

GROUNDWATER ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Fourth Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2026

Meeting Date: June 3, 2026
Meeting No.: 46

Place: videoconference
Room: N/A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)
Chris Heiligenstein (Co-Chair)
Rebecca Storms
Omar Valdez
David Villarreal
T.J. Helton

Justin Thompson

Chris Hooyboer
Guy Fipps

Ken Rainwater
Natalie Houston

Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG)
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
Texas Tech University (TTU)
United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Agency Staff

Stanley Aniagu

Katie Brice
Jennifer Delgado
Stephanie Escobar
Sarah Findley
Dan Hannah
April Hoh
Cindy Hooper
Peggy Hunka
James LaManna
Pecos McDonald
Sarah Schreier
Eric Simon
Scott Underwood
Phillip Valladolid
Scout Vanderwal
Marcia Workman

Affiliation

TCEQ

Program

Toxicology, Risk Assessment, and Research Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

RRC

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

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Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Supply Division

TDLR

TCEQ

Radioactive Materials Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TWDB

DSHS

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

Interested Parties

Diana Nichols

Affiliation

Kelly Hart & Hallman, LLP

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, June 3, 2026
2. TGPC GWI Subcommittee Meeting Record, March 4, 2026
3. TGPC Publications Status Report, June 3, 2026
4. TGPC GWI Subcommittee *Charge*, https://tgpc.texas.gov/wp-content/themes/responsive/subcommittees/gwissues/GWI_SubComm_Charge12Jul2023.pdf

MEETING RECORD OF JUNE 3, 2026

1. PRE-MEETING REMINDERS

Before the meeting started, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) provided the attendees with some tips that would facilitate a productive videoconference.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The TGPC approves all Subcommittee products and designated TGPC members attending this Subcommittee meeting participated as an employee or representative of their agency or organization, not as a designated TGPC member. Therefore, this Subcommittee meeting was not subject to the Open Meetings Act and it was held 100% virtually. The public was also able to attend this meeting via videoconference or teleconference at no cost.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the GWI Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:33 AM CDT and then called the roll of GWI Subcommittee members. The representatives from the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD), Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research), and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) were not present at the meeting.

3. STATUS REPORTS

Agricultural Chemicals Task Force

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that approximately 50 Cooperative Monitoring groundwater samples had been picked up at TWDB on June 2, 2026, and they would be screened for atrazine by TCEQ staff using immunoassay on June 8, 2026.

TGPC Publications

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) reported on the following TGPC publications:

- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2025* (“*Joint Report*”, TCEQ publication SFR-56-25)
 - o The 2025 *Joint Report* was published on June 1, 2026.
- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 90th Legislature* (“*Legislative Report*”, TCEQ publication SFR-47/26)
 - o The TGPC Legislative Report Subcommittee was reactivated during the January 2026 TGPC meeting, and they would prepare the draft report for approval by the TGPC at its October 2026 meeting.
 - o The final report would be delivered by December 31, 2026.

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) also reported on the following groundwater-related TCEQ publications:

- *Groundwater Assessment* (TCEQ publication AS-465/26) for the 2026 *Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)* (“*Texas Integrated Report*”)

- o The 2026 *Groundwater Assessment* was published in May 2026, and it was provided to TCEQ's Water Quality Planning Division for inclusion in the Draft 2026 *Texas Integrated Report*.
- *Priority Groundwater Management Areas and Groundwater Conservation Districts, Report to the 90th Texas Legislature ("PGMA/GCD Legislative Report", TCEQ publication SFR-53/26)*
 - o Work on the *PGMA/GCD Legislative Report* would be initiated in the summer of 2026.

4. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 9:30 AM CDT and it was planned as a videoconference.

5. DISCUSS CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Oil and Gas Produced Water

Justin Thompson (UTBEG) reported that they had been having conversations with RRC regarding orphan oil and gas wells possibly being included in UTBEG's oil and gas produced water database.

David Villarreal (TDA) encouraged members to participate in the various meetings of the Texas Produced Water Consortium (TxPWC, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/research/tx-water-consortium/>).

Emerging Chemical and Biological Contaminants

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) shared the following information provided by James LaManna (TCEQ):

- On May 18, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced two proposed rules related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water for public comment. One proposed rule (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-it-will-keep-maximum-contaminant-levels-pfoa-pfos>) upheld the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS) and provided an option for drinking water systems to request two additional years – to 2031 – to comply with enforceable limits. Another proposed rule would rescind drinking water regulations for four additional PFAS and the Hazard Index mixture for three of them. The U.S. EPA would accept public comments on the two proposed rules until July 20, 2026.
- TCEQ would be discussing these updates at its Drinking Water Advisory Work Group (DWA WG, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/dwawg>) meeting on July 14, 2026.

Stanley Aniagu (TCEQ) reported that the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC, <https://itrcweb.org/>) planned to launch a new team focused on groundwater contamination in landfills, and that it would be offering PFAS training during the week of June 8 – 12, 2026.

David Villarreal (TDA) noted that plastics, desalination of oil and gas produced water, PFAS, and microbes were hot topics related to groundwater contamination, but that pesticides were not as much of a concern as in the past.

Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)

Rebecca Storms (TWDB) reported that they had recently publishing a four-page factsheet on Texas reclaimed water MAR projects called “Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Aquifer Recharge with Reclaimed Water in Texas”

(<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/asr/docs.asp#iwt-factsheets>).

Abandoned Water Wells

Justin Thompson (UTBEG) announced that they were performing an online survey of private water well owners to better understand some of the state’s groundwater use types (e.g., domestic, livestock, irrigation, commercial, industrial, institutional, and public water systems). Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) suggested that a link to the survey could be posted on the TGPC homepage.

Chris Hooyboer (TDLR) reported that they had almost finished migrating their abandoned water well data to something that might be more accessible for those interested in taking ownership of these wells for monitoring (instead of TDLR having the wells plugged). Rebecca Storms (TWDB) expressed interest in learning more about this opportunity, especially if it would be cost effective for them (i.e., no expensive rehabilitation was required) and access agreements could be set up.

Omar Valdez (DSHS) proposed that data centers and their groundwater usage be added to the TGPC GWI Subcommittee’s list of current groundwater issues.

T.J. Helton (TSSWCB) left at approximately 10:06 AM CDT and was absent for the remainder of the meeting. Ken Rainwater (TTU) joined at approximately 10:10 AM CDT and was present for the remainder of the meeting. Omar Valdez (DSHS) left at approximately 10:11 AM CDT and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

Groundwater Quality Monitoring

Rebecca Storms (TWDB) reported that:

- Their Fiscal Year 2026 water quality monitoring season was underway with well sampling activities, routine activities for their Springs Monitoring Program had been completed, and the coordinated monitoring with TPWD of additional spring locations was pending access agreements and schedule coordination.
- They were targeting four major aquifers to sample this season (Carrizo-Wilcox, Hueco-Mesilla Bolson, Pecos Valley, and Seymour), as well as a few minor aquifers located near these major aquifers. It takes TWDB about four years to sample aquifers across the whole state.

Brackish Groundwater

Rebecca Storms (TWDB) reported that:

- A memo for the designation of four proposed Brackish Groundwater Production Zones (BGPZs) for the southern portion of the Trinity Aquifer would be going to their Board for approval this summer, and that an interactive StoryMap with the results from this study was available at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/97ef94c77ebe4c80a58c8abe2e4062f9>.

Evapotranspiration Networks

Guy Fipps (AgriLife Extension) reported that his TexasET Network was running well and that the TWDB TexMesonet Advisory Committee had been meeting. Long-term funding for a statewide ET network was still limited and uncertain, but the Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC, <https://savetexaswater.org/>) was including a statewide ET network recommendation in their draft legislative report. David Villarreal (TDA) confirmed that this concern had been discussed at WCAC meetings, and added that the TGPC Legislative Report Subcommittee might be discussing the inclusion of a similar recommendation in their draft legislative report.

Rebecca Storms (TWDB) reported that TexMesonet staff would collaborate with the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District (UWCD) by providing Ott Weighing Auto Drain (WAD) rain gauges and technical assistance to improve rainfall monitoring in their county.

Others

Rebecca Storms (TWDB) reported that:

- TWDB received \$7.5M to disburse as grants to GCDs during Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027, but during the initial solicitation which closed on March 13, 2026, nearly half of the GCDs applied, requesting more funding than TWDB had available. Awards were pending their Board approval on June 25, 2026.
- The Draft 2027 State Water Plan contained several groundwater policy recommendations. The public comment period had closed and an audio recording of the hearing was available on the TWDB website. One notable policy recommendation previously communicated to TGPC members was to establish a single, statewide groundwater well identification system which would require adopting a statewide policy that requires the use of a common well identification system.

James LaManna (TCEQ) joined at approximately 10:26 AM CDT and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

6. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

TGPC GWI Subcommittee *Charge*

As required by the GWI Subcommittee's current *Activity Plan*

(https://tgpc.texas.gov/gwissues/activity_plans/TGPC_GWI_FY2026_2027_ActivityPlan_09Jul2)

[025.pdf](https://tgpc.texas.gov/wpcontent/themes/responsive/subcommittees/gwissues/GWI_SubComm_Charge12Jul2023.pdf)), Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the GWI Subcommittee *Charge* (https://tgpc.texas.gov/wpcontent/themes/responsive/subcommittees/gwissues/GWI_SubComm_Charge12Jul2023.pdf) for its annual review and discussion. The current Co-Chairs had agreed to continue for the next Fiscal Year, and no additional changes were suggested, so the *Charge* would remain in effect.

Discussion of White Papers Under Development

There was no discussion of white papers at the meeting.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements at the meeting.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

9. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:33 AM CDT.