

LCRA Water Conservation Incentives Program Review Committee
Meeting Minutes: Oct. 20, 2020

The Water Conservation Incentives Program Review Committee convened at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020, by videoconference. The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

- Mike Hodge, City of Marble Falls, committee chair
- Stephen F. Cooper, LCRA Board member
- Joseph M. "Joe" Crane, LCRA Board member
- George W. Russell, LCRA Board member
- Phil Wilson, LCRA general manager, by proxy to Monica Masters, LCRA vice president of Water Resources
- Eric Rauschuber, City of Cedar Park
- Rey Gomez, Horseshoe Bay Resort and Summit Rock Golf Club
- Jason Ludwig, South Texas Project Electric Generating Station

Manager of Water Contracts and Conversation Valerie Miller, Senior Water Conservation Coordinator Brett Briant, Water Conservation Coordinator Jack Jones, and Senior Water Conservation Coordinator Stacy Pandey also were present.

Chair Mike Hodge called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Valerie Miller presented the last meeting's minutes, introduced the agenda and opened the floor for additional discussion items. The committee unanimously approved the minutes of its last meeting, held Oct. 22, 2019.

Stacy Pandey presented the grant proposal for the City of Pflugerville. Pflugerville requested \$100,000 to implement an advanced metering infrastructure and customer portal. The estimated savings is 92.7 acre-feet per year, with an annualized cost to LCRA of \$115 per acre-foot (a-f) saved. The committee unanimously approved the staff-recommended grant amount of \$100,000.

Brett Briant presented the grant proposal for the City of Lago Vista. Lago Vista requested \$17,632 to implement a leak-detection survey on 30 miles of water mains and 150 hydrants. Lago Vista will repair any identified leaks. The estimated savings is 15.2 a-f per year, with an annualized cost to LCRA of \$93 per a-f saved. The savings was calculated based on a survey of 70 miles of pipe completed in 2020. The committee unanimously approved the staff-recommended grant amount of \$17,632.

Jack Jones presented the grant proposal for SJWTX, Inc for their Deer Creek Ranch water system. The water system requested \$13,050 to implement an AMI project and data management software to identify customer leaks more quickly and assist customers with monitoring water use. The estimated savings is 11.25 a-f per year, with an annualized cost to LCRA of \$150 per a-f saved. The committee unanimously approved the staff-recommended grant amount of \$13,050.

Jones gave an update on the status of the grant budget. The fiscal year starts with a grant budget of \$250,000. After the funded projects for Pflugerville, Lago Vista, SJWTX and the Flume pilot project, the remaining budget for spring will be \$84,318.

Pandey presented the project extension of Lakeway Municipal Utility District and Hays County Water Control and Improvement District 1 and 2. Lakeway MUD requested a second project extension to October 2021 for the reuse project awarded in 2018. Hays County WCID 1 and 2 requested a project extension to September 2021 for its AMI meter change-out project. The committee unanimously approved both project extensions.

Pandey presented an update on the Granite Shoals, Marble Falls and Lago Vista completed projects, as well as a five-year savings report. Marble Falls completed its AMI system and customer portal. Granite Shoals completed integration of a customer portal with its AMI system. Lago Vista completed 77 miles of leak-detection survey and reported 129 a-f of savings. Since last fall, four projects closed out after completing five years of savings reports. Marble Falls' first reuse project generated an average savings of 41 a-f per year. The City of Burnet reuse project generated an average savings of 8 a-f per year, or about half of the original savings estimate. The Travis County Water Control and Improvement District 17 and Leander Independent School District reuse project has had issues with being fully adopted. Staff from TCWCID 17 will continue to work with Leander ISD on realizing the potential of this project. The City of Horseshoe Bay and Horseshoe Bay Resort reuse project generated an average savings of 13 a-f per year. This is substantially less than the original savings estimate, but only slightly less than the assumed savings once the project was capped at 50% of total cost.

Miller presented an update on the WaterSmart Rebates program and SoilSmart website. The SoilSmart website is available for customers to enter their home address and receive data on their soil type. We have added links to the WaterSmart rebates page and Texas AgriLife soil testing site.

Miller presented on the proposed revisions to the rebate program. Staff recommended adding a soil test and Flume pilot project to the offered rebates. Staff also recommended removing rainwater harvesting, increasing the rebate for irrigation evaluations from \$85 to \$100, increasing the compost and/or mulch rebate to 50% of \$300, and increasing the aeration rebate to 50% of \$100. Chair Hodge suggested voting on the recommendations as a whole, including the changes to the rebate program, soil test and Flume pilot project. The committee unanimously approved the updates.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.