

South Texas Water Master Advisory Committee Minutes

7/18/11

Ramiro Garcia, Area Director, welcomed the members and guests.

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 July 20, 2010 meeting. The motion carried.

Watermaster Program Overview and Update.

Ramiro Garcia reported that the South Texas Water master Program had three personnel vacancies: the South Texas Watermaster and two deputies. Mr. Garcia stated that the posting of the South Texas Watermaster position closes today.

Mr. Garcia reported that TCEQ is acting on eight priority calls throughout the state. He noted the proliferation of oil and gas well exploration. He stated that temporary permits are not sufficient to supply fracing demand and are not reliable enough. No temporary permits are being issued currently.

Mr. Garcia reported the Watermaster Program had been using an older database to track permits. The program is now using a new "Cold Fusion" program that is web-based and is working well. The maintenance of this program is now a line item in the watermaster budget.

Mr. Garcia reported the TCEQ sunset bill requires a review of non-watermaster areas every five years and the TCEQ is currently reviewing the Brazos basin.

New Members – New Expiration of Terms of Office.

Watermaster advisory committee member's 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, 2011. The current members expressed their preference for service on the committee:

Wesley Hamfft resigned and recommended Ian Taylor to replace him. The San Antonio Water System wants to continue to be on the committee but may change who they would like to serve.

All other remaining members expressed a desire to continue to serve. Bryan Serold noted that Kenny Draper with Coletto Creek Power was recommended to be a new member. Amy Settemeyer asked Mr. Draper to re-send his resume so she can submit it to the Executive Director. There are two vacancies: one municipality and one industry

Wesley Hamfft assumed the chairmanship temporarily to preside over officer elections. The officers elected were: Chairman Mario Escobar, Vice-chair Ann Kercheville and Secretary Steve Raabe.

Budget

Amy Settemeyer presented the proposed FY12 budget. The FY12 Operating Budget needs totaled \$580,540.43. The assessment necessary based on 97% collection rate is \$598,494.00. Ms. Settemeyer noted that the Professional/Technical Services line item increased by \$75,360.00 for the database maintenance. The Fringe line item was reduced by \$40,550.00. In response to a question as to why the decrease, Ms. Settemeyer responded that the Fringe amount is set by the Comptroller's office. She also reported that the South Texas Watermaster Program received two new vehicles from TCEQ at no cost to the program.

Bryan Serold moved and Frank Granieri seconded to recommend approval of the FY12 Budget as presented. The motion carried.

New Business

Pat Brzozowski asked for a report noting when deputies visit each basin, temporary permits issued and notices of violations.

Steve Raabe asked if the South Texas Watermaster is planning for the implementation of the SB3 environmental flow standards. It was reported that Kellye Rilea will be leading an internal work group to address this.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.