

Citizens Water Conservation Implementation Task Force

Regular Meeting

Minutes

Monday, June 2, 2008  
625 E 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 104

Jennifer Walker called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Members in attendance: Susan Butler, Margot Clarke, Richard Hatfield, Norman Johns, Jody McDaniel, Nora Mullarkey, Rusty Osborne, Susan Roth, and Jennifer Walker.

- I. Approval of minutes from the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - a. Susan Butler made a motion to approve the May 19<sup>th</sup> minutes. Norman Johns seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by all attending Task Force members.
  
- II. Possible recommendation on the weather-based controller approval process parameters
  - a. Water Conservation Specialist, Sr. (and licensed irrigator) Karen Stewart answered questions about the approval process document for weather-based controllers.
  - b. There was a request for staff to provide the Task Force with the proposed number of new commercial developments that would fit into the three tiers based on the size of their landscapes (by looking at development trends from the past few years and making projections).
  - c. Task Force suggested adding an agenda item to a future meeting in order to discuss the potential conflict between mandating the installation of weather-based controllers for commercial properties and the twice a week mandatory watering schedule.
  - d. Richard Hatfield made a motion to approve the weather-based controller process guidelines. Susan Butler seconded the motion with a friendly amendment to encourage staff to determine and evaluate for the third tier, an irrigated acreage size that be equal to or less than one acre prior to the rules being published for public comment. There was no objection to the friendly amendment and the motion with the friendly amendment passed unanimously. Gene Reagan proposed a friendly amendment to eliminate all the particular requirements of Tier 1 and allow Tiers 2 and 3 to cover all of the requirements. The Task Force did not adopt the friendly amendment proposed by Gene.

III. Citizen communication

- a. Doug Christensen from Accord Irrigation emphasized the need for proper water management even with weather-based controllers
- b. Don Cooper with Weathermatic Irrigation stated that rather than indiscriminately placing controllers in various tiers, that the City of Austin should place emphasis on the independent testing of the SWAT protocol and use that information accordingly.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the Waller Creek Center, Room 104.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.