

South Texas Water Master Advisory Committee

Minutes

7/10/13

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Chairman Mario Escobar. Everyone introduced themselves.

Steve Raabe moved and Pat Brzozowski seconded to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2012 meeting. The motion carried.

Watermaster Program Update.

Esteban (Steve) Ramos reported that some areas in the Watermaster Area had seen some rains but the critical areas had not. Mr. Ramos presented a table showing the number of site visits by Watermaster personnel in each county within the Watermaster area. He also stated the Watermaster program is on target with its performance measures.

There is a recent deputy vacancy and it is hoped to be filled in the next month or two. The position will be located in San Antonio and will serve the area west of San Antonio.

Mr. Ramos reported that approximately 60 temporary water permits have been issued for mining use in the Guadalupe-San Antonio basin. Watermaster staff has been educating contractors on the need for temporary permits to use surface water for road construction.

In response to a question, Mr. Ramos reported that the proto-type water rights operations model is still under development by a team from the University of Texas.

FY 14 Budget

Cindy Hooper presented the proposed FY14 budget. The FY14 Operating Budget needs totaled \$600,648.76. The assessment necessary based on 97.5% collection rate is \$616,050.01. Ms. Hooper noted that the LAR Capital line item increased by \$28,000.00 for the purchase of a new vehicle that was included in the legislative authorization. The Fringe line item was increased by \$12,998.00. Ms. Hooper stated that the Fringe amount is set by the Comptroller's office. She also reported that the municipal rate is proposed to be \$0.1945 and the irrigation rate is proposed to be \$0.1556.

Kenny Draper moved and Pat Brzozowski seconded to recommend approval of the FY14 Budget as presented. The motion carried.

New Members – New Expiration of Terms of Office.

Amy Settemeyer reported that Watermaster Advisory Committee members' terms expire on August 31st of odd number years. This means that the terms of all members of the South Texas Watermaster Advisory Committee expire on August 31, 2013. Mr. Ramos will send an email to the existing members to poll them on their willingness to continue serving. Mr. Ramos indicated that Con Mims with the Nueces River Authority expressed an interest in serving on the committee and that there is interest from the mining water use area also. Ms. Settemeyer reminded the committee that appointments to the committee are made by the TCEQ Executive Director.

Updates to TCEQ Enforcement Initiation Criteria

Amy Settemeyer reported that the TCEQ Commissioners requested input on proposed revisions to the Enforcement Initiation Criteria. A draft will be circulated to the committee for comments. The TCEQ hopes to begin revising the criteria either by the start of FY 14 or the start of calendar year 2014.

Performance Measures

Amy Settemeyer reported on the performance measures for the South Texas Watermaster Program. She indicated the performance measures are set by the Texas Legislature. The South Texas Watermaster Program is responsible for 8,000 diversion site investigations. The Watermaster must report the status to the legislature and explain variances from the performance measures.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the committee will be in July 2014 but it possibly could meet sooner if it wanted to convene to discuss comments to the proposed Enforcement Initiation Criteria.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.