDB staff member who would be leading the Water Use Survey Team. The presiding officer moved on to the next item on the agenda, which was a status report on the Save Texas Water Website.

TWDB support staff gave a status report on the Save Texas Water website. The report included a brief recap of how the domain name was created and about the initial decision of the Council to proceed with the development of this website. The report moved on to discuss some core elements of the development process which includes: Purpose, Audience, Design, Content, & Vision. After the report, Council members gave some feedback and suggestions for the development of the website. It was decided that this task would be a part of Workgroup 1 charges, and that the workgroup would take the primary role of working with the TWDB staff throughout this process of development. Please see Appendix C for further details of the discussion, Hierarchy of Information, website mock up and Council feedback.

The next item on the agenda was to select names for council workgroups. The following names were suggested and a motion was made to approve all names with the one amended change to Workgroup 5 title.

- Workgroup 1 = Awareness & Public Recognition
- Workgroup 2 = Metrics & Trends
- Workgroup 3 = Regional Plan Implementation
- Workgroup 4 = Resource Library & BMPs
- Workgroup 5 = Certified Training

The next item on the agenda was a report from each workgroup spokesperson about the activities going on each workgroup. Some of the workgroups shared their 'road map' visions for the targets and goals they would attempt to achieve for the December 2008 Legislative Report. A summarized statement for each workgroup road map is described below:

Awareness & Public Recognition: This workgroup will plan on working with TWDB staff to further develop the Water IQ website, to get some PSAs aired in summer 2008, and to refine their recommendations for funding from both the TWDB and the Texas Legislature.

Metrics & Trends: This workgroup will plan on creating and defining standards for recommended divisions and categories on water usage. They also plan to determine the applicable water usage categories that will be used for various gpcd calculations. They will also explore the desired metrics for water usage not directly related to population as well as determine how to estimate population within a service area. Additionally, this group would like to gather data on conservation metrics by service provider. Please see Appendix D for a further detailed description of this workgroup's plan of action.

Regional Plan Implementation: This workgroup plans on submitting a motion asking that the 16 Regional Water Planning Groups submit a report to the Council. Please see Appendix G for a copy of the proposed motion. This report would ask for a list strategies included in their plans, the expected results they anticipate from those strategies, the results that they believe they have accomplished to date, and any additional strategies they have included. In the future this group would eventually like to take advantage of asking for funding from the TWDB to assist the Regional Planning Groups.

There was some discussion on this item and it was tabled for further discussion after lunch. There was an overall feeling amongst the majority of the Council that there is a responsibility to begin looking at how effective these regional plans are when it comes to monitoring the implementation of conservation strategies.

Resource Library & BMPs: This workgroup plans on submitting to the Council a procedures guideline for adding new Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the guide. They also plan on drafting a proposal for an Online Resource Library.

Certified Training: Because this workgroup is charged with completing their review of certified training facilities by the end of 2008, they have already begun developing their first draft of findings and recommendations.

There was a break for lunch.

After lunch the Council reconvened and further discussed the language of the proposed motion by the workgroup. After some discussion and rewording the following motion was submitted to the council for which they voted on and approved with 21 members voting for the motion.

That the Texas Water Development Board request the sixteen Regional Water Planning Groups submit by October 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, a report including:

- 1. A list of the conservation strategies included in the Region's current Water Plan;*

2. *The expected water savings on an annual basis for each conservation strategy listed in number one above;*
3. *A list by water user of the amount of water saved on an annual basis by each conservation strategy implemented; and*
4. *A list of additional conservation strategies being considered by the region.*

The next item on the agenda was for TWDB staff to give an update on the online surveys that some of the workgroups had interest in developing. Some of the things discussed were the features of what the survey would look like, the timeframe for creating the application, the development of more questions, and the possibility of writing parts of the survey to complement the tasks of the workgroups. Please see Appendix E for the handouts used in the discussion.

The next item of the agenda was a review of the Council's 2008 Timeline. The floor was opened up to any revisions, or updates on the timeline however there were none suggested. Please see Appendix F for a copy of the Advisory Council Timeline.

The next item of the agenda was a discussion of Water IQ and the initial statewide program implementation taking place. TWDB staff shared some information about some current efforts going on the proposed project with the Texas Association of Broadcasters, the timeline, and projected participants. Please see Appendix H for further details on that effort.

A resolution for support was presented by Presiding Officer C.E. Williams confirming the Council's support and encouragement of the TWDB to fund the initial statewide water conservation public awareness program. Resolution was approved. Please see Appendix I for complete language of the resolution.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on format, content and timeline of the Council's report to the Texas Legislature in December 2008. It was suggested that each charge be addressed individually and that there is a consistency throughout. It was suggested that for each charge being addressed that the following elements be included:

- Introductory Narration
- A Section for Key Findings
- A section for Key Recommendations

It was also suggested that a closing chapter be incorporated at the end of the overall report that can address some future recommendations for proposed legislation.

The floor was then open to member discussion of other topics.

The Council discussed the selection of dates, times, and locations of future meetings. Meeting details are still to be determined.

Council Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.