

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 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

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>	Sami 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, Andrea Chick, Bill Hoffman, Casey Hughes, Chandler Crouch, Curtis Smith, Eric Anderson, J.D Hale, Jacie Lewis, Jayme Martone, Jennifer Barr, Jennifer Nations, Karan Mehta, Kathy Fonville, Kevin Kluge, Margo Williams, Michelle Simpson, Natalie Houston, Paula Szymanski, Perry Fowler, Ronald Kaiser, Summer Hvasta, Suzanne Williams, Yesenia Perez **TWDB Staff** –Denise Livingston, Fritz Reinig, Jessica Paz, Ryke Moore

* Jade Rutledge has replaced Leslie Patterson effective June 1, 2026.

1. Welcome- Aubrey Spear called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. Aubrey turned the meeting over to Karen Guz.
2. Roll Call - A quorum of the Advisory Council was present at the meeting.
3. Review of the minutes – Action is only taken at in-person meetings. Karen asked Council members to review minutes. No comments or corrections were discussed.
4. Public Comment – No requests were received.
5. Review Draft Legislative Report

- Agricultural -John Bender gave a summary of the updates made in the agricultural section since the last meeting. TCEQ comments will be included in this section.
- Commercial and Institutional – Discussion held on modified content. Eddie will draft brief section on creating a task force for the next biennium to research data centers, benchmarking, and what can be done to increase water efficiency and conservation.
- Landscape, Irrigation, and Horticulture- Whitney Milberger gave a summary of the additions made to LIH section.
 - i. Examining and providing educational outlets on the importance of proper selection of landscape material for adaptive areas in Texas. When discussing native and adaptive plantings for Texas, there is confusion that this means zero or bare minimum plantings. The workgroup understands the importance of plants for Texas and hopes to educate the public further on how choosing the correct plant palette based on existing ecosystems assists in low water use, yet aesthetically pleasing landscapes.
 - ii. Reviewing and updating existing BMPs on landscape water conservation provided by the TWDB.

Discussion was held on clarifying greywater use on landscape and municipal reuse. The following sentence will be added to clarify.

“The use of Type 1 and Type 2 effluent water from wastewater treatment plants for landscape irrigation has advanced immensely over the past decade, therefore this was not the key focus of discussion.”

- Manufacturing and Electrical power generation – Karen gave summary of information added to this section. Specifically clarifying the differences between the Commercial Institutional section and the Manufacturing. Continued discussion on self-supplied systems getting more attention due to the growing concern on data centers. Data centers falling in, how they can be integrated into water plans, how can we increase communication and reporting for these systems.
- Municipal –Karen gave a summary of the municipal section.
 - i. Instead of mean and median water use per capita for residential and total, this report may look at largest municipal GPCD and compare just them. Need permanent GPCD savings. If usage in dry periods reflect larger GPCD, need to pay attention to what is happening with drought conservation plans.
 - ii. Next biennium,
 - work on AMI data and usage of AMI. Is AMI being leveraged to save water for customers?
 - Encourage us of recent evidence-based information on drought strategies for upcoming revised drought plans.
- Water Loss – Jennifer Walker and Karen Guz gave summary of the water loss section
- Wholesale/Rural Water – Dustan Compton provided summary of Wholesale information. No comments or changes requested.

6. Charge 2-7 -

- Charge 2.
 - i. Karen introduced the “BMP update” section. Discussion focused on
 - the need to update existing BMPs,
 - extensive time commitment of Council members and stakeholders
 - lengthy approval process
 - need BMP on new strategies such as AMI as a tool
 - consideration of collaboration with third party for cost effective update and addition of BMPs.

- ii. Agricultural technology – John Bender discussed the advances in irrigation technology and need for updating the irrigation technology BMP.
 - iii. ET - Dustan Compton gave summary of the ET section. Discussion was held on the addition of AI technology in assisting ET for agricultural conservation. John Bender recommended that the ET section be moved to Charge 6.
 - Charge 3 Monitor the Effectiveness of the Statewide Water Conservation Public Awareness Campaign – Section was updated with TWDB approved draft.
 - Charge 4. Develop and Implement a Water Management Resource Library. This section was updated from the past report with the addition of Texas Water Data Hub link and summary submitted by Taylor Christian, TWDB.
 - Charge 5. Develop and Implement a Public Recognition Program for Water Conservation – Colin McDonald submitted the draft highlighting the new awards and featuring the 2024 Blue Legacy Award recipients.
 - Charge 6. Monitor the Implementation of Water Conservation Strategies by Water Users in Regional Water Plans 2026 - Aubrey Spears gave summary of the status of Charge 6.
 - Charge 7. Monitor Target and Goal Guidelines for Water Conservation to be Considered by the TCEQ & TWDB – Karen introduced the Drought Contingency Plan Effectiveness section.
 - i. PUC, TWDB and TCEQ are currently working on drought contingency plan updates.
 - ii. Propose the agencies ask for stakeholder feedback to ensure evidence-based information is incorporated into updated DCP models.
 - iii. State of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) in Texas.
 - iv. Possible inclusion of GPCD metrics.
 - Recommendations - No discussion or updates. This section is in substantial final form.
7. Next steps
- Submit edits to Denise as soon as possible.
 - Joyce Warren will review the draft prior to the next meeting and prior to the in-person meeting when action will be taken. The draft will then go to the TWDB for review only, no content change or additions. Once the draft is finalized, TWDB will send to the state's legislators.
 - By-law committee meeting to be scheduled to specifically discuss Council member term limits.
8. Review of Wholesale BMP will be pushed to the September meeting.
9. Announcement of Conferences and Events
- [Texas Groundwater Conference](#), San Antonio, TX. Sept 1-3
 - [Gulf Coast Symposium](#), Baytown, TX. Oct. 22
 - [2026 WaterReuse Texas Conference](#), September 15-17, 2026, | Embassy Suites San Antonio, TX
10. Future Meetings – Sept.16 changed to virtual, Oct. 14 in-person.
11. Adjourn 12:36 p.m.

Links to items mentioned in meeting

Industrial [Custom Rebate BMP](#) for Municipal Providers

[Alliance for Water Use Efficiency](#) (Some resources may require AWE membership)

Cooling Tower Learning Cohort Guide by Alliance for Water Efficiency

Commercial Kitchens Water Use Efficiency Guide

Data Center Primer by Alliance for Water Use Efficiency

[National Commercial Water Audit Training](#)/ Certification by IAPMO

[Regional Water Plans](#)