

LCRA Water Conservation Incentives Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes: May 31, 2019

The Water Conservation Incentives Program Review Committee convened by conference call at 9 a.m. Friday, May 31, 2019. The following members were present:

- Monica Masters, LCRA Water Resources
- Joseph M. “Joe” Crane, LCRA Board of Directors
- George W. Russell, LCRA Board of Directors
- Stephen F. Cooper, LCRA Board of Directors
- Mike Hodge, City of Marble Falls, Committee Chair
- Eric Rauschuber, City of Cedar Park
- Drema Gross, Austin Water Utility
- John Hoffman, South Texas Project Electric Generating Station

LCRA staff members Valerie Miller and Jack Jones also participated.

The committee previously convened at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, but a quorum was not in attendance so a conference call was scheduled for May 31 to ensure a quorum to vote on grant proposals and extensions.

Miller presented the last meeting's minutes and introduced the agenda. Then she opened the floor to see if there were additional items the committee wanted to discuss.

Jones presented the City of Granite Shoals cost-share project proposal. The city wants to complete a \$12,100 project to implement a smart meter portal. This will complement their advanced metering infrastructure to identify customer leaks more quickly. They will also use the customer portal to communicate messages, including potential leak notifications, water conservation rebates and seasonal irrigation reminders. The estimated annual water savings will be about 10 acre-feet per year, with an annualized cost to LCRA of \$78 per acre-foot saved. The committee members unanimously approved the staff-recommended grant amount of \$6,050.

Jones presented the grant proposal for Hays County Water Control and Improvement District 1 & 2. The district requested \$30,000 to implement an advanced metering infrastructure project and customer portal. Due to program rules, the district is only eligible for \$21,031 worth of funding. The estimated savings is 18.1 acre-feet per year, with an annualized cost to LCRA of \$150 per acre-foot saved. The savings is calculated using a 3% conservation goal per connection, from a base average water use from 2016 through 2018. This assumes an adoption rate of 75%. The committee members unanimously approved the staff-recommended grant amount of \$21,031.

Miller gave an update on the status of our current budget. The fiscal year started with a grant budget of \$200,000. After the October 2018 funded project for the City of Marble Falls, the remaining budget was \$143,160. The costs of the proposed spring projects are \$27,081, which leaves a remaining budget of \$116,079.

Miller also gave a status report on four projects that were funded in May 2018. Staff received a final report from Travis County WCID Point Venture. West Travis County Public Utility Agency returned the leak detection equipment and the funds to cover the software they are still using. The equipment is currently on loan to Lakeway Municipal Utility District for one year. Earl Foster of Lakeway MUD requested an extension to May 2020 for the district's project. The Village of Briarcliff has installed 416 advanced metering infrastructure smart meters so far. Aaron Johnson of Briarcliff requested an extension until August 2019 to finish meter installation. The committee members voted unanimously to approve the two project extensions.

Miller gave an update on the FY 2019 rebate programs. The number of program rebates increased significantly compared to previous years. Smart controllers were the highest volume rebate followed by pressure-reducing heads or nozzles. In FY 2018, LCRA gave rebates on 59 smart controllers – compared to 165 smart controller rebates already processed in FY 2019.

John Hoffman took a new role at the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station and will be resigning from the Incentives Program Review Committee immediately. Jason Ludwig is taking his old position at STP and he may be a new candidate to take Hoffman's seat on the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.