

LCRA Water Conservation Incentives Program Review Committee
Meeting Minutes: May 16, 2018

The Water Conservation Incentives Program Review Committee convened at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, 2018. The following members attended:

- Karen Bondy, LCRA Water Resources
- Stephen Cooper, LCRA Board of Directors
- Joseph Crane, LCRA Board of Directors
- George Russell, LCRA Board of Directors
- Mike Hodge, City of Marble Falls, Committee Chair
- Drema Gross, Austin Water Utility

LCRA staff members John Hofmann, Valerie Miller, Brett Briant, Jack Jones and Stacy Pandey also participated. Committee members Ken Gorzycki and John Hoffman were absent.

Briant presented the City of Lago Vista cost-share project proposal. The city requested \$43,479 to allow stored reuse water to be used on the Highland Lakes golf course. The project will allow reuse water that is currently sent to a pond and then disposed of on cedar trees to be pumped back to the Highland Lakes golf course. The estimated annual water savings would be about 52 acre-feet per year, with an annualized cost to LCRA of \$70 per acre-foot saved. Committee members unanimously approved the staff-recommended grant amount of \$43,479.

Briant presented the Lakeway Municipal Utility District cost-share project proposal. The utility requested \$100,000 to extend its reuse line to connect 324 individual homes along Live Oak golf course to reuse water for landscape irrigation. Eighty percent of residents expressed interest, and the utility expects all property owners to connect due to the lower cost of reuse water. Lakeway MUD will not charge customers to connect to the reuse system; the reuse water will be metered at each connection; and potable supply will be disconnected using a double-check valve. Residents follow a permanent twice-weekly watering schedule. This area will not be included in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality-permitted land disposal area. The estimated annual water savings would be about 97 acre-feet per year, with an annualized cost to LCRA of \$86 per acre-foot saved. Committee members unanimously approved the staff-recommended grant amount of \$100,000.

Pandey presented the Village of Briarcliff cost-share project proposal. The utility requested \$21,228 to install advanced metering infrastructure to shift from monthly manual reads to hourly meter readings and use analytic software to identify customer leaks. Savings estimated are based on previous bill adjustments due to catastrophic leaks that should be avoided through more timely readings and improved meter accuracy. The estimated annual water savings would be about 18 acre-feet per year, with an annualized cost to LCRA of \$97 per acre-foot saved. Committee members asked whether the lower staff funding recommendation based on program rules would impact the customer being able to implement the project, and the staff said it would not. An additional question was raised about the frequency of data downloads, and the Briarcliff city administrator responded that there would be uploads twice a day and the customer would be able to set alarms if a leak was detected. Committee members unanimously approved the staff-recommended grant amount of \$21,228.

Pandey presented the Travis County Water Control and Improvement District-Point Venture cost-share project proposal. The utility requested \$6,960 to replace aging water lines to reduce water loss. The infrastructure upgrades also will reduce pressure issues, upgrade aging infrastructure and provide for adequate fire flow for this small rural water system. The estimated annual water savings would be about 6 acre-feet per year, with an annualized cost to LCRA of \$97 per acre-foot saved. Committee members unanimously approved the staff-recommended grant amount of \$6,960.

Jones presented the Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation cost-share project proposal. The utility requested \$11,930 to complete two separate projects to recycle water treatment plant backwash water and to replace potable water with treated effluent for chlorine feed water at the wastewater treatment plant. The estimated annual water savings would be about 10 acre-feet per year, with an annualized cost to LCRA of \$97 per acre-foot saved. Committee members unanimously approved the staff-recommended grant amount of \$11,930.

Pandey gave a status update on three projects not yet completed, including two funded in May 2017 for Marble Falls/Meadowlakes and Dripping Springs WSC, and a project for West Travis County Public Utility Agency funded in 2016. The cities of Marble Falls and Meadowlakes in May gave staff a final report on their phase 3 reuse project. The reuse line was 95 percent complete. The City of Marble Falls filed a 210 permit amendment with TCEQ to extend the line into Meadowlakes, and a response was expected from TCEQ by the end of May 2018. Staff asked for an extension until July 2018 to complete the connection with the City of Meadowlakes' reuse line. Committee members unanimously approved an extension.

Staff received a completion report for the Dripping Springs WSC AMI project in May 2018. The report showed all the AMI infrastructure was complete and the utility is successfully using the analytic software to detect leaks within its distribution system. The WSC was still working on implementing the customer-facing portal. Staff asked for an extension to the end of the calendar year to allow the WSC to complete the online portal. Committee members unanimously approved an extension to December 2018.

The West Travis County PUA filed an extension for its leak-detection equipment in November 2016, with an extension date of September 2017. West Travis County PUA is not using the equipment to survey sections of the system to identify unknown leaks, only to pinpoint known leaks. This process is not expected to generate the savings proposed in the application or the savings the LCRA grant amount was based on (84 a-f). To increase the proposed water savings, the PUA said it was willing to share equipment with other firm water customers. Staff asked for a second extension until December 2018. Staff said the extension would allow staff time to work with interested firm water customers to borrow the equipment from the West Travis County PUA and use it to conduct distribution system leak surveys. Staff said it will work with the West Travis County PUA and interested firm water customers on setting up a lend-out program, facilitating equipment training, and sharing information about the equipment with other entities to achieve savings intended from original project. So far, LCRA had contacted three entities, Travis County WCID No. 17, Lakeway MUD and Marble Falls, about sharing the equipment. All were interested in the concept and asked for more details. Committee members unanimously approved an extension to December 2018, and asked for an update on the lend-out program at the next meeting.

Pandey gave an update on projects funded in 2012 that completed five years of water-savings reporting in 2018. The City of Cedar Park completed five years of reporting for its Brushy Creek complex reuse project. Over four years, an average of 35 a-f per year of reuse was used (one year, the equipment was offline for several months). In general, the complex has used less water over this time period than before the grant was awarded, but it is in line with the assumed savings. The City of Lago Vista completed five years of reporting for its water line loop flushing reduction project. The savings are in line with proposed savings. No flushing has occurred on this line since the project was completed.

The committee discussed that Cedar Park Utilities Director Eric Rauschuber, P.E., would fill the customer representative vacancy at the next meeting in fall 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.