

**TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING**

Fourth Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2026

Meeting Date: July 8, 2026
Meeting No.: 154

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 5108

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING ATTENDANCE	2
MEETING HANDOUTS	3
MEETING RECORD OF JULY 8, 2026.....	4
1. PRE-MEETING REMINDERS	4
2. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS	4
3. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.....	4
Groundwater Issues.....	4
Public Outreach and Education.....	5
Legislative Report.....	6
4. PRESENTATION.....	6
5. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION.....	6
<i>Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2025.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee</i> <i>– Report to the 90th Legislature</i>	<i>6</i>
Amendments to 31 TAC Chapter 601, Groundwater Contamination Report – Discuss and Approve Adoption	7
Quadrennial Rules Review for 31 TAC Chapter 601, Groundwater Contamination Report – Discuss and Approve Proposal for Publication.....	7
Set Future Meeting Date	8
6. INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR GROUNDWATER-RELATED ACTIVITIES – STATUS UPDATE	8
Groundwater Contamination Notice Coordination (Texas Water Code §26.408) .	8
Groundwater Management Areas	8
Updates on Regional Water Planning, Groundwater Availability Modeling, Brackish Groundwater Studies, and Innovative Water.....	8
Nonpoint Source Pollution.....	9
National Groundwater Information.....	9
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	10
Rules Update.....	10
New Publications	10
Upcoming Conferences.....	10
8. PUBLIC COMMENT	11
9. ADJOURN.....	11

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Eric Simon	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Natalie Ballew	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
James Harcourt	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Omar Valdez	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
David Villarreal	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
T.J. Helton	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
David Van Dresar	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Justin Thompson	Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG)

Agency Staff

<u>Agency Staff</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Program</u>
Josh Amador	TCEQ	Intergovernmental Relations Division
Katie Brice	TCEQ	Water Availability Division (WAD)
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ	WAD
Sarah Findley	TCEQ	WAD
Dan Hannah	TCEQ	WAD
April Hoh	TCEQ	WAD
Cindy Hooper	TCEQ	WAD
Peggy Hunka	TCEQ	WAD
Stephanie Keith	TAGD	
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ	WAD
Pecos McDonald	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)	
Michael Parr	TCEQ	Environmental Law Division
Carly Rotzler	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	
Chance Rushing	TCEQ	Occupational Licensing and Registration Division
Lauren Trotter	TCEQ	WAD
Scott Underwood	TCEQ	WAD

Interested Parties

<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Beatrice Anderson	Save Our Springs Alliance
Trey Daywood	Aqua Water Supply Corporation
Cara Glasscock	Red River Authority of Texas
David Haertel	The University of Texas System – University Lands
Sarah Kinkle	Texas Water Association
Diana Nichols	Potomac Law
Victoria Rose	Save Our Springs Alliance
Virginia Smith	Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on July 8, 2026
2. Record for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on April 8, 2026
3. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting, June 3, 2026
4. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting, June 3, 2026
5. *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2025*,
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/groundwater/groundwater-planning-assessment/sfr-056-joint-groundwater-monitoring-contamination-report>
6. TGPC Rule Adoption Preamble
7. TGPC Quadrennial Rules Review (QRR) Proposal Preamble
8. TCEQ Rules Update, 7/8/26
9. Water-related Conferences in Texas, July 2026

MEETING RECORD OF JULY 8, 2026

1. PRE-MEETING REMINDERS

Before the meeting started, Eric Simon (TCEQ) provided the attendees with some tips that would facilitate a productive videoconference option for the meeting.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The member of the TGPC presiding over this meeting was physically present at the location listed on the first page and this meeting location was accessible to the public. Other designated TGPC members and the public were also able attend this meeting via videoconference or teleconference at no cost.

Eric Simon (TCEQ), Designated Chairman of the TGPC, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:31 PM CDT. Eric Simon (TCEQ) then called the roll of TGPC members. The designated representatives or alternates from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research) were not present at the meeting.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Groundwater Issues

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that the Subcommittee last met via videoconference on June 3, 2026, and 11 state and federal agencies and organizations were represented.

It was 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.

The TGPC Publications Status Report was reviewed with the following highlights:

- *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.
- *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.

The following groundwater issues were discussed:

- Oil and Gas Produced Water;
- Emerging Chemical and Biological Contaminants;
- Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR);
- Abandoned Water Wells;
- Groundwater Quality Monitoring;
- Brackish Groundwater;
- Evapotranspiration Networks; and,
- Others (TWDB grants for Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) in the state, and a groundwater policy recommendation in the Draft 2027 *State Water Plan*).

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

(https://tgpc.texas.gov/gwissues/activity_plans/TGPC_GWI_FY2026_2027_ActivityPlan_09Jul2025.pdf), the GWI Subcommittee *Charge*

(https://tgpc.texas.gov/wpcontent/themes/responsive/subcommittees/gwissues/GWI_SubComm_Charge12Jul2023.pdf) was presented 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.

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for September 16, 2026.

Public Outreach and Education

Katie Brice (TCEQ) reported that the Subcommittee last met via videoconference on June 3, 2026, and five state agencies and organizations were represented.

Joel Pigg (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; AgriLife Extension) reviewed the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) training schedule. During the previous quarter, TWON staff held six one-hour events, and they collected 530 samples.

The Outreach Events Status Report was reviewed with the following highlights:

- AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events
 - o Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reported that nine events had been held during the previous quarter.

- TGPC Exhibit Booth
 - o Katie Brice (TCEQ) reported that the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair was held in May 2026 in San Antonio, and approximately 50 attendees stopped by the booth.

The list of upcoming conferences was reviewed.

The POE *Educational Outreach Plan* was tabled for the next meeting when it would be finalized.

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for September 16, 2026.

Legislative Report

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) deferred this report to the Business portion of the meeting during the discussion of the *Legislative Report*.

4. PRESENTATION

There was no presentation at the meeting.

Presentations at TGPC meetings are always available on the Meeting Records of the TGPC webpage (<https://tgpc.texas.gov/meetings/meeting-records-of-the-texas-groundwater-protection-committee/>).

5. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2025

Katie Brice (TCEQ) reported that the *Joint Report* was published on June 1, 2026 (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/groundwater/groundwater-planning-assessment/sfr-056-joint-groundwater-monitoring-contamination-report>), and she thanked everyone for their assistance in getting this document published on time.

Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee – Report to the 90th Legislature

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) reported that the Legislative Report Subcommittee met on June 3, 2026, and they worked on updates to the Recommendations section of this document. The draft document was expected to be shared with the members within a week. Important next steps included obtaining member management approval (or requested updates) by August 31, 2026, with the Subcommittee voting on the final draft document at their next meeting on September 16, 2026, and presentation the final draft document to the Committee for approval at their meeting in October 2026. Key changes from the previous *Legislative Report* included removing the recommendations that were accomplished during the prior legislative session, numbering the recommendations within

the report to make them easier to reference, and putting most of the recommendations at the beginning of each section. The current draft had 10 recommendations in the first few sections, and 13 recommendations in the white papers section.

David Villarreal (TDA) asked whether members could support parts of the report while not supporting others. Eric Simon (TCEQ) indicated that the *Legislative Report* and its recommendations are a consensus of the Committee and not necessarily a reflection of each member agency's position. In addition, although the TGPC strives for unanimous approval of all of its products, unanimity is not required. If needed, TGPC members could approve parts of the *Legislative Report* and abstain from, or disapprove of, other parts of the report. Any abstention or disapproval would be noted in the meeting recording file and the meeting minutes, both of which are permanent records of the TGPC.

Amendments to 31 TAC Chapter 601, Groundwater Contamination Report – Discuss and Approve Adoption

At the last meeting, the TGPC approved the rule proposal to implement Senate Bill (SB) 2124, passed in the 89th Legislature Regular Session (2025), which amended Texas Water Code (TWC) Section 26.406(c) by changing the date that the TGPC must publish its annual *Joint Report* from April 1 to June 1. The proposal also addressed provisions of SB 1663 (passed in the same session) regarding the form and content of a notice of groundwater contamination by more closely aligning the rule language with the bill's new requirements in TWC, §26.408(b), along with other clarifying updates to the TGPC rules in Title 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 601. The rule proposal was published in the *Texas Register* on April 24, 2026, the comment period closed on May 26, 2026, and no relevant comments were received. Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the TGPC rule proposal for adoption to the members. James Harcourt (RRC) proposed, Omar Valdez (DSHS) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved this rulemaking proposal without changes to the proposed rule text that was previously published, along with the publication of this rule adoption in the *Texas Register* on July 24, 2026. TGPC members also approved TCEQ staff making any non-substantive changes required for that publication.

With this approval, the TGPC rules were then closed.

Quadrennial Rules Review for 31 TAC Chapter 601, Groundwater Contamination Report – Discuss and Approve Proposal for Publication

Texas Government Code (TGC), §2001.039 requires all state agencies, every four years, to review and consider whether the reasons for the agency's rules continue to exist. If the rules are still needed, the agency is required to readopt its rules. The TGPC is a state agency created by the Legislature in 1989 to optimize water quality protection through coordination among agencies involved in groundwater activities. Michael Parr (TCEQ and TGPC Legal Counsel) presented the TGPC Quadrennial Rules Review (QRR) proposal to the members and recommended that the TGPC readopt its rules because the

provisions of 31 TAC Chapter 601 are required by state law (i.e., TWC), and not following state law is not an option. A link to the *Texas Register* notice of the rule proposal would be available on the TGPC's homepage (<https://tgpc.texas.gov/>), and this rulemaking would be scheduled for adoption at the next TGPC meeting. David Villarreal (TDA) proposed, Justin Thompson (UTBEG) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved the publication of the QRR rule proposal in the *Texas Register* on July 24, 2026, allowing TCEQ staff to make any non-substantive changes required for that publication.

Set Future Meeting Date

The next TGPC quarterly meeting was scheduled for October 14, 2026, at 1:30 PM CDT as a hybrid meeting.

6. INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR GROUNDWATER-RELATED ACTIVITIES – STATUS UPDATE

Groundwater Contamination Notice Coordination (Texas Water Code §26.408)

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) reported that, since the last TGPC meeting, the TCEQ Impact Evaluation Team (IET) had met two times and reviewed two groundwater contamination cases in May 2026 with six letters being sent to potentially affected private water well owners and 2,805 notifications sent to nearby residents. Four cases were reviewed in June 2026, two of them had resulted in three letters to well owners, and an update on these cases would be provided at the next meeting.

Groundwater Management Areas

Stephanie Keith (TAGD) reported that the GCDs were working on their Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) as part of the joint planning process. Natalie Ballew (TWDB) added that the Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) had completed their draft DFCs by the deadline, and they were now holding public hearings in preparation for adopting their final DFCs in January 2027.

Updates on Regional Water Planning, Groundwater Availability Modeling, Brackish Groundwater Studies, and Innovative Water

Natalie Ballew (TWDB) provided several updates:

- Regional Water Planning
 - o Approval of Phase 1 of the 2027 *State Water Plan* would be considered by TWDB Board members during their meeting on July 23, 2026.

- Groundwater Science, Research, and Data Collection Grants
 - This update overlapped with groundwater modeling, brackish groundwater studies, and innovative water updates. TWDB Board members had approved funding for 43 GCD projects under the grant program for the biennium. Project examples included aquifer characterization and mapping; groundwater-surface water interaction studies; expanded water level monitoring, water quality data collection, and subsidence monitoring; data integration; and local groundwater models. These projects would fill data gaps across the state, support joint groundwater planning and GCD management of groundwater, and contribute to statewide models and datasets.
- Brackish Groundwater Studies
 - A Request for Proposal (RFP) was out for a Brackish Groundwater Production Zone (BGPZ) Analysis of portions of the Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, Sparta, and Yegua aquifers in central Texas; and,
 - They were working on a BGPZ analysis for the Pecos Valley, East Sparta, and Woodbine aquifers.
- Innovative Water
 - They had posted a four-page factsheet on using reclaimed water for MAR projects (*Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Aquifer Recharge with Reclaimed Water in Texas*, <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/asr/docs.asp#iwt-factsheets>);
 - They were drafting the biannual desalination legislative report, which would include a section on brackish groundwater desalination; and,
 - They were drafting a special legislative report on recycled municipal wastewater for Aggregate Production Operations (APOs) with interest in reducing groundwater use from the Edwards and Trinity aquifers.

Nonpoint Source Pollution

T.J. Helton (TSSWCB) reported that the draft 2027 *Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program* was available for public comment through August 3, 2026 – the draft document, instructions for providing comment, and information about a hybrid public meeting on July 15, 2026, could be found on the TCEQ website (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/nonpoint-source/mgmt-plan>).

Eric Simon (TCEQ) added that their Fiscal Year 2027 Request for Grant Applications (RFGAs) for nonpoint source (NPS) projects under the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant Program had opened on May 14, 2026, and it had closed on June 29, 2026.

National Groundwater Information

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rules Update

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) reported on current TCEQ rulemaking and non-rule projects that were of interest to the TGPC:

- 2026-001-293-OW – House Bill (HB) 2080: Update to 30 TAC Chapter 293 Relating to the Petition Requesting Commission Inquiry of a GCD; and,
- 2026-006-309-OW – Land Application of Produced Water.

Additional information on a specific TCEQ rule could be found at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/whatsnew.html>.

Natalie Ballew (TWDB) announced that TWDB Board members would be considering approval of amendments to 31 TAC Chapter 356 on Groundwater Management during their meeting on July 23, 2026.

New Publications

Eric Simon (TCEQ) announced the following TCEQ publications:

- 2026 *State of Texas Water Quality Inventory Groundwater Assessment* (AS-465/26, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/water-quality/assessment/2026-integrated-report/2026-groundwater-as-465-26.pdf>); and,
- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report, 2025* (SFR-056/25, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/groundwater/publications/joint-groundwater-monitoring-and-contamination-report-2025-sfr-56-25.pdf>).

Justin Thompson (UTBEG) announced the inaugural edition of their *Field Notes* (<https://www.beg.utexas.edu/publications/field-notes>). This new biannual publication would present research and insights at the intersection of energy, environment, and economics.

Upcoming Conferences

Eric Simon (TCEQ) referred TGPC members to the conferences listed in the “Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout – the current version of this handout is always available on the POE Subcommittee webpage at <https://tgpc.texas.gov/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/> under the “Additional Resources” heading.

Eric Simon (TCEQ) noted that the TGPC would again have a presence at the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference on August 4 – 5, 2026, in Austin, and he invited the members to stop by the TGPC booth.

James Harcourt (RRC) announced that their 2026 RRC Regulatory Conference would take place on July 13 – 15, 2026, in Round Rock.

Justin Thompson (UTBEG) encouraged participation in their online survey of water well owners (https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8Im6MqaHZd3yrVs) as part of a study to better understand groundwater usage in Texas. Results of this study would support Texas groundwater planning processes.

Eric Simon (TCEQ) also announced that they planned to fund a TGPC website redesign project within the next few months – the website would continue to have the same URL, but it would have a simplified look and feel. The TGPC website had not been upgraded in over a decade, and it had some cybersecurity vulnerabilities which this redesign would address.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

9. ADJOURN

Eric Simon (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:25 PM CDT.