

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday June 8, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

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>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman	<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz
<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker	<i>Refining & Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Karl Fennessey
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	C.E. Williams	<i>Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture</i>	Kelly Hall
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Cindy Loeffler	<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer
<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe	<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Luana Buckner
<i>Electric Generation</i>	---	<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Richard Egg
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	---	<i>TWDB</i>	Robert Mace
<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	Gene Montgomery	<i>TCEQ</i>	Scott Swanson
<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	Hughes Abell	<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Steven Bednarz
<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Janet Adams	<i>Higher Education</i>	----
<i>Water Control & Improvement Districts</i>	---	<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Wayne Halbert
<i>River Authorities</i>	Alternate Denise Hickey		

At 10:00 am the meeting was called to order by the presiding officer, C.E. Williams. The first item on the agenda was the approval of previous Council minutes. The minutes were approved without discussion. The floor was opened for public comment for which there was none.

Council support staff, Vanessa Escobar, updated the Council on updates to the Council website (www.savetexaswater.org). At this time, Board staff will go forward with gradual updates to the website. New pages and enhancements to the website were proposed, including Best Management Practices (BMP), Conservation Case Studies, and Awards and Recognition in Conservation web pages. With the recent reorganization of the workgroups, there will be some updates to content and links on the new workgroups. It was also suggested that the stakeholder overview documents be posted for each workgroup on the website. Posting the BMP Guide on the website was discussed. The BMP Guide would be posted in PDF format with each BMP being a separate PDF document. BMPs will be organized by water user groups. A Conservation Successes link would link the user to a PDF that they could fill out and submit to the Council. The information provided on this form would be included in the Case Studies area of the website. A Public Awareness Efforts form would be available on the home page to gather information about successful public awareness efforts. This form will allow us to collect information year round to be included in the legislative reports every two years. The Awards and Recognition in Conservation web page would include an article about award winners in each of the three categories.

The discussion then focused on the title of the Council's recognition award. Vanessa Escobar made the point that the Council may benefit from coming up with one name that will be common among all three awards because this would give consistency and recognition of the award across the three sectors in

which the award is given (municipal, industrial, and agriculture water conservation). Following the discussion, the Council decided on Save Texas Water Blue Legacy Award as the title for the conservation recognition award. A discussion regarding linking to other conservation awards websites from the Council's Awards and Recognition in Conservation web page followed. The Council settled on the idea of one link on the Awards and Recognition in Conservation web page that would link to another page with a list of conservation awards across the State.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion regarding the process for updates to the BMP Guide. Vanessa provided a general overview of other BMP Guides around the country and a proposed outline for the updated BMP Guide. The Council discussed the importance of creating a structure and a schedule to update the BMP Guide. Robert Mace suggested to first focus on updating existing BMPs and then focusing on new BMPs. C.E. Williams suggested that each workgroup could create their own schedule to accomplish BMP updates. Kelly Hall highlighted the importance of ensuring coinciding progress in each workgroup. The Council discussed the importance of subgroups and stakeholder involvement to tackle specific BMPs and discussed at which point stakeholders would be brought into the process. The Council reached a consensus that stakeholders would be more likely to engage once there was a specific product on which to comment or update, and C.E. Williams suggested engaging stakeholders on updating existing BMPs. The Council had a break out session during lunch to discuss how this work would be delegated within each workgroup.

A new Institutional and Commercial workgroup was proposed and approved by the Council. Bill Hoffman was approved to be the workgroup chair. Board staff will draft a stakeholder overview document for the new workgroup and provide it to the Council at the September meeting.

The Council proceeded to discuss the Review of Water Conservation BMP Guides handout provided. A discussion of how to link voluntary BMP Guide as a resource to those completing Water Conservation Plans, the Council concluded the idea of Model Plans would be a good way to do this. Multiple Model Plans based on the size of water utilities and whether the utility is wholesale or retail. The Council decided to have a list of existing BMPs to work on by the September meeting at which point there will be more information regarding the Board's resources to help the Council and will assign individual BMPs.

C.E. Williams opened the floor to discussion regarding relevant bills in the 82nd Legislature. SB 181 creates a process in which the Board, TCEQ and the Council will coordinate to develop a GPCD metric for municipal water conservation and is also related to the calculation and reporting of water usage and conservation by municipalities and water utilities. HB 3090 changed the requirement for the Water Loss Audit to be completed once every year instead of once every 5 years for those entities that receive funding from the Board. HB 2507 makes it a Class C Misdemeanor for an unlicensed irrigator to install an irrigation system. The Sunset Bill also directs the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and the Council to develop a GPCD metric.

The next item on the agenda was the stakeholder overview documents. Vanessa Escobar discussed the latest updates to these documents based on feedback received during workgroup conference calls. The Council decided these documents are ready to be shared on the website. The Stakeholder List was referenced and a discussion regarding how to initiate communication with stakeholders followed. The stakeholder list Vanessa drafted will be a living document and be the master list. As stakeholders are added, Council members should send contact information to Vanessa so she can update the list. The topic of Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) as stakeholders was raised. C.E. Williams requested

that Board staff highlight which members within each RWPG are relevant to contact. C.E. Williams suggested we send a letter to each RWPG chair and stakeholders explaining the Council's work and let the chair and stakeholders reply as to whether they have interest in Council activities and would like to receive further communication. Karen Guz suggested that TWDB staff draft a brief article regarding the Council's efforts and send it to each RWPG to be shared with their groups and the perhaps include in their newsletter.

The next item on the agenda was an update of each workgroup activities. Richard Egg discussed that the Agricultural workgroup discussed the need to focus more on irrigation instead of livestock and the workgroup discussed ideas for BMPs and other metrics to consider for agriculture water users. Gene Montgomery briefed the Council on the Industrial workgroup's efforts to identify the largest water user sectors (mining, steam electric, chemical manufacturing, refining, food, and paper) and to contact the Texas Association of Business to see what types of associations represent these sectors. Karen Guz briefed the Council on the Municipal workgroup activities to break into subgroups to delegate tasks and identify leaders in conservation in those areas. Denise Hickey updated the Council on the Public Awareness workgroup activities to develop a more consistent application and review process for the recognition award.

C.E. Williams asked for nominations for a new chair for the Agriculture workgroup. Hughes Abell nominated Richard Egg and he accepted the position.

Vanessa Escobar reminded the Council that the nominations for open Council seats must be submitted by June 24. As of June 8, nominations had not yet been received for the TCEQ, TWDB, TDA and municipalities seats.

Council members offered announcements at this time. Gene Montgomery noted the Comptroller's magazine *Fiscal Notes* is available for free online and has a list of state government publication but the TWDB is not on this list. He suggested Board staff look into the possibility of including TWDB and WCAC information on this list as a resource, at the least add websites to the magazine's resources. Carole Baker announced the Alliance for Water Efficiency conducted an energy-water workshop in Washington D.C. The blueprint is now available on the Alliance's website. Wayne Halbert announced he had flyers for the Irrigation Expo this December where the Council's agricultural recognition award will be given.

The Council confirmed the September 1 meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office. The Council also set a meeting on November 2 at 10:00 a.m. at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Field Office. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.