

**BRAZOS WATERMASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7/17/2015 Meeting**

**Texas Ranger Hall of Fame**

**Meeting Minutes**

**BWAC Members present:**

Scott Blasor, Palo Pinto MWD #1  
Brad Brunett, Brazos River Authority  
Sherie Burnette, Irrigator  
Timothy D. Finley, Dow Chemical Company  
Gene Fisseler, NRG Texas Power, 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: Morriss Barney, Texas Municipal Power Agency

BWAC Members absent without prior notice: None

**TCEQ Staff present:**

Kim Wilson – TCEQ, Director, Water Availability Division,  
Kelly Mills – TCEQ, Assistant Director, Water Availability Division,  
Amy Settemeyer – TCEQ, Manager, Watermaster Section,  
Molly Mohler – TCEQ, Brazos Watermaster,  
Kaitlyn Colunga – Deputy Watermaster (Stephenville),  
Nancy Ragland – Deputy Watermaster (Waco),  
Michaela McCown – Deputy Watermaster (Waco),  
Guy Falzarano – Deputy Watermaster (Lake Jackson),  
Steven Dyer – Deputy Watermaster (Stephenville), and  
Jillian Huff – Administrative Assistant

**Guests present:** Mike Meyers, Shane Zant, Terry Reddell, Cathy Reddell, Wes Leifeste, Jordan Furnans, Ricky Garrett, Damon Boniface, Joe Cooper, Jim Farley, Kevin Naivar, Justin Tergerson

## **Primary Meeting Topic: Review Draft 2016 Budget**

Meeting was called to order by Gene Fisseler, BWAC Chair, at 2:02 pm.

### **Introductions**

- All BWAC Members, TCEQ staff, and guests introduced themselves
- Kelly Mills from TCEQ reviewed his role
- Kim Wilson from TCEQ reviewed her role

### **Minutes of May 15, 2015**

- Brent Wheeler moved to approve; Scott Blasor seconded; and, the BWAC passed the motion.

### **Water Master Staff Update**

- The Brazos Watermaster program is currently fully staffed.
- To date, staff has contacted 59% of water rights holders, up from ~30% in May.
- Watermaster Deputy contact information is now on BWAC web page.
- Approximate 130 users are submitting Declarations of Intent (DOI).
- Active diverters at present are primarily municipal, industrial and power users
- Watermaster program has received several inquiries regarding recent flood event. Staff is assessing whether it has jurisdiction.
- Each deputy provided a brief update on activities.
- BWAC members requested to understand what percent of water rights holders and what percentage of water use is represented by users who are engaged and reporting in.

### **Budget Discussions**

- TCEQ staff reported that budget had changed very little since initial discussion in May 2015.
- Proposed budget includes capital expenses for vehicles and computers required for program.
- Proposed budget for FY2016 is \$801,450.
- Staff's assumption is that in the first year, the program would receive 85% of their collections. This percentage is expected increase over next two years. Other more mature watermaster programs recover from 97-99% of rights holders.
- Assessment needed based on 85% collection is \$942,883.
- Users who do not pay initially must pay delinquent fees before they can legally divert
- Budget results in a municipal rate of \$0.20 per acre-foot and agricultural use rate of \$0.16 per acre-foot.
- Approximate cost for various users will be as follows: Bed and banks users \$0.01 per acre-foot, non-consumptive use \$0.04 per acre-foot, reuse \$0.10 per acre-foot, storage \$0.08 per acre-foot.
- A base fee of \$50 per account will also be charged.

- Indications are that next year's budget will be approximately \$150,000 less due to the fact that there will be no need to repurchase vehicles or computers next year.
- Invoices will be sent out in mid-October.
- Fiscal year is September through August.
- BWAC members and staff discussed costs associated to the Texas Watermaster Accounting System (TxWAS) software.
- BWAC members and staff discussed salaries and associated cost.
- BWAC requested TCEQ staff provide a Demo/Presentation of TxWAS program at future meeting.

#### **Budget Approval Recommendation**

- David Sauer moved to recommend approval of budget to TCEQ Commissioners as presented to BWAC by TCEQ staff; Sherie Burnette seconded; the motion passed.

#### **New Business**

- Two water rights holders shared their concerns/frustrations about cost of installing metering equipment and the complexity of daily reporting.
- Discussed next meeting and agreed to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of October with a focus on TXWAS program, Bylaws Nomination Process, and an update on program implementation.

#### **Adjournment**

Scott Blasor moved to adjourn; Brent Wheeler seconded; and the motion passed.

Attachment - Draft Brazos Master Program Budget shared at 7/16/2015

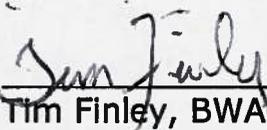
*Adopted and Approved in Session of the Brazos Watermaster Advisory  
Committee on the 15th day of October, 2015.*



Gene Fisseler, BWAC Chair



Brent Wheeler, BWAC Vice-Chair



Tim Finley, BWAC Secretary