

\*\*\* Meeting minutes should be considered DRAFT until approved at the next council meeting. \*\*\*

## Summary of Minutes

### Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: LCRA Dalchau Service Center – 3505 Montopolis Dr. Austin, TX 78744

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: Josh Sendejar, Council Staff Support

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Alternate David Villarreal	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Higher Education</i>	Tim Loftus
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Steven Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	---
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Kevin Kluge	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	---
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	---	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	---
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Anai Padilla
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Sarah Schlessinger	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	---	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	---
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Alternate Jennifer Walker	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	---		

Also present: Alternate Denise Hickey, Alternate Eddy Trevino, Al Fuentes, Scott Swanson, Andrew Sansom, Matt Johns, Matt Woodward, Fred Yebra, Jessica Woods, Meghan Boch, Stephen Corter, Kip Averitt, Charlie Flotten.

\*\* Documents can be found at: <http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/council-meetings.asp>\*\*

10:00 a.m. Registration

10:31 a.m. Call to Order

1. Introduction
2. Approval of minutes from the October 16, 2018 meeting
  - A. Padilla motioned to approve meeting minutes as written.
  - D. Howe seconded the motion

The previous meeting's minutes were approved as written.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.
4. Update from Texas Water Development Board

Update from Kevin Kluge:

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- Water Loss and Annual Report data are now available online.  
(Available at: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/historical-annual-report.asp>)
- The TWDB Online Reporting Application is now open. Water Loss Audits and Annual Reports are due May 1.
  - o Within the Annual Report, the names of Conservation Coordinators are now being recorded.
- Water Loss Audit Training Video now available online.  
(Available at: [http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/auditor\\_training.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/auditor_training.asp))
- The Municipal Planning Tool is now available for use in estimating conservation savings for entities updating their Water Conservation Plans or completing their Conservation Annual Report.  
(Available at: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/plans/index.asp>)
- The 6 BMPs that were submitted to TWDB in June are currently being reviewed by staff.
  - o BMPs include:
    - Conservation Coordinator (update)
    - Custom Conservation Rebates
    - Customer Characterization: Analysis to Prioritize BMP Selection
    - Outdoor Watering Schedule
    - Plumbing Assistance for Economically Disadvantaged Customers
    - Public Outreach and Education (update)
- Travis Brice was introduced as the new Water Conservation Specialist with TWDB, taking on Shae Luther's previous position reviewing Water Conservation Plans and Conservation Annual Reports. Shae is now the Education Specialist for Municipal Conservation.
- Daniel Rice has taken a new position with the Board as a GIS Analyst working with the Public Water System Viewer application. His previous position of Water Loss Audit Program Specialist will be posted soon.
- The TWDB has lost one of its own in the sudden passing of Siobhan Scott earlier this month. Siobhan worked on the LUC project, which encompassed the Water (L)oss, Water (U)se, and Water (C)onservation reporting applications. Siobhan's work was also instrumental in the development of the Municipal Conservation Planning Tool.

## 5. Reports from Workgroups

Karen Guz began the Workgroup Update by asking the Council if all of the existing workgroups felt they needed to be active during 2019, and if so, what would they like to work on.

### a. Agriculture

Workgroup Chair Jay Bragg unable to attend, Karen Guz will follow up with him.

It was brought up that there are some issues in Agriculture that need to be discussed, there is also the issue of several BMPs to be drafted/updated.

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b. Commercial & Institutional

Workgroup Chair Bill Hoffman brought up that there is a lot of ICI data being gathered from TWDB, etc. and the workgroup should discuss how best to use it.

Additionally, Eddy Trevino brought up an issues in inefficiency with water/wastewater treatment facilities concerning water and energy. Eddy believes that the workgroup may be able to begin discussions, identify solutions, and discuss how best to overcome obstacles to increase efficiency in these types of facilities.

It was also brought up that this may be an opportunity for the CI workgroup and Water Loss workgroup to collaborate.

Bill & Eddy will develop bullet points/a brief description to begin meetings on this topic.

c. Industrial

Workgroup Chair Craig Elam stated that there is not currently anything new within the industry needing discussion. He recommends the suspension of the Industrial workgroup for 2019.

No further discussion was brought up.

d. Municipal

Workgroup Chair Karen Guz brought up that there are still two BMPs that the Municipal/Water Loss Workgroup were working on that have yet to be finalized by the workgroups (Irrigation License Standards BMP and System Water Audit BMP)

Also introduced was the Gold Star Recognition Program, joint effort between the Municipal Workgroup and the Public Awareness Workgroup. The idea behind the program is to provide recognition to municipal entities that go above and beyond on their Water Conservation Plans.

Criteria for recognition would include:

- Conservation Strategy
- Detailed conservation Program Description
- Discussion of Conservation BMPs
- Discussion/Details on Water Loss Program
- Evaluation Strategy
- Evidence of Outreach on Water Conservation Plan

Recognition for the program could be as simple as listing entities' names on the Save Texas Water website.

- Several members spoke in support of the recognition program.

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- Sarah R. suggested developing a logo that the entity could put on their own website acknowledging the recognition.
- Tim L. asked if somehow the criteria should tie-in with the Annual Report
- Bill H. added to Tim's point saying that someone could make a great plan, but if its not implemented it doesn't truly add value.
- Karen G. stated that some refining would be necessary. Additionally, the workgroups may need to develop an FAQ document to clarify some of the criteria.

e. Public Awareness

Workgroup Chair Denise Hickey noted that BLA ranking is in progress.

Jennifer W. brought up that the language on the website led her to believe that an organization who has won a past BLA award cannot apply, even for a different program.

- Website needs to clarify that award limitations are program-specific.

f. Water Loss

Workgroup Chair Jennifer Walker noted that with the Council's recommendation for funding of a pilot program on water loss, that the workgroup may need to discuss what that may look like, etc.

Additionally, the Water Loss Audit BMP is still needing revisions.

Jennifer W. also noted that perhaps the workgroup should invite speakers showcasing innovative case studies decreasing water loss to present at forthcoming Council Meetings.

g. Wholesale & Regional Water Authorities

Workgroup Chair Dustan Compton noted that a conference call was held last year in June with lacking participation. Dustan noted the workgroup will hold a call, encourage participation, and come up with a general plan for 2019.

6. Discussion on Upcoming Business

a. Election of Vice Presiding Officer

With Member vacancies remedied and the Legislative Report finalized, the need for the election of a Vice Presiding Officer has come up again. The Council will plan on holding an election at the next Council Meeting (March 14<sup>th</sup>).

A Nominating Committee was selected which includes:

- Jennifer Walker
- Jennifer Allis
- Cindy Loeffler

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The Nominating Committee will come up with some language to send to members announcing the nomination period is open. Any Member is able to submit a nomination for themselves or another Member. Nominations received that are not self-nominations will be verified of interest in serving. A list of nominees will be provided to the Council one week prior to the next meeting.

b. Bylaws Update

A few issues arose during the voting of the last Legislative Report which has led to a discussion on revising our bylaws.

Updates considered include:

- Majority does not include members who abstain from voting.
- Include flexibility in the Council's ability to vote on the Legislative report by allowing for voting of the report as a whole or voting on each recommendation and then a vote to accept the report.
- Should voting on each recommendation require a 2/3 majority vote like the acceptance of the report as a whole? (Most of the Council noted they believed it should).

c. Other Business

No other business was brought up by the Council.

7. Presentation on a Statewide Water Awareness Campaign

8. Demonstration of TWDB's Municipal Water Conservation Tool

9. Announcement of conferences and events

January 17<sup>th</sup> – Conroe Water Loss Audit Workshop (Conroe, TX)

January 29<sup>th</sup> – San Antonio Water Loss Audit Workshop (San Antonio, TX)

January 31<sup>st</sup> – Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium (Austin, TX)

February 26<sup>th</sup> – Wylie Water Loss Audit Workshop (Wylie, TX)

February 28<sup>th</sup> – Gulf Coastal Water Conservation Symposium (Houston, TX)

March 13<sup>th</sup> – World Water Day at the Capitol (Austin, TX)

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> – Texas Water (Houston, TX)

Call For Proposals:

- Texas Water Reuse Symposium
- Texas Groundwater Summit

10. Future Meeting Dates and Locations

- Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – LCRA Dalchau Service Center
- Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – TPWD Headquarters

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.