

AGENDA AND MINUTES
IRRIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL (IAC)
July 15, 2004
12100 Park 35 Circle
Bldg. A, Room 202
Austin, Texas
9:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Council members - Gene Barnes, Willie Gossett, Carole Baker, Don Weiss, Jerry Lewis, Harvey McLarty.

TCEQ staff - Gene Reagan, Sandra Hernandez, Bob Mann.

Visitors - Carl Causey, David R. Cummings, Mike Buxkemper, Joe McElligott, John Shideler, Gary Salas, Danny Lenderman, John Swartz, Richard Ali, John DeCell, Romeo Montalvo, Doug Goodwin, Glenda Single, David Brannan, John Morton.

1. The Chairman of the Council will call the meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnes at approximately 09:30 and introductions of attendees proceeded.

2. The Council will approve the minutes from the March 18, 2004 meeting.

Mr. Gossett made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Mr. McLarty. The council unanimously voted to approve the minutes as read.

3. The Council will discuss the participation of individuals on subcommittees who are not members of the Council. Recommendations will be taken from council members for certain individuals.

Chairman Barnes recommended three individuals - David Smith, Glenda Single, and Doug Goodwin.

Jerry Lewis recommended John DeCell.

Gary Salas, a visitor, recommended the council consider David Brannan.

Jerry Lewis made a motion that the council appoint these five individuals. Carole Baker seconded the motion. The council unanimously voted to approve the five individuals to be available to assist on subcommittees.

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- 4. Ms. Debra Barber, TCEQ Office of Environmental Policy, Analysis & Assessment, will provide an overview of the agency rules revision process.**

Ms. Barber spoke to the council regarding the rules process. She explained a rules process takes approximately one year, and involves three basic phases - Initiation, proposal, and adoption. She provided a handout "Overview of the Rules Process" to all in attendance.

- 5. The Council will provide advice on recommended changes to 30 TAC Chapter 344, Rules for Landscape Irrigation, to the TCEQ.**

Chairman Barnes stated water conservation must be the primary focus of changes in rules. He said the council has received several recommendations for rules changes from various associations and individuals. He provided a written summary of recommendations to TCEQ staff. The recommendations dealt with five primary items - Direct supervision, rain sensors, pressure regulation, check valves, and information to be provided to purchasers of irrigation systems.

Additionally, Mr. Barnes proposed the adoption of a required water conservation course for continuing education credits. TCEQ staff suggested it would not be appropriate to include this requirement in a revision of Chapter 344. This requirement would need to be addressed in Chapter 30, Rules for Occupational Licensing. Mr. Barnes agreed, and provided a written outline for such a course to TCEQ staff.

Mr. Lewis recommended additional items to be considered during the rules process: The definitions of "back-siphonage," "cross-connection," "direct supervision," and "design." He recommended removing "non-toxic" from the definitions. Additionally, he recommended a clarification of the duties of an installer.

TCEQ staff thanked the council for their recommendations and staff will take them under consideration during the development of rule changes.

- 6. The TCEQ staff will discuss replacement of the currently vacant public member position on the Council, and vacancies that will occur February 1, 2005.**

TCEQ staff requested the council, and any interested parties, to provide recommendations for new council members.

- 7. TCEQ staff will report on changes to irrigation license titles.**

TCEQ staff advised the council that "license titles" have been changed to reflect the

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previous title names. "Landscape Irrigator" is changed to "Licensed Irrigator," and "Landscape Installer" is changed to "Licensed Installer."

8. TCEQ staff will report on the issuance of Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester licenses.

TCEQ staff reported that BPAT licenses with new license numbers have been delivered to licensees.

9. TCEQ staff will report on licensing and examination progress, and enforcement activities.

TCEQ staff reported the processing time for grading and mailing examination results has improved considerably. The results of the examination that was held on June 18 were mailed June 28. Pass rates for two exams in June were: Mesquite, TX - 47%, and Riverside/College Station - 33%.

10. Council, guests, and staff will discuss items of interest.

There were no discussions.

11. Council will adjourn.

Mr. Gossett made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Weiss seconded the motion. The council unanimously voted to adjourn.