

# DWA WG Meeting Summary

January 11, 2000

## Welcome and Introductions - Charles Maddox

Reviewed agenda and added several items to it. We will also be discussing drought revisions, lead and copper review, the spill notification rule, staff guidance, and a teleconference. Ron Pedde, Director of the Water Permits and Resource Management Division was introduced.

Mr. Pedde said that he could be reached at (512)239-2217 if anyone had any problems or issues to discuss with him. He told the group that while the TNRCC is still in the process of reorganization, he definitely wanted to continue with this advisory group. He would like to see more stakeholder groups like this one. The water quality group needs to be patterned after DWA WG. Water rights needs a group as well. He wants to look at water holistically. The spill rule impacts both wastewater and drinking water. Drought impacts water rights. Mr. Pedde also wants more sharing of resources within the division. There were no questions.

## Item 1 - SRF Update (TWDB) - Bruce Crawford

- ! Mailed out SRF Solicitation Letter - Response due back to TWDB by Feb. 15
- ! Call Patricia Loving, MBP coordinator, for a copy of EPA's guidelines
- ! FY1998 Funding - all funding spent except \$1,400,000 which will roll over if not spent
- ! FY1999/2000 Funding Cycle- Due date for applications is April 1
- ! Approximately \$120.8 million is available for FY99/2000
- ! FY2001 budget is \$50 million
- ! \$102.3 million spent to date
- ! Disadvantaged communities received \$27 million- small communities received \$12.4 million
- ! Approval for SWP from EPA- city of Houston and Pecan Acres

## Item 2 - CCR Update - Barbara Henry

- ! 92% of water systems in compliance - about 340 not in compliance
- ! State Rule should be published in the Texas Register around March 17
- ! Issues from public forum- duration of interconnects, second language requirement, special population language placement, waivers
- ! Certification letters and copies of CCR due Aug 1
- ! League of Women Voters is conducting training for consumers around the state
- ! TNRCC should be sending out drafts in April
- ! Sparky Anderson(CWA) asked how TNRCC could help systems keep reports simple
- ! Mr. Anderson wants more public input and consumer education
- ! Barbara Henry said consumer education was important, but would take time

### **Item 3 - Groundwater Certification - SB1323 - Kelley Mills**

- ! SB 1323 - Consumers' protection - Ensures consumers that enough ground water will be available when they purchase property
- ! The act is drafted for local government use- requires certification signed by an engineer that says that adequate groundwater is available
- ! Contact Kelley Mills at (512)239-4512 for information or questions
- ! Question: How is information submitted by the engineer? TNRCC has a 3 page fill-in-the-blank form
- ! Mark Zeppa asked if the development community shouldn't look at other sources instead of drilling new wells all over the state

### **Item 4 - Update on SWAP - Brad Cross**

- ! Source Water Assessment Strategy
  - ▶ Received comments and needs in August
  - ▶ Had Forum meetings October 14
  - ▶ Plan approved by EPA November 5, 1999
  - ▶ Implementation begins
- ! Draft Database Structure completed
- ! League of Women Voters is helping to educate consumers on SWAP
- ! Public forum will get plan Feb. 5 and meet in the spring

### **Item 5 - Surface Water Treatment Rule & Disinfection By-Product Rule Update - Jack Schulze**

- ! Comments back form legal on draft rule
- ! Delay with impact statements and fiscal notes
- ! Briefing with Maddox, Pedde, and Leigh Ing
- ! Chief Clerk on March 3
- ! Texas register by April 3
- ! Public comment for 60 days
- ! Rule content:
  - ▶ Drop the turbidity level to .3 before the deadline
  - ▶ Remove total organic compounds by 2002
  - ▶ THM AND HAA5 40/30 respectively
  - ▶ Utilities have to meet the THM deadlines
  - ▶ Require surface water plants to have a computer and fill out forms
- ! Surface water rules have a change in operator certification
- ! Changes mad in cross connection control for clarification
- ! EPA doing a crosswalk on the rules
- ! Spreadsheet for monthly operating reports
- ! Send spreadsheets to some systems (all sizes)
- ! Small systems will use old forms until 2002

- ! Long term goal for utilities to use the Internet
- ! AWWA - August 4 Teleconference on SWTR-MDBP
- ! Mike Howe of AWWA - Teleconference will present rule and have a round table discussion on the rule
- ! Teleconference will be presented in 11 sites in Texas
- ! Cost \$50 for members and \$65 for nonmembers
- ! Work with small systems in late 2000 on filling out forms

### **Item 6 - Operator Certification Rules Update - Bill Hupp**

- ! New revised A examination ready for A&M TWUA school
- ! Proposed Certification Rule revisions
- ! The BPAT and CSI programs will have renewal requirements and both will be changed to certificates of competency
- ! The Resident.WTO program will be upgraded (fees, enforcement, renewals)
- ! All operators performing process control will need to be certified
- ! A and B certificates will be valid for 3 years as opposed to 5 and 8
- ! By 2003, all surface water plants will require a B surface water operator and all surface water plant operators will need a management course
- ! Certification fees will double in cost and be commensurate with WW fees
- ! All water operations companies will be required to register
- ! Job Analysis project completed - incorporated some results in rules
- ! Proposed rule for Texas Register by April or May 2000

Question: Was there an advisory workgroup for rules? Yes . There is an Operator Certification Advisory Committee.

### **Item 7 - Sunset Review Update - Terri Seales**

- ! Sunset Review determines the need for services
- ! Effectiveness and efficiency of the agency is evaluated
- ! Reviews agency's track record on public participation
- ! 10 Commissioners - Fred Bosse (D) Houston is the chairman
- ! TNRCC Sunset Report is 400 pages - Executive Summary is 13 pages
- ! Sunset staff will contact TNRCC staff through May
- ! Hearings in June
- ! Public comment to recommendations
- ! Legislation must be filed and passed during Sept. 2002 or TNRCC expires
- ! Manager Jay Schmidt can be contacted at JaySchmidt.sunset.state.tx.us or (512) 305-9057
- ! Public Hearing Feb. 3 to determine status
- ! Sunset members may be contacted directly at <http://www.sunset.state.tx.us> or you may contact your own representative directly
- ! Significant policy issues

- ! Funding and Fee Flexibility
- ! Focus operations
- ! Utilities and Districts Administration should be at PUC
- ! Comments: This has been done before (PUC) and it did not work
- ! For a copy of the report contact Terri Seales at (512)239-1225 or [www.sunset.state.tx.us](http://www.sunset.state.tx.us)

### **Item 8 - Update on GIS Mapping - Robin Adorno**

- ! Contract with TNRIS to digitize
- ! Retiring Mylar maps for CCN areas-now using GIS
- ! 59 counties solely GIS
- ! TNRCC wants to make data available over the Web
- ! SW Texas entered information for Districts (1300 Districts Total) but could only do 800 because of missing information
- ! Goal is to put information on smart map on the Web
- ! Important to know what system the data is in whether requesting or submitting information
- ! TNRCC is using TXDOT urban files for digitizing
- ! Question: What maps should CCN applicants request? TNRCC working on templates for these requests

### **Item 9 - Cross Connection Control - Bill Hupp**

- ! New proposed rules for these devices
- ! Better handled enforcement
- ! Plumbers examining board helped with the testers issues
- ! 4,000 people out doing testing
- ! Encouraged to take a close look at the tested rules

### **Item 10 - Natural Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) - Tony Bennett**

- ! Current standards - Gross Alpha @15pCi/l & Combined Radium 226 & 228 @5pCi/l
- ! Systems must treat, remove and dispose of the radium
- ! Propose rule to inject the radioactive waste
- ! An alternate source of water can be an answer if it is available
- ! Sending the waste downstream through wastewater is an option
- ! No licensing for disposal of radioactive materials
- ! Three methods are possibilities
  - ▶ Treat water and put it in a leach field
  - ▶ Treat water and remove radiochemicals and let water go into a sewer system- higher concentration in wastewater in summer
  - ▶ Injecting waste materials- isolate into an injection well- need support from DWAWG since radiochems are sensitive

- ! Mr. Holbert, city of Houston, asked if systems could use an alternate source for dilution of the waste, but noted that a storage tank was needed to blend the water
- ! Mr. Pedde commented that it is not economically feasible for this waste, and asked about other wastes that could be combined
- ! Sparky Anderson asked about TNRCC's comments on proposed EPA rules on Radon
- ! TNRCC is reviewing at Radon at this time

**Next Meeting: March 28, 2000**

Location: Red Lion Hotel, 512/323-5466

Topics:

Drought

Lead/Copper

Radon

Spill Notification Rule