

TWCA Legislative Committee
March 20, 2024 – 10am
LCRA Dachau Center
3505 Montopolis Dr., Austin, TX 78744

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Overview of Committee purpose and scope
3. Adoption of Committee rules and procedures
4. List of Issues Submitted by Committee Members. Committee members suggested many issues for the committee's consideration/subcommittee creation, including:

Infrastructure and Funding:

- i. Secure additional water infrastructure funding. (Darrell Nichols, Justin Yancy, Jason Pierce)
- ii. Additional flood Infrastructure funding. (Tina Petersen)
- iii. Broaden TWDB financial assistance tools to lessen the cost of future growth on current customers, encourage replacement of existing infrastructure, and clarify financing of ASR projects. (Darrell Nichols)
- iv. Establish incentives to promote conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater. (Gary Westbrook)
- v. Establish incentives to encourage desalination along the coast to free up surface water inland. (Gary Westbrook)
- vi. Establish a new category of funding for communities with a population under 5,000. (Travis Pruski)
- vii. Create & fund a new Groundwater Research and Science Fund to fund local science/groundwater monitoring. (Vanessa Puig-Williams)
- viii. Replenish funding for the Ag. Water Conservation Fund. (Wayne Halbert, Troy Allen)
- ~~ix. Create a statewide groundwater well plugging program. (Mike Pyburn) *Issue Withdrawn*~~
- x. Create funding options for artificial drainage systems. (Rolando Vela)

Regionalization and Growth:

- xi. Annexation laws and creation of special districts/promoting regionalization. (Kevin Ward)
- xii. Evaluate tools for GCDs to enforce permit limits or curtail unauthorized groundwater production. (Brian Sledge, ~~Vanessa Puig-Williams~~)
- xiii. Evaluate tools for retail public water utilities or IOUs to enforce drought restrictions. (~~Vanessa Puig-Williams~~ Emily Rogers)
- xiv. Require developers to look at economic feasibility of sustainable infrastructure (reuse, bioswales, alternative power generation). (Auggie Campbell)

Surface Water:

- xv. Evaluate changes to state permit requirements to optimize water projects. (Emily Rogers)
- xvi. Impact of domestic & livestock reservoir exemptions. (Lyn Clancy)

Groundwater:

- xvii. Better define “waste” and “beneficial use” of groundwater. (Gary Westbrook, ~~Vanessa Puig-Williams~~)
- xviii. Storage and transport of groundwater via surface water rivers/streams. (Lyn Clancy)
- xix. Use of groundwater for vanity ponds. (Ty Embrey)
- xx. Review of statutory provisions relating to the identification of brackish groundwater production zones and potential refinement of the requirement that zones not be located in areas with injection/disposal wells. (Hope Wells)
- xxi. Evaluate how GCDs address large production projects. (Greg Ellis)
- xxii. Evaluate whether to allow opportunity for public comment on the current DFC at the beginning of the 5-year evaluation process (instead of the end), including alternatives the public want investigated. (Greg Ellis)
- xxiii. Evaluate whether the DFC appeal process should address the next round of DFC evaluation instead of invalidating the most recently adopted DFC. (Greg Ellis)

Data:

- xxiv. Update water availability models for remaining river basins. (Tony Smith, Justin Yancy, Jason Pierce)
- xxv. Better alignment of water reuse data between TWDB and TCEQ. (Elizabeth Fazio-Hale)
- xxvi. Require TWDB to develop a data point to counterbalance TERS, such as Total Estimated Preservation Volume. (Carlos Rubinstein, Vanessa Puig-Williams)

Other:

- xxvii. Clarification of terms in HB 3810 (88th) regarding notice to TCEQ of unplanned conditions leading to an outage or certain other notices. (Hope Wells)
- xxviii. Create an option for state road signs for watersheds/recharge zones. (Andrew Weir)
- b. Additional issues for discussion, if any
 - i. Clarify the legal authority water utilities have to establish suspensions or moratoriums. (Ty Embrey)

- 5. Next Steps: Electronic Vote, subcommittees, and future meetings
- 6. Other business

Thank you to our lunch sponsors!

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