Irrigation Advisory Council (IAC) Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2018

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building A, 2nd Floor, Conference Room 202, Austin, Texas 78753

Call to Order (John DeCell) at 9:00 am. Roll Call: John DeCell, Robert Evans, Brooke Furrh, Phillip Hathaway, Justin Lewis, Valerie Miller Ph.D, Micah Reed, Paul Ward, Mark Warden

Introductions of the IAC and audience were made.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: November 9, 2017 minutes were approved. Justin Lewis motioned to approve the minutes and Phil Hathaway seconded.

TCEQ Reports

1. **Office of Waste, Permitting and Registration Support Division, Occupational Licensing Section (OLS)**

    a. Linda Saladino presented an update from the OLS program
        i. Update on program actions in FY2017 and FY2018.
        ii. TEEX memorandum of agreement for exam locations
            1. OLS is requesting justification on increase on registration prices.
        iii. OLS tracks participation trends with exams and notes an overall decrease.
            1. Feedback is being exam feedback and thus far only positive feedback has been received.
        iv. Number of license applications is also trending down likely due to deficiencies.
        v. Training Providers
            1. HB 1508 requires training providers to inform students that criminal history checks are mandatory to receive a professional occupational license.
            2. Students are encouraged to contact OLS for any questions.
        vi. Exam Plan
            1. OLS will be working with IAC to updating the exam plan.
        vii. OLS will have four-hour track at the 2018 TCEQ Trade Fair for training providers.

viii. Occupational Licensing Project will be a fully integrated web based application in which licensing applications, background checks, payments and supplemental forms can be electronically submitted to the agency.
   1. Project is on schedule for a deployment in 2019.
   2. IAC offered to assist with design and requirements.

ix. Reciprocity
   1. TCEQ must have memorandum of agreement with any other states in order recognize out of state landscape irrigation licenses.
   2. Due to limit resources to pursue further, request to suspend any further consideration.
      a. Motion was made to approve the suspension and seconded.

x. Affidavit
   1. OLS is requesting feedback from IAC on Irrigation Inspector License Affidavit and Landscape Irrigator/Technician License Affidavit

2. Office of Water Supply Division, Backflow and Cross-Connection Control

a. Alfonso Fuentes presented an update from the cross-connection control program.
   i. The Cross-Connection control program recently had staff turnover, replacing two experienced staff members with two new employees
   ii. Cross-Connection Staff provided support at stakeholder meetings
   iii. Cross-Connection Control Subcommittee Meeting will be held on March 1st 2018

3. Irrigator Emeritus Recognition

a. Gene Reagan presented an Honorary License to Johnnie Madison and Jim Pentecost. Doug Goodwin presented an Honorary License to David McCullough.

4. Update on Chapter 344 Rule Petition

a. Stakeholder Meetings were held.
   i. Comment period ends February 28th, 2018
   ii. Feedback was encouraged regarding any items under Chapter 344

5. Tips for Hiring a Licensed Irrigator

a. Received tips created by Paul Ward and John DeCell
b. John DeCell will compile the two sets of tips and send to the IAC members for comments and suggestions prior to the next meeting.

6. **IAC Committee Reports**

a. Education, Training and Licensing Committee (Philip Hathaway)
    i. The Committee is working with Take Care of Texas (TCOT) on developing short web videos for customers.
        i. The first two videos will cover Winterization of a System and Spring Start Up
        ii. Next video recommendations include water conservation and system controls
        iii. Can the Water Sense EPA Program be incorporated in these videos (TAMU)?
    ii. Fairness in standards in training
        i. What are the requirements?
        ii. Fairness in private training vs tradeshows
            1. Not held to the same standards
    iii. Final Design
        i. Should the recommended size change from 24x36 design to 11x17 design
            1. Justin Lewis has an example and will share with the rest of the IAC

b. Enforcement, Planning and Legislative Committee (Mark Warden)
    i. Revising Survey
        i. Send a different route to reach water providers
            1. TX Municipal League
    ii. Send Survey Questions to Backflow Associations
        i. Justin Lewis will send the information to the IAC

7. **Individuals Wishing to Address the Council that have signed-up**

a. None

8. **Meeting Recap**

a. Suggested items for the May 10, 2018 Agenda
    i. Elizabeth Vanderwerken requested a presentation on new technology
        i. Sensor based weather controllers
    ii. Conservation education

iii. Rule update
iv. City water schedules
    i. Runtimes for entire year
    ii. Training
v. Education for end user management of system

b. List of meeting dates for this year
    i. May 10th
    ii. August 9th
    iii. November 8th

Adjournment

Justin Lewis motioned to adjourn and Brooke Furrh seconded the motion. The next IAC meeting is May 10, 2018.