

South Texas Water Master Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
7/19/2022

Chair Escobar called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. We proceeded with Roll Call, we did not have a quorum, so will need to email other committee members for any votes we need.

Everyone present including STWAC members, TCEQ staff and visitors introduced themselves. In attendance included:

STWM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mario Escobar, Chairperson, STWAC
Daniel Stroud, for Kirk Shoppe, Select Energy Services
Pablo Martinez, for Adam Conner, SAWS
Cameron Ocker
Stuart Barron
Charlie Hickman

Visitors

Damon Berryman, City of Blanco
Gregg Tieken, CPS

TCEQ STAFF

Kim Nygren
Angela Sander
Diana Rodriguez
Stephen Kinal
Joseph Nichols
Harrison Kilo
Ashley Miller
Iliana Spaeth

Absent

STWM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patrick Brzozowski
Ann Kercheville
Frank Granieri
John Byrum
Melissa Bryant, Secretary, STWAC
Michael G. Short
VACANT (Coletto Creek Power, LP)
VACANT (City of Corpus Christi)
VACANT (City of Victoria)

A quorum was not present, so 2021 minutes could not be approved. Mr. Hickman made a Motion to approve 2021 minutes contingent upon email votes, Mr. Ocker seconded, and approval of minutes was unanimous for committee members present and pending email votes.

Mrs. Nygren proceeded to 2023 budget being presented; Mrs. Nygren listed out the normal expenditures associated with salaries, longevity, salary enhancements, fringe, and additional

insurance and retirement. Increase is salaries as a position is reclassified to an Assistant Watermaster position for succession planning and increase in Salary Enhancements to retain staff. Fringe, SORM, and SWCAP have been estimated on the low side and we anticipate that the difference will be pulled from the South Texas Fund Balance. No vehicle purchase for FY 2023. Professional/Temp Service is the IT support for the watermaster database – increased salary to retain staff. Phone/Utility decrease as the iPhones allowed us to discontinue payment of aircards and regional office phone lines for deputies. Overall, the FY2023 budget needs will be \$756,463.21, an increase of \$41,342.51 from 2022. The municipal rate is anticipated to be 0.2172/acre-feet with a 99% collection rate.

Mr. Hickman asked about office space contract renewals.

Mrs. Nygren: we anticipate rent spaces to go down, but it depends on renewal contracts.

Mr. Barron requested a column be added to the budget showing % change.

Mrs. Nygren: yes, we can add that

Mr. Hickman asked about the goal for the fund balance.

Mrs. Nygren: at least six months, and we estimate fringe, additional insurance and retirement, SORM, and SWCAP on the low side with the plan to use the fund balance to cover the difference.

Mrs. Nygren reviewed the FY2022 expenditures and anticipates \$70-100,000 going into the fund this year due to salary savings because of vacancies and troubles filling those vacancies.

Mr. Barron asked that we review the budget again in light of the additional money anticipated going into the fund.

Mrs. Nygren agreed to revisit the Fringe, etc. to see if we can get lower, but we have to balance the assessments with our appropriation.

Mr. Escobar asked if we could approve the 2023 Budget. Attendees agree that we will wait for Mrs. Nygren to revisit the budget and vote later via email.

Mrs. Spaeth provided updates on the WAC membership. While some renewals and replacement nominations were received, we did not receive enough to fill all vacancies. TCEQ will send an email to the group soliciting additional renewals/nominations. Renewals can be an email, while new nominations should include a resume.

Old business

There was not any new business to discuss.

Future meetings

Mr. Barron asked if there was anything TCEQ needed from the members besides discussing budget.

Mrs. Nygren stated that we meet at least annually to discuss budget and the next regular meeting of the committee will be in July 2023 unless members request additional meetings.

Mrs. Nygren stated we have had interest with holding in-person meetings, but some groups are holding a hybrid of both in-person and virtual attendance.

Mrs. Nygren gave a drought update – Not a lot of relief in the forecast and an increase in the number of complaints concerning low flow and implementation of Drought Contingency Plans. Curtailments began in April this year.

Mr. Barron asked that TCEQ consider using the gage at Center Point rather than Comfort for the upper Guadalupe River Basin curtailments.

Mrs. Sander discussed how priority groups are curtailed in the upper Guadalupe River Basin.

Mr. Berryman asked about domestic verses irrigation and indicated he may be referring a complaint to the STWM staff.

Mr. Hickman made motion to adjourn; Mr. Barron seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Mrs. Sander chair 7/12/2023

Melvin B. D.

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