

# **IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL (IAC) MEETING MINUTES**

**August 17, 2005**

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. C, Room 131E, Austin, Texas  
9:00 a.m.**

## **Attendees:**

Council Members: William Gossett (Chairman), Carole Baker, Jerry Lewis, David C. A. Coleman, Don Weiss, Michael Murr, Doug Goodwin

TCEQ Staff: Gene Reagan, Sandra Hernández, Joseph Strouse, Wanda Kurio, Linda Saladino

Visitors: David Brannan, John Morton, John Shideler, Gary Salas, Mike Cockayne, Keagan Kaiser

## **1. The Chairman of the Council will call the meeting to order, and recognize persons in attendance.**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gossett at approximately 0900 and introductions of attendees proceeded.

## **2. The Council will approve the minutes from the October 8, 2004 meeting.**

Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ms. Baker. The council unanimously voted to approve the minutes as they were.

## **3. The Chairman will introduce the new members of the Council.**

Mr. Gossett informed attendees of the newly appointed members of the IAC as follows: Ms. Suzanne Santo (licensed irrigator/El Paso), Mr. Goodwin (licensed irrigator/Magnolia), Mr. Murr (public member/Houston), and Mr. Carmon McCaine (public member/Lubbock)

## **4. TCEQ staff will discuss the functions of the Council.**

Ms. Sandi Hernández, Regulatory Compliance Section, TCEQ Compliance Support Division, provided attendees with an organizational chart of the TCEQ specific to the Landscape Irrigation Program within the Regulatory Compliance Section of the Compliance Support Division.

Mr. Gene Reagan, Regulatory Compliance Section, TCEQ Compliance Support Division, discussed 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 5 regarding Advisory Committees and Group. Attendees were reminded that the general provisions of the Council are outlined in Subchapter B of 30 TAC Chapter 344 and Council membership in Texas Occupations Code § 1903.151. No questions were asked by attendees.

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- 5. The Chairman will review the current subcommittees of the Council, receive reports from committees, and appoint members to committees as necessary.**

The subcommittees and the Council members were identified by Mr. Gossett as follows:

Agency Relations Committee:

Ms. Baker (Chair), Messrs. Lewis, Murr, Weiss, and Gossett

Education Committee:

Messrs. Lewis (Chair), Weiss, McCaine, and Goodwin

Water Conservation Committee:

Ms. Baker (Chair), Messrs. Murr, McCaine, and Goodwin

Legislative Committee:

Messrs. Coleman (Chair) and Lewis and Mesdames Baker, and Santo

Rules Committee:

Messrs. Weiss (Chair), McCaine, and Coleman, and Ms. Santo

Non-Council members who will provide assistance to the Council are:

Education Committee: Mr. John Decell

Water Conservation Committee: Mr. David Smith

Legislative Committee: Ms. Glenda Single

Ms. Baker informed the Council that a meeting had been held with TCEQ Chairman White to discuss revisions of 30 TAC Chapter 344 and that when Representative Puente had filed legislation to propose rule changes, Ms. Baker reported that the legislation made it through the House and Senate sign-off, but in the end Senate Bill 3 was not approved by the Speaker.

- 6. TCEQ staff will discuss current licensing functions, including license applications, examination administration, training, and any anticipated future examination revisions.**

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Ms. Wanda Kurio, Operator Licensing Section, TCEQ Compliance Support Division, informed the IAC that for the period of September 2004 - August 2005, 3,137 applications (new and renewals) were received. The breakdown of applications is as follows:

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50 Installer (New)  
96 Installer (Renewals)

710 Irrigator (New)  
2281 Irrigator (Renewals)

Ms. Kurio stated that there are a total of 5,963 Installer and Irrigator current licenses and that the number of exams that have been administered with a total of 1,143 Irrigator tests (new and retakes).

Attendees were notified that the Memorandum of Agreement with TEEEX has been renewed and that 24 testing sessions will be administered for Fiscal Year 2006 (September 1, 2005 - August 31, 2006).

Mr. Lewis asked how the Fiscal Year 2005 numbers compare to Fiscal Year 2004. Ms. Kurio stated that she did not have that information available.

Ms. Linda Saladino, Operator Licensing Section, TCEQ Compliance Support Division, informed that publication RG-373 is in the process of undergoing revision, but that changes have not yet been made. Additionally, she commented that there are no plans to revise the examinations at this time, but that if 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 30 revisions are made, the examinations and training material would need revision also.

Of note, Mr. Gossett inquired about the job vacancies within the Landscape Irrigation Program. Mr. Reagan responded by stating that 27 applications had been received for the Program Specialist I position and that the Program Specialist V position will be posting soon.

**7. TCEQ staff will discuss the status of proposed rule revisions of 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 344.**

Mr. Reagan stated to the Council that changes to Chapter 344 had been proposed and submitted, but that they were not accepted.

**8. TCEQ staff will discuss the status of revisions to 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 30.**

Mr. Reagan informed the Council that Chapter 30 had been opened for revision, but only specific to House Bill 2510. Additionally, he stated that the Houston Gulf Coast Irrigation Association (HG CIA) had petitioned the TCEQ to open the chapter for revisions that would require an irrigator seeking to obtain a license to have a high school diploma or GED. The petition was denied at the August 10, 2005 TCEQ Agenda because of the lack of evidence to support the need for the requirement and the lack of representation by HG CIA. Mr. Lewis asked if the petition could be resubmitted to TCEQ and Mr. Reagan said yes.

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**9. TCEQ staff will discuss landscape irrigation enforcement activities.**

Ms. Hernández provided the Council with an update of the enforcement activities for Fiscal Years 2004 (FY04) and 2005 (FY05) as follows:

FY04 Incidents Received - 132	FY05 Incidents Received - 211
FY04 Investigations - 51	FY05 Investigations - 85
FY04 Notice of Violations - 20	FY05 Notice of Violations - 20
FY04 Notice of Enforcement - 7	FY05 Notice of Enforcement - 35

The enforcement process was explained regarding the difference between a Notice of Violation and Notice of Enforcement.

Mr. Reagan discussed findings of an investigation conducted at a site location in Plano, Texas which involved poor design and installation resulting in a waste of water by a licensed irrigator.

Mr. Gossett expressed a desire to see an unlicensed irrigator forfeit the ability to obtain a license in the future.

**10. The Council and staff will discuss future schedules of Irrigator Advisory Council meetings.**

The Council proposed the following quarterly meeting dates:

November 16, 2005	March 22, 2006	July 25, 2006
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**11. Council, guests, and staff will discuss items of interest.**

Item was not addressed because of an unexpected water event that required evacuation of the conference room.

**12. Council will adjourn.**

Mr. Gossett made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Ms. Baker.

Prepared by: Ms. Sandra Hernández