

Irrigator Advisory Council (IAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: August 18, 2016 Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,

12100 Park 35 Circle,

Building A, Conference Room 202, Austin, Texas 78753

Chairperson: David Kania called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

I. Roll Call: Irrigation Advisory Council:

Present: David Kania

Brooke Furrh

Philip Hathaway

Mark Froehlich

Toni Fox

John DeCell

Justin Lewis

Paul Ward

II. Agenda Topic: Consideration of the May 12, 2016 Minutes

Approval of minutes moved to the end of the meeting.

III. Agenda Topic: TCEQ Reports

- a) Jaya Zyman, P.E, Director of Permitting and Registration Support Division, explained TCEQ's proposed process to acknowledge irrigators' relevant experience to qualify for a CSI license to conduct CSI's on new irrigation systems. This path forward is being proposed by TCEQ to help irrigators, who

qualify for a CSI license, to be licensed to conduct CSIs on new irrigation systems, who had been previously exempted from this requirement under 30 TAC 290 rule. She provided three handouts for the IAC.

- b) Ismael Para, Occupational Licensing, provided the breakdown of the Irrigation Inspector, Irrigation Technician and Licensed Irrigators applications, renewals, and exams. The Occupational Licensing section has requested a report be created to obtain pass rates based on removing the retesting results from the current calculation.
- c) Richard Bosch, Cross Connection Control Program, reported the sub-committee meeting will be held on September 2nd and Irrigation is on the agenda. There is no deadline yet for RG 478.
- d) The Litigation Division reported that there are currently eight cases in litigation five of which are for advertisement. Last quarter there were two cases resolved. The serving process is difficult and some complaints cannot be followed up. The department needs to know when the advertisement occurred, a time stamp is best.
- e) Andre Clark, Office of Compliance and Enforcement, gave details on Program Support Section's Landscape Irrigation workload for the Fiscal Year to date.

IV. Agenda Topic: Jerry Lewis, guest, presented an update on backflow prevention. He discussed with the council that due to improved irrigation heads the atmospheric vacuum breaker may not provide sufficient protection. Mr. Lewis asked the council to consider removing AVBs from the list of approved assemblies for landscape irrigation.

Break

- V. Agenda Topic: John DeCell presented topics for discussion. First that the rules need to be enforced as per the House and Senate, second that the AVB needed to be eliminated from the list of approved assemblies. A motion was made to remove the AVB by Philip Hathaway and seconded by Brooke Furrh. Discussion about “Y-type strainers” being installed properly and if “Y” was the appropriate term. Finally a discussion about the difference between temporary and permanent systems. A motion was made to install a “filter type strainer” on all assemblies as per the manufacturer was made by John DeCell and seconded by Mark Froehlich. Finally it was decided that John DeCell would be the head of the new rules document.

Jess returned to the meeting to discuss the use of the word “shall” or “may” in the rules.

- VI. Agenda Topic: Committee reports

Rules: Final Inspection Checklist approval: Motion: Paul Ward; Second: Philip Hathaway

Education: Approval for conference compared to classroom training needs to be reviewed.

- VII. Agenda Topic: David Kania discussed with the council in detail how the Irrigation License takes significantly more work to achieve than the CSI. The council plans to work with TCEQ to achieve a reasonable agreement.

- VIII. Agenda Topic: Individuals wishing to address the council:

How many emission devices determines temporary or permanent?

Why can't irrigator and inspector flip their licenses every quarter?

The “Conflict of Interest” needs to be defined.

Minutes approved with changes. Mark Froehlich motioned, John DeCell seconded.

IX. Agenda Topic: Adjourn: Motion: Philip Hathaway; Second: John DeCell