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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 15, 2024

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Interim Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
John T. Dupnik, P.G., Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Science
and Conservation

FROM: John Sutton, Manager, Conservation
Denise Livingston, Municipal Conservation

SUBJECT: Appointment to the Water Conservation Advisory Council

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider the appointment of a member to the Water Conservation Advisory Council to represent groundwater conservation districts.

BACKGROUND

The Texas Legislature created the Water Conservation Advisory Council (Council) in 2007 to serve as an expert resource in water conservation to state government and the public. The Council is composed of volunteers representing 23 different interest groups. Texas Water Code, Chapter 10, directs the Board to appoint members of the Council to staggered, six-year terms ending in odd years. Occasionally, a council member is unable to complete a full term, resulting in the need for the Board to appoint a member to fill the remainder of that term.

KEY ISSUES

Leah Martinsson, former Executive Director of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, was the groundwater conservation district representative on the Council, and she submitted her resignation letter on April 18, 2024 (Attachment 1). The term for the groundwater conservation district representative expires August 31, 2025.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) solicited nominations from regional planning groups and groundwater conservation districts to fill the vacancy. A total of four individuals were nominated, including

Our Mission · **Board Members**

Leading the state's efforts	·	Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman		L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member
in ensuring a secure	·			
water future for Texas	·	Bryan McMath, Interim Executive Administrator		

- four nominations for Adam Foster, Executive Director of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts;
- one nomination for Zach Holland, General Manager, Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District;
- one nomination for Marc Friberg, Deputy General Manager, Edwards Aquifer Authority; and
- one nomination for Dirk Aaron, General Manager, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District.

Attachment 2 summarizes and lists all nominations received. Zach Holland has withdrawn his nomination. In addition to the nominations listed above, the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts submitted a resolution supporting the nomination of Adam Foster. (Attachment 3).

RECOMMENDATION

Based on his individual commitment to, and expertise in water conservation, and nominations received, the Interim Executive Director recommends Adam Foster's appointment to the Council as the Groundwater Conservation Districts representative with a term to expire August 31, 2025.

Attachments:

1. Letter of resignation
2. Summary of nominations
3. Resolution from Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Attachment 1: Letter of resignation

Leah Martinsson
1909 Cetona Ct.
Austin, TX 79746
leah.martinsson@gmail.com

April 18, 2024

Chairwoman Brooke Paup
Texas Water Development Board
1700 Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701
Via email brooke.paup@twdb.texas.gov

Dear Chairwoman Paup,

It has been my honor to serve on the Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC) for the past five years. However, I recently resigned from my role as the Executive Director at the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts. As a result, I believe it is most appropriate that I vacate my seat as the representative for groundwater conservation districts on the WCAC.

In order to allow for continuity in this seat, I am committed to remain in my seat through the end of May in order to allow TWDB staff time to solicit nominations and bring appointment of this vacancy to the board. It is my hope that this will assist the WCAC in meeting and maintaining a quorum as the important work on the WCAC report to the 89th Legislature is ongoing.

The WCAC plays a crucial role in furthering important water policy dialogues and facilitating coordination between members and stakeholder groups. I have very much enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to be a part of this group and look forward to continuing to follow and engage in these discussions in my future water endeavors.

Best regards,

//Leah Martinsson//

Leah Martinsson
WCAC Groundwater Conservation District Representative

cc (via email): John Sutton
 Denise Livingston

Attachment 2: Summary of nominations

Nominee	Title and organization	Nominator
Adam Foster	Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts	Sarah Rountree Schlessinger, CEO, Texas Water Foundation
Adam Foster	Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts	Christa Perry, General Manager, Hemphill County UWCD
Adam Foster	Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts	Amber Blount, District Manager, Sandy Land UWCD
Adam Foster	Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts	Zach Holland, General Manager, Bluebonnet GCD
Zach Holland (<i>withdrawn</i>)	General Manager, Bluebonnet GCD	John Martin, Manager, Southeast Texas GCD
Marc Friberg	Deputy General Manager, Edwards Aquifer Authority	Rolan Ruiz, General Manager, Edwards Aquifer Authority
Dirk Aaron	General Manager, Clearwater UWCD	Pamela Hannemann, Regional Planner, Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group

Notes: GCD=Groundwater Conservation District and UWCD = Underground Water Conservation District



Resolution Supporting the Nomination of Adam Foster to the Water Conservation Advisory Council

WHEREAS, water conservation is crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability and health of Texas' communities, economies, and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC) plays a vital role in advising and guiding state policies and practices to promote effective water conservation across Texas; and

WHEREAS, Adam Foster has demonstrated exceptional dedication, expertise, and leadership in the field of groundwater resource management, protection, and conservation; and

WHEREAS, Adam Foster possesses a proven track record of successful collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders, including governmental agencies, the public, and private sector partners; and

WHEREAS, Adam Foster has consistently shown a commitment to advancing groundwater conservation strategies and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, Adam Foster's inclusion on the WCAC would significantly benefit the Council's mission to develop and implement sustainable and effective water conservation strategies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 6 day of June, 2024 that the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts hereby supports the nomination of Adam Foster to the Water Conservation Advisory Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an acknowledgement of this resolution will be provided to the appointing committee to inform them of this support.

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Bailey", is written over a horizontal line.

David Bailey
President, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts