

Texas Section AWWA
Water Conservation & Reuse Division
Meeting Minutes - Austin
August 28, 2007

1. Welcome and Introductions – Roger Schenk

2. April meeting minutes: April meeting minutes were approved without any changes or corrections.

3. Alliance for Water Efficiency update - Carole Baker gave an update on the newly formed Alliance which is aimed at representing and encouraging the water efficiency community nationwide to work together to improve water use efficiency. Some of the goals include the following: to test and research new products and technologies for water conservation, to provide training workshops and certification for conservation planners and consumer education. Chicago was chosen as the Headquarters for the organization and will be looking to start fundraising effort by targeting foundations, utilities and others for charter sponsorship.

4. WC&R Division Elections - Chairperson, Roger Schenk, elected by acclamation; Vice-Chair, Jennifer Nations, elected by acclamation; Secretary, Juan Soulas, elected by acclamation

5. National AWWA Conservation committee – Lloyd Hathcock gave an update on the growth and need of water conservation and efficiency nationwide and also reported that the AWWA national committee is looking forward to working with the Alliance—The Waterwise website is to be co-run by AWWA & the Alliance; Also reported on the possibility of working with a university in Texas, perhaps A& M or Texas State, to develop a conservation curriculum for a conservation professional certificate.

6. 210 Reuse Rulemaking General Permit - Roger Schenk gave an update on creating waste water treatment centers to reclaim water near facilities where the water is needed, such as golf courses, etc. This would eliminate the need for double piping infrastructure. Some concerns have been expressed, such as what is an appropriate buffer zone for such a facility, by the TCEQ.

7. Water IQ-Colorado River media Presentation – Nora Mullarkey played radio spots created by the LCRA and Austin Water Utility that portray the Colorado River as a personality beseeching listeners to use water wisely for its survival.

8. Legislative Update - Carole Baker, John Sutton, and Scott Swanson gave a summary of the bills enacted into law:

SB3 and HB4: The bills' provisions generally overlap. Basically they promote water conservation through the creation of a Water Conservation Advisory Council; requires utilities with more 3,300 connections to develop a conservation plan; provides priority funding for entities that have achieved high conservation goals. To receive funding cities must demonstrate water savings/conservation-- evaluations of programs will be based on BMP guidelines, and what is reasonable.

HB 1656: Gives cities the ability to enforce ordinances into the ETJ; also created a new licensing program to be developed by TCEQ for irrigation inspectors.

9. TWDB-Water Conservation Advisory Council – John Sutton gave a brief overview of the recently created Advisory Council made up of 23 members from across the state and of various backgrounds including state and federal agencies, municipal, agricultural, etc. One of the council's goals includes developing common language/tools for evaluation and cost benefit analysis across the state.

10. Discussion of future WC & R Division Workshop: general discussion of ideas for workshops: rules changes, 11039 Texas Water Code pro-data distribution of wholesale water (there may be a misinterpretation of the idea floating around the state), “How to develop a conservation plan” for utilities with greater than 3300 connections that are now required to provide a plan under newly passed legislation.

11. Future Conferences: Water Reuse Symposium, Sept. 9-11 in Tampa Bay; WFTEC, Oct in San Diego; AWWA Climate change, Nov. 15-16 in New Orleans, Sustainable Water Sources: Conservation & Resources Planning, Feb 10-13, Reno NV, Texas AWWA April, San Antonio; TWDB, Water Summit, Dec 2-4 in San Antonio.

12. Roundtable: Members gave an update on the work they are doing around Texas and the nation for water conservation.

13. Next meeting Date – November 13, 2008 at the San Marcos Activity Center, Rm. 3 in San Marcos, TX. More details to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juan Soulas, Secretary