

IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL (IAC)

November 18, 2010

AGENDA

12100 Park 35 Circle, Building B, Room 201A

Austin, Texas

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1. Call to order.

Chairman Hubbard called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Attendees:

- *Council Members:* Deville Hubbard, David Bell, Emilio Escobar (by telephone), Doug Goodwin, Karen Guz, Nora Mullarkey, Michael Murr, and Rusty Tucker.
- *TCEQ Staff:* Tracy Miller, Richard Allen, Graham Waak, Candy Garrett, David Bower, Melissa Keller, Allan Vargas, and Meagan Warneke.
- *Visitors:* Frank Chalouopka, Doug Christensen, Jerry Lewis, Jeff Walls, Charles Swanson, Mark Froehlich, Austin Smith, Wayne Gibbs, Marsha Carson, Todd Magatagan.

2. Introduction of IAC members with terms beginning February 1, 2011.

Mr. Froehlich was introduced as one of the new IAC members by Chairman Hubbard.

3. Consider approval of minutes from the June 10, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Goodwin moved that the minutes be accepted. Ms. Guz seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

4. Special Recognitions.

Chariman Hubbard presented a plaque to Mr. Murr upon completion of his six year term on the IAC. Ms. Santo will receive a similar plaque but was not able to be present for a personal presentation.

5. Receive, Discuss and Act on Staff Reports (Office of Compliance and Enforcement).

- *Outreach:* Ms. Garrett discussed the outreach of various events that staff had attended since the previous Council meeting and provided a list of upcoming events.
- *Enforcement Activities:* Mr. Allen discussed various enforcement activities and responded to questions about the enforcement process.
- *Staff Initiatives:* Mr. Allen discussed an initiative that Ms. Brooke Duever, a summer intern, had started in late May. Ms. Duever reviewed listings on Craigslist and identified advertisements for irrigation services that did not comply with TCEQ rules. Ms. Duever contacted individuals that did not comply with the rule requirements. Ms. Duever's efforts indicated that the number of advertisements that failed to meet the rule requirements was reduced due to this initiative.

6. Receive, Discuss and Act on Staff Reports on Enforcement (Office of Compliance and Enforcement and Office of Legal Services).

This item was tabled and not discussed by the IAC. Staff members were not able to attend the meeting and discuss this item.

7. Break

8. Hear from individuals wishing to address the IAC.

Mr. Christensen addressed the Council concerning water conservation. Mr. Christensen stated that there is no incentive for water districts that perform water conservation, that there is no enforcement for water districts that have poor irrigation systems and that there are conflicting/multiple directives given by EPA and TCEQ. Mr. Christensen also stated that revenue for water district has been declining over the past several years. There was a discussion between Ms. Guz, Mr. Bell and Mr. Christensen concerning water rates in the State of Texas. Mr. Goodwin stated that he found success in Conroe and the Woodlands. Mr. Goodwin stated that in those communities, the cities are working with the homeowners to educate the homeowners on the importance of water conservation.

9. Receive, Discuss and Act on Committee Reports.

- *Rules:* This committee had nothing to report.

- *Education:* This committee had nothing to report.
- *Water Conservation:* Ms. Guz stated she and Ms. Mullarkey had a conference call with 14 individuals regarding CEU's for licensed irrigators and a review of the State's water plan. The IAC would like to partner with TCEQ to spend more time on developing high level CEU's for landscape irrigators. Ms. Guz also stated that the International Code Council has been formed and the Council is looking at irrigation components that are being used in landscape.
- *Legislation:* Mr. Bell requested as to where the Sunset Meeting would be held concerning TCEQ. Mr. Bell reported that due to legislation redistricting, budget shortfalls, and pending sunset review of TCEQ, irrigation related legislation was not likely during the 2011 Texas Legislative Session. Also, TCEQ does not plan a new rules package pending the results of the Sunset Review Process, consequently, legislative oversight of new rules is not necessary. Ms. Garrett has not found any pre-file legislation of direct impact to IAC as of this time.

Lunch

10. Introduction of Mr. David Bower, Director, Field Operations Support Division

Mr. Bower was introduced to the IAC committee. Mr. Bower stated that he would like to have a better field presence regarding landscape irrigation and would like to assist the IAC in this endeavor. Mr. Bower stated that he would like field investigators educated in landscape irrigation. Mr. Hubbard stated he would like to see the Regional Offices more involved and to do more to assist the TCEQ enforcement division.

Mr. Goodwin stated that weekends and evenings would be the best time, since that is when the work is taking place. Mr. Walls and Mr. Goodwin stated that the presence of TCEQ in the field would be a good thing and the word would spread. Mr. Bower responded to various questions concerning staffing and budget issues regarding the Landscape Irrigation Program. Mr. Bell stated that he would like to see the Landscape Irrigation Program, Licensing, and the Enforcement Division work together. Mr. Lewis stated that there was a 45 day lag time between the time and applicant took the landscape irrigator test and the time that the applicant received their test scores. Mr. Bower stated that he would research this issue and get in touch with Ms. Lynn Hasse, Director of Office Permitting and Registration.

11. Receive, Discuss and Act on Staff Reports (Office of Permitting and Registrations).

- *Licensing, Training, Testing and Renewals:* Mr. Vargas provided the following statistics on testing and passing rates for the landscape irrigator, landscape technician, and the landscape inspector:

FY 10 Exams: 4331

FY 11 Exams: 282

FY 10 # Licensees: 8167

FY 11 # Licensees: 8228

FY 10 Pass/Fail Rate: 53.1%

FY 11 Pass/Fail Rate: 56.2%

FY 10 Technician Exams (English): 276

FY 10 Technician Exams (Spanish): 2639

FY 11 Technician Exams (English): 41

FY 11 Technician Exams (Spanish): 79

Mr. Vargas stated that the following exams are available on Computer-Based Testing (CBT):

Landscape Irrigation Inspector

Landscape Irrigation Technician (English Only)

Mr. Vargas also discussed adding the previous months' reports to the [Data Clearinghouse](#) for both the Expired Licenses report and the Landscape Irrigators Data File. We will go back 12 months. Mr. Vargas also discussed that these reports are updated no later than the 5th day of every month and is currently working with Carol Weeks on these changes. Mr. Vargas stated the he anticipates them being available within the next two weeks.

Mr. Vargas is also working on a brief article for the TTIA newsletter as requested in the meeting.

12. Break

13. Meeting on November 19, 2010

Chairman Hubbard discussed the purpose of the Water Conservation meeting to be held on November 19, 2010 and what he hoped to accomplish

by having this meeting. Chairman Hubbard stated that Denise Hickey, Charles Swenson, and maybe Carole Baker would attend this meeting.

14. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Mr. Goodwin moved that Mr. Bell be elected Chairman. Chairman Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Ms. Mullarkey moved that Ms. Guz be elected Vice Chairman. Chairman Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

15. Potential Dates for Meetings in 2011.

Chairman Hubbard selected the following dates for the IAC meetings in 2011: February 17, 2011; June 16, 2011; and November 11, 2011.

16. Receive, Discuss and Act on New Business and additional items of interest.

Mr. Lewis requested that the IAC review the landscape irrigator examination. Mr. Lewis stated that there would be a Texas Irrigator Network workshop on December 15, 2010. Mr. Goodwin moved that 8 hours of the 24 hours of Continued Education hours be in an approved water conservation course. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mullarkey. The motion was approved.

17. Adjourn.

Chairman Hubbard adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.