

Irrigation Advisory Council (IAC Minutes)

Date: Thursday, August 09, 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, Justin Lewis, Brooke Furrh, Robert Evans, Paul Ward, Valerie Miller, Micah Reed. Philip Hathaway and Mark Warden were absent.

Introductions of the IAC, TCEQ Staff and audience were made.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: May 10, 2018 minutes were approved with no changes. Motion to approve was made by John DeCell, motion seconded by Justin Lewis

1. IAC/TCEQ Discussions

a. Charter

- i. James Hemple will create a draft charter for discussion at the next IAC Meeting. TCEQ should also put together a welcome packet before the new members join the council in February. Some members have felt lost in the past.
- ii. Implement Robert's Rules of Order for consistency.

b. Annual Report

- i. James Hemple will revisit 30 TAC 5.11 to see what is required to be in the annual report and work with John DeCell to create the report by the end of this year.

c. Committees versus workgroups with public participation

- i. Discussion regarding dissolving current committees and creating workgroups where the TCEQ and IAC can have more public participation.
- ii. Some of the discussed workgroups include: Water Conservation / Efficiency, Education, Enforcement, Public Outreach, Public Relations, Municipalities, and Hot Topics / Issues.

2. Working Lunch Session - TCEQ Reports

- a. TCEQ Office of Waste, Permitting & Registration Support, Occupational Licensing
 - i. Irrigation plot plans will be sent to the training providers of the Basic Irrigator Licensing course and IAC for feedback. Each training provider should use the proposed revised plan to complete a design and provide TCEQ with feedback related to this plan. Once finalized, each instructor will be required to provide a completed design to TCEQ using the revised plan. No response from an approved provider will result in suspension of their training approval until this documentation of competency and rule compliance is received and evaluated.
 - ii. Licensing mentioned that we could use the Take Care of Texas Program (TCOT) to send out information like the requirement to have a license to do irrigation work.
- b. Office of Compliance & Enforcement, Program Support Section
 - i. IAC Solicitations for IAC nominees were due July 31, 2018. TCEQ will take their recommendations for new members to agenda on October 31, 2018.
 - ii. There was a discussion about using some kind of media to broadcast these meetings to the public. Justin Lewis recommended Skype because the supply houses are ready to stream these meetings in order to stay informed. Linda Saladino mentioned that we might be able to use the agency's agenda room like other advisory groups do. James Hemple will look into this.
 - iii. Discussion regarding TCEQ Regional Offices doing investigations and be subject matter experts

3. Presentation on Rain/Freeze Shutoff Technology - Hunter Industries

4. Public Comments

- i. Orientation and bylaws are a good thing.
- ii. TCEQ and IAC should look at providing updates in irrigation association's newsletters.
- iii. There is an issue of Irrigators and pool builders tying into each other's piping.

- iv. TCEQ and IAC should look at putting together a cheat sheet reminding irrigation inspectors, at minimum, what to look for when doing an inspection.

5. Meeting Recap

- i. TCEQ will create an IAC email address to be used for outreach and see what we can do to write updates in irrigation association newsletters.
- ii. TCEQ will create a draft charter for next meeting.
- iii. John DeCell and James Hemple will work on the yearly report in order for it to be completed by the end of the year.
- iv. Valerie Miller and James Garvin will send links to videos and if we find any that are relevant to irrigation, we will ask TCOT about using third party videos.

Adjournment. Justin Lewis moved to adjourn, Valerie Miller seconded the motion. The next IAC meeting is Thursday November 08, 2018 at TCEQ Central Office.