

2pm at Texas Childrens Hospital – West Campus

Attendees on April 2, 2019

Zach Hodges
Dick Phillips
Auggie Campbell

Karla DeCuir
Jon Polley
Jay Neal

Sarah Martin
Carmen Kumpula

1. **Welcome & Introductions (2:05 pm)**

2. **Technical Forum (2:10 pm)**

- a. *Campbell reported that the Water Resources committee wants the July 16th forum to focus specifically on the water workforce. The committee discussed 4 panelists and a moderator. The group discussed that there is a trend of industry companies participating in creating the workforce they need by providing financially and resources. Campbell reported that AWWA and WEAT have been working on a program to target high school students and veterans to join the water workforce. An issue with involving high school students is the safety and liability issues for students under 18.*

- b. *The potential panelists for the event include:*
 - i. *Julie Nahrgang – WEAT*
 - ii. *Laurie Bricker – TRIO Electric*
 - iii. *Bill Callegari*
 - iv. *Moderator: Mike Thornhill – Si Environmental*

- c. *The group discussed breaking down barriers for students who hear that they must go to a 4-year college in order to be successful. The group discussed that this will require involving the parents. Martin reported that there is an organization called Bridge Year ran by Victoria Chen that puts on a Career Testdrive Fair to help students “try on” different careers with interactive labs. The group discussed having the water industry included in a similar event and combine the event with a parents day. DeCuir reported that in the low income schools the parent involvement is low. The group discussed the industry participating to help provide gift cards, dinner or day care as an incentive for parents to participate.*

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- d. *Martin reported that the STEM nights at Katy ISD are already very popular and would be a great start to tie in the water industry. She reported that she would reach out to Steve Adams to try and get on the Fall calendar. The group discussed meeting at the STEM facility and inviting the Water Resources committee for the August 6th meeting.*

3. **Policy & Legislative Issues (2:30 pm)**

- a. *WHA has recently sent Creighton a letter in support of SB2247 and its companion HB2000 which will provide \$2.8B in tuition revenue bonds. The bill has passed through the House but not the Senate. The tuition revenue bonds are still alive. The proposed amount for the new Katy building is \$75M but that number might get cut down. Phillips reported that the last legislative session the original ask was cut by 40%.*
- b. *The house recently passed SB500. Campbell reported that the budget is moving faster than usual.*
- c. *The group discussed SB2 and HB2 regarding property tax and is cautiously optimistic it will pass.*

4. **Discussion**

- a. *Hodges reported that HCC's new Katy building will likely be up in 3 years. The programmers are on the agenda this month so things are moving fast.*
- b. *The group also discussed the opening Cross Creek Ranch schools. The middle school is scheduled to open in August 2019 and high school will open in August 2020.*
- c. *Waller county is going for a bond in November. This group may want to consider supporting their efforts.*

5. **Adjourn**

Mission Statement

Advocate policies and partnerships that provide high-quality educational infrastructure and educational opportunities to achieve a prosperous and sustainable business community and workforce in Greater West Houston.

**2019 WHA Education & Workforce Development
COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE (PROPOSED)
All Meetings at Texas Childrens Hospital - West Campus**

~~TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5~~
~~TUESDAY, APRIL 2~~
TUESDAY, JUNE 4

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3