

2:00pm to 3:30pm WHA Office

Attendees on January 17, 2019

Jack Miller	Auggie Campbell	Bryan Thomas
Alia Vinson	Mike Thornhill	Roy Aristizabal
Carmen Kumpula	Melinda Silva	
Wayne Ahrens	Charles Shumate	

1. **Welcome & Introductions (2:00)** Jack Miller
2. **Committee Business (2:10)** Jack Miller

a. **Legislative Updates**

i. WHA Priorities (Auggie Campbell)

1. *Campbell reported that WHA is focusing on the following three issues for the 2019 legislative session:*
 - a. *State-Wide Resiliency: WHA is supporting Houston Stronger’s efforts to create a SWIFT-like program for flood infrastructure and additional disaster response funding through TDEM.*
 - b. *Protect Local Funding: WHA wants to protect the local government’s ability to levy taxes and charge fees that are sufficient to pay for debt service and operations.*
 - c. *Keep Quality Growth: WHA plans to preserve and improve the well-regulated and well-tested funding models that have provided reliable formulas for growth. These models include special districts, state transportation funding initiatives and state-funded health insurance programs.*

ii. TWCA Priorities and Legislative Issues of Concern (Alia Vinson)

1. *Vinson reported that TWCA annual conference will take place in March. She noted that no TWCA originated bills have been filed yet.*
2. *Ms. Vinson reported on the following legislative areas to watch: A few items to watch include:*
 - a. *Property Tax Reform*
 - b. *Eminent Doman*
 - c. *Transparency*

QUALITY GROWTH PARTNERS 2018



iii. ACSE/ACEC/Others (Discussion)

1. *The group discussed that TSPE is pushing Qualifications Based Selections. Continuing to educate new legislators will be important.*

b. **Project Updates**

i. Luce Bayou

1. *Ahrens reported that the Luce Bayou construction is proceeding slowly due to the weather. The pump station was under water for 2 months. Luce Bayou is not needed until the NEWPP Expansion Project is completed so there is time. The contract indicated June 2019 as the completion date, but completion is now expected in April 2020.*

ii. NEWPP Expansion Project

1. *The design builder submitted the GMP, which is being evaluated. Project participants have been able to obtain additional SWIFT funding from the TWDB, as project costs have increased.*

iii. Northeast Transmission Line and Surface Water Supply Project

1. *Certain segments of the Northeast Transmission Line are out for bid and will be awarded soon.*
2. *The Surface Water Supply Project is in design.*

iv. Other

1. *Silva reported that there will be a contractor outreach event on January 31st at Embassy Suites starting at 9am for the Surface Water Supply Project. WHA reported that they would reach out to HCA about this event.*

c. **Committee Goals for 2019**

i. 2060 Plan

1. *The group discussed EPA enforcement efforts against the City of Houston. The committee decided to stay updated on this issue. The committee discussed possibly inviting Alanna Reed, Executive Public Information Officer for Houston Public Works Department. Campbell also suggested Richard Seline who works for Accelerated H₂O which aims to bring the latest water technology to Houston. WHA will send the committee Seline's presentation to see if there is any interest.*

ii. Technical Forum

1. *The committee decided to schedule their technical forum for July 16th at the Embassy Suites-Energy Corridor. The topic should be something that will be interesting to the developer community as well.*
2. *The committee discussed partnering with the Education & Workforce Development Committee to host an event to discuss the need for workforce development among operators. The forum would work as a panel of 4 professionals to discuss the workforce needs and the programs already in place. Lonestar and HCC will be valuable partners for this event. The group decided to look at employment needs in other fields as well such as engineering and plumbing. Plumbing will likely be a draw for the developer community. The committee also discussed involving AWWA and WEAT in the discussion.*
3. *The group discussed “Project Lead the Way” which focuses on getting high school students interested in the STEM industries. The group decided to figure out which school districts participate in the program.*
4. *Aristizabal reported that Inframark is working on finding a way to offer the students credits to participate in internships. Otherwise the students would not be interested in participating. Another concern in working with high school students is the liability.*
5. *The group decided to have a subcommittee meeting with a few members of the education committee to discuss moving forward with the event. Possible dates for the meeting are February 26th or 27th after noon. Operators sitting on the committee will be involved in this meeting.*

iii. Marketing

1. *Kumpula reported that WHA will be working to create videos highlighting the Water Resources Committee. Suggestions on locations and volunteers to speak will be needed. The group discussed taping at Luce Bayou and suggested watching the West Harris County Regional Water Authority video on their website for ideas. Forrest is planning to have the footage by mid to late February.*

iv. Membership

1. *The committee discussed the process for adding committee members. The group decided to invite potential members as guests first and then each quarter provide a list to the committee chair and vice-chair for approval. The committee thought this was a good idea for clarification. Kumpula reported that she would send the chair and vice-chair a list of the current members.*

v. Other

1. *Miller reported that WHA’s 2060 Plan recently won the Our Great Region Diligence Award. Another award that WHA should consider applying for is HGAC’s Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence Awards (WISE). The award recognizes innovative strategies and projects in the Houston-Galveston region that serve as models for improving water quality. The deadline is February 7th. WHA will send the award information to the committee to determine if they would like to apply.*

3. **New Business (3:00)** Jack Miller

- a. *Miller reported that the committee decided to change their meeting date to the third Thursday of odd months.*

4. **Adjourn (3:30)**

2019 WHA WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE

Default Meeting Location at WHA Offices, 2 pm

Thursday, January 17
Thursday, March 21
Thursday, May 16

Thursday, July 18
Thursday, September 19
Thursday, November 21

