

**Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting**

Date: Wednesday March 6, 2013  
 Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon.  
 Location: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
 Conference Room – Building 6  
 1340 Airport Commerce – Austin, TX

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

<i><b>Institutional Water Users</b></i>	Bill Hoffman	<i><b>Refining &amp; Chemical Manufacturing</b></i>	---
<i><b>Landscape Irrigation &amp; Horticulture</b></i>	Alternate Markus Hogue	<i><b>Environmental Groups</b></i>	Ken Kramer
<i><b>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</b></i>	Alternate Nora Mullarkey	<i><b>Higher Education</b></i>	Alternate Calvin Finch
<i><b>Regional Water Planning Groups</b></i>	C.E. Williams	<i><b>Water Control &amp; Improvement Districts</b></i>	Alternate Dean Minchillo
<i><b>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</b></i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i><b>Groundwater Conservation Districts</b></i>	Stacey Steinbach
<i><b>Municipal Utility Districts</b></i>	Donna Howe	<i><b>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</b></i>	Richard Egg
<i><b>Electric Generation</b></i>	Gary Spicer	<i><b>Texas Department of Agriculture</b></i>	---
<i><b>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</b></i>	---	<i><b>TWDB</b></i>	Robert Mace
<i><b>Agricultural Groups</b></i>	---	<i><b>TCEQ</b></i>	Chris Loft
<i><b>Rural Water Users</b></i>	Lara Zent	<i><b>Federal Agencies</b></i>	Steve Bednarz
<i><b>River Authorities</b></i>	Alternate Denise Hickey	<i><b>Irrigation Districts</b></i>	Wayne Halbert
<i><b>Municipalities</b></i>	Karen Guz		

At 9:30 am the meeting was called to order by presiding officer, C.E. Williams and introductions were given. The first item on the agenda was the approval of previous Council minutes. The minutes were approved without discussion. The floor was then opened for public comment for which there was no comment.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the Blue Legacy awards program. Currently the judging panel is reviewing award nominations for the Municipal Blue Legacy Awards that will be presented in April 2013 in Galveston ,TX .

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on *Report 347 Surveys of Irrigation in Texas*. A brief overview was provided on the past editions of this report. The last one was printed in 2001. In the past this report has focused on agricultural irrigation by county, district, river basin, water sources and other data that the Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) service took the lead in compiling and analyzing. It also documented trends in irrigation efficiency. Recently both the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board have received external inquiries into the possibility of accessing a current version of the report. There was discussion on how in years past this report was very time intensive and required a lot of staff time for NRCS to compile all the data. At this point this is not an effort that NRCS could commit to taking the lead. It was suggested that the Texas Water Development Board would look into developing a brief technical note that documents trends in

There was some discussion on the best available sources and methods for acquiring key data that was somewhat readily available. The workgroup suggested that a workshop be held after the May 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to have an open discussion on the best available data resources as well as to explain how TWDB currently estimates irrigation water use. In line with that there would be a more in depth discussion on development of a technical note about agricultural irrigation.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on the Best Management Practices (BMPs) Guide. The Council was provided with the following draft documents:

- Irrigation Scheduling
- Volumetric Measurement of Irrigation Water Use
- On Farm Irrigation Audit
- Crop Residue Management and Conservation Tillage

The Council made a motion to submit the aforementioned draft best management practices documents to the Texas Water Development Board for further review, approval and adoption.

The next item on the agenda was an update from the workgroups on their activities. All of the workgroups are currently in the process of reviewing or discussing updates to specific best management practices.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on Council activities at Water Day at the Texas State Capitol on March 28, 2013. The Council will plan on having a table with a poster and information to display.

A review and update was given on potential water conservation bills that were expected to be introduced during the 83<sup>rd</sup> legislative session. There is a strong interest in water conservation related legislation and some of the following topics may be covered in bills introduced during the legislative session:

- Annual water loss audits for municipalities
- Water conservation efforts and Home Owners Association regulations
- Enforcement of Drought Contingency Plans
- Water conservation funding-especially as part of implementation of 2012 State Water Plan
- Providing the Water Conservation Advisory Council the ability to make legislative, policy, and funding recommendations in their legislative reports
- Sales Tax Holiday for water efficient products
- Funding for the state's Water IQ public awareness program

The next item on the agenda was a presentation from Calvin Finch, Texas Water Resources Institute. He discussed an idea paper entitled Texas Guide to Estimating Irrigation Water Needs of Landscaping Plants. The idea paper and power point presentation can be found on the Council's webpages at : <http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/agendas/index.htm>

The Council scheduled the following dates for upcoming meetings of the Water Conservation Advisory Council:

- Thursday May 9, 2013 at 9:30am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Austin Field Office.
- Wednesday June 26, 2013 at 9:30am. Meeting to be held at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Austin Field Office.

A calendar link to upcoming events is available on the Council's homepage [www.savetexaswater.org](http://www.savetexaswater.org)  
The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.