

MINUTES

WATER PROVIDER LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

NOVEMBER 26, 2018

The Water Provider Legislative Task Force met Monday, November 26, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 151, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Legislative Task Force members present: Senators Alan Clark, Co-Chair and Ronald Caldwell. Representatives Tim Lemons, Co-Chair, and Justin Boyd.

Non-Legislative Task Force members present: Mark Bennett, Dr. Bob Blanz, Daniel Dawson, Jennifer Enos, Barry Haas, Dale Kimbrow, and Jean Noble.

Call to Order

Senator Clark called the meeting to order.

Continued Drafting of the Water Provider Task Force Vision Report, Action Report, Suggested Best Practices for Providing New Services, and Other Areas as Specified in Act 1056 of 2017 [Exhibit D, D-1]

Task Force members discussed the following:

Recommendation 1.C.i

- Tentative wording change suggested – an element in the rate study shall address the guidelines as set forth by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF)

Recommendation 1.C.ii

- Tentative wording change suggested - A system will be advised to maintain a minimum of five percent (5%) of its annual gross revenues...

Task Force members agreed the word “insure” should be changed to “ensure” throughout the body of the report.

Recommendation 1.C.v

- Tentative wording change suggested - the creation of new systems with less than 300 customers will only be considered and approved by state agencies if ADH or ADEQ determines public health or the environment is threatened without its creation or there is no other viable available alternative

Recommendation 1.L.i

- Tentative wording change suggested - within one (1) year of the election or appointment of an elected official or board member they shall receive (strike the wording a minimum of eight (8) hours) training on key regulatory and management responsibilities of the position

Recommendation 1.L.ii

- Tentative wording change suggested - within one (1) year of the election or appointment of an elected official or board member they shall be mandated to receive a minimum of eight (8) hours of training

Recommendation 1.L.iii

- Tentative wording change suggested - shall have the power to step in and compel compliance with regulatory requirements

6. CHALLENGE

- Tentative wording change suggested – a gap exists in the public and the local, state, and federal leaders' understanding as to what is required to efficiently operate and manage a water/wastewater utility

Task Force members discussed the importance of compliance with the State Water Plan and the need to include a specific section in the State Water Plan. At the request of Senator Clark, Mr. Bennett said the ANRC will prepare a presentation on Arkansas's State Water Plan to be presented at the next Task Force meeting. Task Force members also decided to wait to take up further discussion and review of Challenge five (5) until the next Task Force meeting.

Senator Clark announced that the Task Force will meet December 4, 2018. This will be an all-day meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.