

BRAZOS WATERMASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5/21/2015 MEETING MINUTES

BWAC Members present:

Morriss Barney, Texas Municipal Power Agency
Scott Blaser, Palo Pinto MWD #1
Brad Brunett, Brazos River Authority
Timothy D. Finley, Dow Chemical Company
Gene Fisseler, NRG Texas, LLC
Robert George, Irrigator
Tommy Hodges, Alcoa
David Sauer, Gulf Coast Water Authority
Gary Spicer, Luminant Power
Rodney Stephens, Irrigator
Kevin Taylor, Somervell County Water District
Nicole Torralva, City of Temple
Jenna Walker, City of Waco
Brent Wheeler, Irrigator

BWAC Members absent with prior notice:

Sherie Burnette, Irrigator

BWAC Members absent without prior notice:

None

TCEQ Staff present introduced:

Amy Settemeyer (TCEQ Watermaster Section Manager),
Molly Mohler (Watermaster),

Jillian Huff (Administrative Assistant),
Kaitlyn Colunga (Stephenville Deputy),
Nancy Ragland (Waco Deputy),
Michaela McCown (Waco Deputy),
Guy Falzarano (Lake Jackson Deputy), and
Cindy Hooper (Liaison),
Steven Dyer (Stephenville Deputy),

Guests Present:

Jordan Furnans - Consultant
Brent Lock - Irrigator Navasota Area
Jay Bragg - Associate Director Texas Farm Bureau

Primary Meeting Topic: Bylaws Review and Adoption

1:29 Brought to order by Gene Fisseler, BWAC Committee Chair

- BWAC Members and all in the room introduced themselves.

1:40 Meeting minutes from 4/2/2015 reviewed and approved.

1:41 Molly Mohler provided overall staff report update

- Brazos Watermaster program is fully staffed.
- Staff has contacted 178 individual rights holder to date.
- Working to hit the ground running with program the 1st week in June.
- Staff is working to contact additional rights holders. Lots of leg work involved in reaching small volume users.
- After some discussion, Watermaster staff confirmed that contact has been made with the largest water rights holders.
- Staff indicated efforts will be ongoing to track down the roughly 800 remaining water rights holders that need to be engaged.
- TCEQ staff indicated that when the watermaster program on the Concho was implemented, it took some time to track down all the users but at roughly the two year mark, the program was pretty stable with good engagement by all.
- Various questions about implementation and contacting users were addressed.
- TCEQ Staff indicated that, once program is implemented, the expectation will be the declarations are made weekly by e-mail when flows on the river are high and daily when flows are low and, if necessary, to get approval to divert based on direct dialogue with the watermaster.

Each deputy provided a brief update on activities.

2:27 Budget Update

- Draft budget is routing through TCEQ.
- Expected to be available to share with BWAC members in coming week or two.
- Anticipated operation cost for program is approximately \$800 M.
- Fee assessment initially will be based on a 80-85% return. It is expected that return rate will increase as more water rights holders are contacted.
- Rough estimate of rate will be 17 cents per AF for Municipal, Industrial and Power and 13.5 cents per AF for agricultural users.
- Operation cost covers 6 vehicles, computers, salaries, portable meters and development of program software – start-up costs not recurring annually.
- Expect to have BWAC budget approval meeting the 1st or 2nd week of July
- Budget will go to TCEQ commissioners for approval in September.
- Fiscal Year is September 1 through August 31

2:45 Review, Finalize and Approve Bylaws

- Gene Fisseler initiated review and discussion of proposed Bylaws
- Some clarifying questioning.
- Primary discussion centered on rotating chair position in a smart and practical way and on making sure all interests are appropriately represented in both opportunity to serve in the chair position and in representation on the nominating committee
- 3:10 Move to accept Bylaws as written. Movement Seconded. Movement to accept as written approved unanimously.
- Note: Requests to note in minutes the general desire to amend the by-laws in the future to rotate chair position from north to south in a practical manner.
- Note: Request to note in minutes the general desire to in the future establish criteria for the participation on the nominating committee to assure various groups are appropriately represented.

3:14 New Business

- Brent Wheeler raised question regarding what sort of outreach is planned with specific intent of getting all rights holders engaged. Watermaster staff indicated visit to diversion location and leaving contact information for deputies to be contacted if they do not make contact during the site visit
- Tim Finley raised question regarding potential to share information on the WEB regarding expected reliability of individual water rights so the various users have a better understanding of what to expect from a water availability perspective. After discussion, efforts to increase knowledge of both BWAC members and basins water rights holders was viewed to be a valuable topic for consideration at a future meeting.
- Open discussion item raised about "What happens in a "Call" now that there is a Watermaster?" Staff response was that more junior users will likely get shut off in tiers in an effort to satisfy a senior call rather than an across the board curtailment. Concept of pumping schedules was briefly discussed.
- Two possible dates for next meeting were discussed, July 8th and July 16th.

3:33 Motion was made to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded and approved.

Adopted and Approved in Session of the Brazos Watermaster Advisory

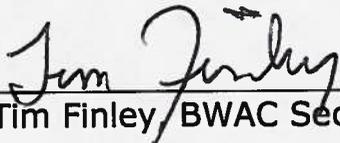
Committee on the 16th day of July, 2015.



Gene Fisseler, BWAC Chair



Brent Wheeler, BWAC Vice-Chair



Tim Finley, BWAC Secretary