TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
First Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2027

Meeting Date: October 14, 2026 Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Meeting No.: 155 Room: 5108

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING ATTENDANCE 2

MEETING HANDOUTS 3

MEETING RECORD OF OCTOBER 14, 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 7
   Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2026 7
   TGPC GWI Subcommittee *Annual Report* 7
   TGPC POE Subcommittee *Annual Report* 7
   Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee – Report to the 90th Legislature 7
   Quadrennial Rules Review for 31 TAC Chapter 601, Groundwater Contamination Report – Discuss and Approve Adoption 8
   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 9
   Updates on Regional Water Planning, Groundwater Availability Modeling, Brackish Groundwater Studies, and Innovative Water 9
   Nonpoint Source Pollution 9
   National Groundwater Information 10
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS 10
   Rules Update 10
   New Publications 10
   Upcoming Conferences 10
8. PUBLIC COMMENT 10
9. ADJOURN 10

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members	Affiliation
Eric Simon	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Rebecca Storms	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)
Chris Hooyboer	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

Agency Staff	Affiliation	Program
Azzah AlKurdi	TWDB	
Katie Brice	TCEQ	Water Availability Division (WAD)
Sarah Findley	TCEQ	WAD
Dan Hannah	TCEQ	WAD
April Hoh	TCEQ	WAD
Cindy Hooper	TCEQ	WAD
Peggy Hunka	TCEQ	WAD
Andrea Croskrey	TWDB	
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ	WAD
Michael Parr	TCEQ	Environmental Law Division
James Robinson	TCEQ	Radioactive Materials Division (RMD)
Sarah Schreier	TCEQ	RMD
Scott Underwood	TCEQ	WAD
Scout Vanderwal	DSHS	
Keri Yanez	TCEQ	RMD

Interested Parties	Affiliation
Roger Andrade	Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)
Sue Durango	Aqua Water Supply Corporation
Cara Glasscock	Red River Authority of Texas
Whitney Hall	Envirotech Engineering and Consulting, Inc.
Diana Nichols	Potomac Law Group
Jen Powis	Earthjustice
Juan Sandoval	CPS Energy
Victoria Rose	Save Our Springs Alliance
Virginia Smith	Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District
Suzanne Wilson	EAA
Leighton Yates	3M Company

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on October 14, 2026
2. Record for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on July 8, 2026
3. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting, September 16, 2026
4. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting, September 16, 2026
5. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Legislative Report Subcommittee Meeting, September 16, 2026
6. TGPC GWI Subcommittee *Annual Report*
7. TGPC POE Subcommittee *Annual Report*
8. TGPC Quadrennial Rules Review (QRR) Adoption Preamble
9. TCEQ Rules Update, 10/14/26
10. Water-related Conferences in Texas, October 2026

MEETING RECORD OF OCTOBER 14, 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 1:32 PM CDT. Eric Simon (TCEQ) then called the roll of TGPC members. The designated representative or alternate from Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research) was not present at the meeting.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Groundwater Issues

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that the Subcommittee last met via videoconference on September 16, 2026, and 12 state and federal agencies and organizations were represented.

The Agricultural Chemicals Task Force Status Report was reviewed with the following highlights:

- For Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, a total of 200 groundwater samples (not including blank/duplicate samples for QA/QC) were provided to TCEQ by TWDB as part of the Cooperative Monitoring Program. All samples were analyzed by immunoassay for atrazine, with one detect (0.06 ppb) that was well below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 3.0 ppb.
- On August 4, 2026, Dan Hannah (TCEQ) attended TCEQ's annual Public Drinking Water Conference in Austin and staffed the TGPC exhibit booth from which U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) grant-related information was distributed.

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

- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 90th Legislature* ("*Legislative Report*", TCEQ publication SFR-47/26)
  - The TGPC Legislative Report Subcommittee was preparing the draft *Legislative Report* to be presented to the TGPC for approval at its October 2026 meeting.
  - The final report would be delivered by December 31, 2026.

- *Priority Groundwater Management Areas and Groundwater Conservation Districts, Report to the 90th Texas Legislature* ("*PGMA/GCD Legislative Report*", TCEQ publication SFR-53/26)
  - The *PGMA/GCD Legislative Report* was being prepared and would be delivered by January 2027.

The following groundwater issues were discussed:
- Oil and Gas Produced Water;
- Emerging Chemical and Biological Contaminants;
- Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR);
- Groundwater Quality Monitoring;
- Brackish Groundwater;
- Evapotranspiration Networks; and,
- Others (uranium mining permits in Goliad County, and a National Ground Water Association (NGWA) position paper on data centers).

As required by the GWI Subcommittee's current *Charge* (https://tgpc.texas.gov/wp-content/themes/responsive/subcommittees/gwissues/GWI_SubComm_Charge12Jul2023.pdf), a draft of the GWI Subcommittee's *Annual Report* was reviewed and approved with one minor change, and it would be presented to the TGPC for final approval at their next meeting.

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for December 2, 2026.

Public Outreach and Education

Katie Brice (TCEQ) reported that the Subcommittee last met via videoconference on September 16, 2026, and eight 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 18 screening events, and they collected 700 samples.

The Outreach Events Status Report was reviewed with the following highlights:
- AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events
  - Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reported that 18 events had been held during the previous quarter.
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
  - Katie Brice (TCEQ) reported that the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference was held in August 2026 in Austin where there had been a booth.

The list of upcoming conferences was reviewed.

The POE *Educational Outreach Plan* was revised and would be finalized at the next meeting.

A draft of the POE Subcommittee's *Annual Report* for FY 2026 was reviewed and approved with minor changes, and it would be presented to the TGPC for final approval at their next meeting.

Members discussed the planned TGPC website streamlining and presented an idea of creating Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from the webpages that would not be migrating to the redesigned website. All of the possible FAQs would be presented at the next meeting.

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for December 2, 2026.

Legislative Report

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) reported that the Subcommittee last met via videoconference on September 16, 2026, and nine state agencies and organizations were represented.

The Subcommittee discussed the completion of the *Legislative Report*. The Chair provided a summary of edits that had been made since the previous meeting, and the members agreed to make clarifying changes to two white paper recommendations, as well.

The Subcommittee then considered the presentation of the final draft *Legislative Report* to the TGPC:

- It was noted that there would be an opportunity for members to abstain from any portion of the recommendations, and that their abstention would be noted in the meeting record. The Subcommittee would then have a formal vote on submitting the report to the TGPC for final approval at their next meeting.
- The Subcommittee then voted on the recommendations in the report. First, the Chair asked the Subcommittee members if they wanted to abstain from, approve, or disapprove the report's main recommendations 1 through 10. All members present voted "yes" for approval. Next, the members voted on the 13 recommendations originating from white papers – one Subcommittee member abstained from all 13 white paper recommendations, and the remaining members voted "yes" for approval.
- Finally, the Subcommittee approved a motion to present the final draft *Legislative Report* to the TGPC for final approval at their next meeting, and to allow TCEQ staff to make the changes to the document discussed at the Subcommittee meeting, as well as any non-substantive corrections. All members voted "yes" for approval.

It was discussed that if an additional TGPC Legislative Report Subcommittee meeting was required, it would be held on December 2, 2026 (i.e., on the same day as the next GWI and POE Subcommittee meetings), or earlier, if needed.

4. PRESENTATION

Sarah Schreier (TCEQ) and Azzah AlKurdi (TWDB) shared some information about Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) projects in Texas. MAR is the intentional recharge

of aquifers, and it can include the creation or enhancement of recharge features (e.g., floodplains and rain gardens), as well as the direct placement of water through injection wells (and sometimes recovery of that water later). The interaction and collaboration between the two agencies regarding MAR responsibilities, rules and statutes, funding and appropriations, and the six general phases of MAR project development were reviewed.

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 – 2026

Katie Brice (TCEQ) reported that TCEQ staff would continue improving and streamlining the *Joint Report* in the 2026 edition. They would begin working on the report in January 2027 to meet the publication deadline of June 1, 2027.

TGPC GWI Subcommittee *Annual Report*

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the TGPC GWI Subcommittee FY 2026 *Annual Report* highlighting FY 2026 results and FY 2027 plans. David Villarreal (TDA) proposed, Justin Thompson (UTBEG) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved the TGPC GWI Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2026 *Annual Report*. The report would be posted on the TGPC website.

TGPC POE Subcommittee *Annual Report*

Katie Brice (TCEQ) presented the TGPC POE Subcommittee FY 2026 *Annual Report* highlighting FY 2026 results and FY 2027 plans. David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, James Harcourt (RRC) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved the TGPC POE Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2026 *Annual Report*. The report would be posted on the TGPC website.

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

Eric Simon (TCEQ) reported that TCEQ had not yet completed their management review of the report. He requested that TGPC schedule a short special meeting to approve the final report no later than December 2, 2026, and the members approved this additional meeting.

David Villarreal (TDA) asked whether it would be too late to complete the publication if the meeting was held on December 2, 2026, and Eric Simon (TCEQ) indicated that this date still provided TCEQ staff with enough time. David Villarreal (TDA) then asked if the Legislative Report Subcommittee would meet again, and Cindy Hooper (TCEQ)

indicated that it probably would not because the final report would be handled at the TGPC special meeting. Eric Simon (TCEQ) added that the members would be kept informed of the situation. Rebecca Storms (TWDB) asked whether the members would receive sufficient notice of the special meeting date, and Eric Simon (TCEQ) indicated that they would.

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

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. At their last meeting, the TGPC approved a notice of their intention to readopt their Rules to be published in the *Texas Register* on July 24, 2026. No public comments were received during the 30-day period that ended on August 24, 2026. It was recommended that the TGPC adopt the proposed TGPC rules and allow TCEQ staff to make any non-substantive revisions to the adoption notice necessary to comply with *Texas Register* publication requirements. James Harcourt (RRC) proposed, David Villarreal (TDA) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved the readoption of the Committee's Rules, the publication of a notice of their readoption in the *Texas Register*, and TCEQ staff making any non-substantive revisions necessary to comply with *Texas Register* requirements.

Set Future Meeting Date

The next TGPC quarterly meeting was scheduled for January 6, 2027, at 1:30 PM CST as a hybrid meeting.

T.J. Helton (TSSWCB) left the meeting at approximately 1:42 PM CDT and was absent for the remainder of the 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 once and reviewed one groundwater contamination case resulting in six letters being sent to potentially affected private water well owners and 1,098 notifications being sent to nearby residents at a cost of $925.69. In the previous quarter, four cases resulted in six letters being sent to potentially affected private water well owners and 25,435 notifications being sent to nearby residents at a cost of $10,042.19. In FY 2026, 56 letters were sent to potentially affected private water well owners and 54,064 notifications were sent to nearby residents at a cost of $23,966.26.

Groundwater Management Areas

David Van Dreasr (TAGD) reported that the Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) were receiving the final set of public comments on their draft Desired Future Conditions (DFCs), scheduling meetings to address public comments, beginning their explanatory reports, and discussing modeling.

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

Rebecca Storms (TWDB) reported that:

- Regional Water Planning
  - Water Supply Planning staff had begun developing draft projections for the 2031 regional water plans and were anticipating releasing the draft projections throughout 2027.
  - The public comment period for Phase 2 of the draft 2027 *State Water Plan* was closed, and their Board would consider this for approval before the end of 2026.
- Brackish Groundwater Studies (BRACS)
  - Their Board had designated four Brackish Groundwater Production Zones (BGPZs) for the southern portion of the Trinity Aquifer on September 10, 2026, and datasets for these new zones and an updated map showing all BGPZs to-date could be found on their website at https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/bracs/HB30.asp.
- Innovative Water
  - Their Innovative Water Technologies (IWT) Division had drafted the biannual desalination legislative report, which would include a section on brackish groundwater desalination, and it would be published by the end of 2026.
  - The IWT Division was also drafting a special legislative report on Recycled Municipal Wastewater for Aggregate Production Operations (APOs) with interest in reducing Edwards and Trinity Aquifer groundwater usage, and it would be available in early 2027.

Nonpoint Source Pollution

Eric Simon (TCEQ) reported that TSSWCB's FY 2027 Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) for nonpoint source projects under the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant Program opened on August 7, 2026, and it closed on September 18, 2026. In addition, the public comment period had closed on the draft 2027 *Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program*, it was scheduled to go before TCEQ and TSSWCB commissioners for final approval in January 2027, and then it would be submitted to the U.S. EPA in March 2027.

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 – Edwards Aquifer Annual Hearings; 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.

New Publications

David Villarreal (TDA) announced that the Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC, https://savetexaswater.org/) had met that morning and approved their *Legislative Report* with four recommendations, one of which was very similar to the TGPC *Legislative Report* recommendation regarding evapotranspiration (ET).

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-subcomittee/ under the "Additional Resources" heading.

Eric Simon (TCEQ) also provided an update regarding the TGPC website redesign project. The project had been funded, and work was underway. The TGPC website had not been upgraded in over a decade, and it had some cybersecurity vulnerabilities which this redesign would address. The website would continue to have the same URL, but it would have a simplified look and feel.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

9. ADJOURN

Eric Simon (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:35 PM CDT.