

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Public Welcome:

San Jacinto River Authority
1577 Dam Site Rd., Conroe, TX 77304
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer and Aubrey Spear, Vice Presiding Officer
Meeting Facilitator: Denise Livingston, Staff Support to the Council

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Jade Rutledge/Ashley Niell	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Eddie Wilcut Vacant
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	David Villarreal Vacant	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Colin McDonald Josh Sendejar
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Marty Kelly Jennifer Whitt	<i>Higher Education</i>	Robert Mace Allen Berthold
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Mitch Conine John Foster	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	John Bender Charles Ring
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Sam Marie Hermitte Erika Mancha	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Tanushri Jain Sherman Hampton
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear Wayne Wilson	<i>Electric Generation</i>	Greg Carter Ryan Bayle
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Troy Hill Salvador Gandara	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway Cory Pomeroy
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz, Chair Joyce Warren	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Whitney Milberger Dean Minchillo
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	Adam Foster Stephanie Keith	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Dustan Compton Vacant
<i>River Authorities</i>	Stacy Pandey Amy Muttoni	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	Kyle Eppler Mary Alice Boehm McKaughan
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Jennifer Walker Marisa Bruno	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe Earl Foster
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	Anthony Stambaugh Michael Kent		

Also present: Adam Conner, Alicia Lee, Alison Hanson, Bill Hoffman, Chris Loft, Curt Campbell, Eric Anderson, Hector Ortiz, Jayme Martone, Jessica Wright, Jim Scarborough, Karan Mehta, Kevin Kluge, Macy Beauchamp, Michael Kent, Michele Risko, Natalie Houston, Paula Szymanski, Ruby Perez, Samantha Borgstedt, Susan Alvarez, Tillery Timmons-Sims, Uday Vaddevolu, **TWDB Staff** –Amy Banerji, Denise Livingston, Jessica Paz, Marla Heger, Melanie Butler, Ryke Moore, Sabrina Anderson, Temple McKinnon

1. Welcome- the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Aubrey stated that no public was in physical attendance as San Jacinto River Authority and the meeting was turned over to Karen Guz.
2. Roll Call - A quorum of the Advisory Council was present at the meeting.
3. Public Comment – No requests were received.
4. Review and discuss content of 2026 WCAC Legislative Report - Karen reviewed the substantial changes made since the last meeting.
 - Charge 1
 - i. CI – Eddie Wilcut discussed
 - the addition of Item 4, Data Center Education and Guidance, and,

- the addition of the summary statement under resources.

Discussion was held and the general consensus was favorable.
- ii. LIH – Whitney summarized the justification for adding clarification on non-potable reuse vs residential greywater.
No further discussion and no further changes requested.
- iii. Municipal – Karen summarized the data issues with the mean/median GPCD information. A meeting was held with TWDB staff 9/15/26. Currently, the raw data is being reviewed, and, along with the recently finalized outdoor residential water use report, the municipal section will have a revised format to showcase per capita use. The municipal section draft will be sent out as soon as possible. No further discussion. This section is still in production.
- Charge 2
 - i. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) – per a discussion with Mary Alice, Karen will add a statement regarding the expense of converting to AMI.
 - ii. Modification of ET section -Dustan summarized the revisions made to this section. He thanked Jennifer Barr and Stacy Pandey for their assistance.
- Charge 3 – 5 – No Changes. These sections are in substantial form.
- Charge 6 – Aubrey summarized the draft.
 - i. Discussion was held on drought contingency plans as a conservation strategy. Temple discussed demand reduction strategies or drought/water management strategy as outlined in chapter 7 of the [State Water Plan](#) Proposed Amendment no. 1. Information will be added to discussion demand reduction strategies.
 - ii. Under section Establishing Regional Conservation Goals, need to modify section and remove reference to WCAC recommending 140 GPCD goal. Some regions use percent reduction or other BMPs. This section is still in production.
- Charge 7 – This section modified to reflect TCEQ comment as a stand-alone. Further discussion was held. Section to be modified to reflect bullet point 1 as TCEQ summary. Bullet point 2 will be WCAC summary.
- Colin requested a modification under Charge 1 Agriculture. Sentence under water shortage was changed to, “Surface water right holders have experienced curtailments in irrigation water from the Rio Grande impacting citrus and produce farmers due to the extended drought throughout the basin and Mexico's water debt to the U.S. under the 1944 Treaty.”
- Karen took a moment to clarify the requirement for passing the legislative report.
 - i. An in-person meeting on any action items.
 - ii. The vote on the report will require a 2/3rd affirmative vote.
 - iii. The 2/3rds of the members does not include members abstaining.
 - iv. The 2/3rds of the members do not have to be in-person.
 - v. An in-person alternate does not count as a Council member if the Board appointed Council member is in the meeting, either in-person or virtually.
- 5. By-law committee met on September 10 to discuss possible changes to the by-laws. Some items discussed were
 - If the Council can change their by-laws,
 - the process to change by-laws, since a process isn't included in the current by-laws,
 - the charter contains items typically in found in by-laws and vice-versa, and
 - term limits.
- 6. Review of Wholesale BMP Dustan and Stacey presented the BMP, “Wholesale Water Provider Financial Incentives to End-Users”. Discussion was held with no recommended changes. Dustan and Stacy will present a clean copy to the Council for vote at the next meeting.
- 7. Announcement of Conferences and Events

- [Gulf Coast Symposium](#), Baytown, TX. Oct. 22
 - [Water Smart Innovations](#), Portland, OR Oct. 21-23
 - North Texas Water Symposium, Coppell, TX Nov. 5 – Details coming soon.
 - [Water for Texas](#), TWDB Conference, Austin, TX Jan. 25-27, 2027
 - [Texas Rural Water Association](#) Conference, Tyler, TX Oct. 29-30, 2026
8. Future Meetings – Oct. 14 in-person at Lower Colorado River Authority, Redbud Center, Rm 108
 9. Adjourn 12:08 p.m.

Links to items mentioned in meeting

[State Water Plan](#) proposed Amendment no. 1