

**LCRA Water Conservation Incentives Program Review Committee
Meeting Minutes: Oct. 22, 2019**

The Water Conservation Incentives Program Review Committee convened at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019. The following members were present:

- Monica Masters, LCRA Water Resources
- Joseph Crane, LCRA Board of Directors
- George Russell, LCRA Board of Directors
- Stephen Cooper, LCRA Board of Directors
- Eric Rauschuber, City of Cedar Park
- Rey Gomez, Horseshoe Bay Resort & Summit Rock Golf Club
- Jason Ludwig, South Texas Project

Committee Members Mike Hodge and Drema Gross were absent. LCRA staff members Valerie Miller, Brett Briant, Jack Jones, Stacy Pandey and Heather Rose also participated.

Miller presented the last meeting's minutes and introduced the agenda. Masters took the role of acting Committee Chair due to the absence of Hodge. Miller introduced the two new committee members, Jason Ludwig and Rey Garza, and opened the floor to see if there were additional items the committee wanted to discuss.

Pandey presented the City of Horseshoe Bay cost-share project proposal. The city wants to implement a smart meter portal to complement their advanced metering infrastructure to identify customer leaks more quickly. The total project cost will be \$28,000, with \$14,000 coming from LCRA funding. This will be an annualized LCRA cost per acre-foot of \$92. Bill Teeter, City of Horseshoe Bay water conservation inspector, was present to answer questions. Masters asked if there will be a high adoption rate and if there are costs to opt in. Teeter responded saying there already is high interest in the portal, and there are no costs to the customer to opt in. Russell moved to approve the project, and Cooper seconded. The project was approved by a unanimous vote.

Jones presented the City of Lago Vista cost-share project proposal. The city will conduct a leak detection survey and repair identified leaks. The total project will cost \$150,000 with eligible funding from LCRA in the amount of \$65,000. This money will cover contractor services, equipment rental and materials to repair line leaks. This will be an annualized LCRA cost per acre-foot of \$65. The 83 acre-feet per year of savings is estimated based on a leak detection survey done on fire hydrants in February 2018. Crane moved to approve the project, and Rauschuber seconded. The project was approved by a unanimous vote.

Briant presented the Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation cost-share project proposal. Windermere Oaks WSC will complete two separate recycling projects at its water and wastewater treatment facilities. The total project will cost \$48,375 with eligible funding from LCRA in the amount of \$14,094. Windermere Oaks originally requested

\$16,240, but it only is eligible for \$14,094 due to the 2017 and 2018 water use numbers averaged together. The savings is estimated based on 50% of backwash water being recovered at the water treatment plant, and 100% of potable water being recovered after switching the chlorine feed line from potable to effluent. Copper asked if the change in funding will affect project implementation, and Briant explained it would not. Cooper then moved to approve the project, and Crane seconded. The project was approved by a unanimous vote.

Briant presented a new pilot project proposal. LCRA staff will work with golf course customers to determine unused turf areas. Volunteers at participating golf courses will carry GPS trackers in their pocket while playing a round of golf. LCRA staff will use this information to map areas that get little to no traffic. The goal of the pilot project is for the golf course customer to come in for a cost-share grant to remove turf areas that are underutilized and replace with water saving plant material. This will save the customer water, electricity, fuel and labor. The project will cost \$2,740 for 50 GPS trackers at \$50 each, plus \$240 for software application. Russel then moved to approve the project, and Crane seconded. The project was approved by a unanimous vote.

Jones gave an update on the status of our current budget. The fiscal year started with a grant budget of \$200,000. The three grant proposals and pilot project amount to \$95,834. This will leave a remaining budget for the spring cost-share in the amount of \$104,166.

Pandey gave a status report on three projects funded in 2018 that were still active as of the last meeting. Staff received a final report from the Village of Briarcliff and status update reports from Lakeway MUD and the City of Marble Falls. The Lakeway MUD reuse line construction to connect 36 homes is complete. It also is working on laying reuse line around the golf course to reach another 330 customers. The project extension goes until May 2020. The Village of Briarcliff completed automated meter installation in September 2019. It is now promoting its customer portal. As of September 2019, the City of Marble Falls had completed automated meter installation. It is conducting a marketing campaign and contacting customers with leaks through the customer portal. The leak detection equipment is currently on loan to Lakeway MUD until February 2020. Lakeway MUD is about 90% complete with analyzing its system and have found fire hydrants leaking. Corix has expressed interest in borrowing the equipment next.

Rose presented an update on the WaterSmart Rebates program this fiscal year to date. LCRA continues to increase overall numbers with a continued rise in smart controller rebates. This fiscal year, 219 rebates have been processed to date. Staff estimated water savings by type of rebate and is using the data to determine which rebates are a better bargain for overall water savings and should have better education and outreach. Staff also gathered information on ways rebate customers have heard about our program. Smart controller manufacturers and water providers were the two most common outreach methods.

Drema Gross is leaving the committee, which opens up a seat for a city municipality representative.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.