

**TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
 RECORD OF MEETING
 Second Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2026**

Meeting Date: January 14, 2026
 Meeting No.: 152

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
 Room: 5108

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Eric Simon	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
James Harcourt	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Omar Valdez	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
David Villarreal	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
David Van Dresar	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Giovanni Piccinni	Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research)
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

<u>Agency Staff</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Program</u>
Travis Bartos	TCEQ	Water Availability Division (WAD)
Katie Brice	TCEQ	WAD
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ	WAD
Stephanie Escobar	TCEQ	WAD
Linzy Foster	United States Geological Survey (USGS)	
Chris Heiligenstein	RRC	
April Hoh	TCEQ	WAD
Cindy Hooper	TCEQ	WAD
Peggy Hunka	TCEQ	WAD
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ	WAD
Pecos McDonald	TDLR	
MaryLynn Musgrove	USGS	
Carly Rotzler	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	
Chance Rushing	TCEQ	Licensing and Regulation Division
Scott Underwood	TCEQ	WAD
Scout Vanderwal	DSHS	
Jazmin Villeda	TDLR	

Interested Parties

<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Lorrie Council	Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC)
Trey Daywood	Aqua Water Supply Corporation (WSC)
Kyle Frazier	Texas Desalination Association
Sarah Johnson	Burns & McDonnell
Graham Knopp	
Jessica Price	Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)
Anna Ramos-Polanco	San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS)
Alysa Sule	Freese and Nichols
Amy Taylor	
David Thomison	City of Hutto

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on January 14, 2026
2. Record for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on October 8, 2025
3. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting, December 3, 2025
4. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting, December 3, 2025
5. Proposed Table of Contents, *2025 Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report*, TGPC Meeting, 1/14/2025
6. State Agency Notification to TCEQ of Groundwater Contamination, January 2026 Update for TGPC
7. TCEQ Rules Update, 1/9/26
8. Water-related Conferences in Texas, January 2026

MEETING RECORD OF JANUARY 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 CST. Eric Simon (TCEQ) then called the roll of TGPC members. Neither the designated representative nor alternate from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) were present at the meeting.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Groundwater Issues

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that the Subcommittee last met via videoconference on December 3, 2025, and 12 state agencies and organizations were represented.

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

- The proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Pesticide Monitoring Plan would continue Cooperative Monitoring with TWDB. Additionally, pesticide groundwater monitoring data from USGS and other TCEQ monitoring programs would be provided to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as available.
- An updated TCEQ Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD) report was still being prepared to replace the previous 2008 report. Numerous potential errors were identified with the USGS data between 2019 and 2025, and this was being investigated and corrected, as needed.

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)*
 - Work on the 2025 *Joint Report* would begin in January 2026.
- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 90th Legislature (“Legislative Report”, SFR-47/26)*
 - The TGPC Legislative Report Subcommittee would be reactivated during the TGPC meeting in January 2026 in order to prepare the report.

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; and,
- Others (U.S. EPA approval of RRC's application to regulate carbon capture and storage (CCS) Class VI wells, and TWDB's grants for Groundwater Conservation Districts).

The state agency reporting requirements for notification of groundwater contamination were reviewed, and there was a preliminary discussion of the TGPC's upcoming rulemaking.

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for March 4, 2026.

Public Outreach and Education

Katie Brice (TCEQ) reported that the Subcommittee last met via videoconference on December 3, 2025, 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 10 one-hour events and one four-hour event, and they collected 423 samples. There had been nearly 2,000 samples collected at TWON events since September 2024.

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

- AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events
 - Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reported that 11 events had been held during the previous quarter.
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
 - Katie Brice (TCEQ) reported that there were no TGPC booth events during the previous quarter.

The list of upcoming conferences was reviewed, and the POE *Educational Outreach Plan* was tabled pending further edits.

The Subcommittee discussed displaying TGPC handouts at upcoming conferences and whether other agencies would be willing to include TGPC handouts at conferences that they attended.

The state agency reporting requirements for notification of groundwater contamination were reviewed.

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for March 4, 2026.

4. PRESENTATION

Linzy Foster (USGS) and MaryLynn Musgrove (USGS) provided background information and a demonstration of their Decadal Change in Groundwater Quality Viewer (<https://nawqatrends.wim.usgs.gov/Decadal/>). The Viewer shows how concentrations of pesticides, nutrients, metals, and organic contaminants in groundwater change during decadal periods across the Nation. As of 2025, the National Water-Quality Network (NWQN) consisted of 258 groundwater sampling locations throughout the United States. Approximately 20 – 30 groundwater sites are sampled on a rotating basis once every 10 years, and approximately eight of the 81 regional networks are sampled every year. Some networks are shallow monitoring wells representing agricultural or urban land use, and others are domestic supply wells. The three regional networks in Texas are all domestic supply wells and located in the High Plains, Edwards-Trinity Aquifer, and Coastal Lowlands (Gulf Coast). A report discussing groundwater quality trends is available (Lindsey, B.D., Fleming, B.J., Goodling, P.J., and Dondero, A.M., 2023, *Thirty years of regional groundwater-quality trend studies in the United States: Major findings and lessons learned*, Journal of Hydrology, <https://www.usgs.gov/publications/thirty-years-regional-groundwater-quality-trend-studies-united-states-major-findings>).

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/>).

James Harcourt (RRC) joined the meeting at approximately 1:38 PM CST and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

5. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2025 – Format and Content Approval

Katie Brice (TCEQ) presented the draft Table of Contents for the *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2025*. There were no substantive proposed changes to the Table of Contents compared to the 2024 *Joint Report*. David Villarreal (TDA) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved the draft format and content of the *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2025*, while allowing TCEQ staff to make any non-substantive changes required for publication on the TCEQ website. TCEQ staff would continue working on this annual TGPC report so that it would be published later in 2026.

Katie Brice (TCEQ) also announced that the initial emails requesting updated information from TGPC members would be sent out in the next few weeks and that feedback would be requested by February 20, 2026.

Groundwater Contamination Notice Coordination – State Agency Contact Reminder

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) reviewed the state agency reporting requirements for notification of groundwater contamination. When a state agency first documents groundwater contamination, it must notify TCEQ within 30 days and provide information so that TCEQ's Impact Evaluation Team (IET) can review the case and notify those potentially affected. In the 89th Texas Legislature's Regular Session (2025), Senate Bill (SB) 1663 (<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/html/SB01663F.HTM>) added options for TCEQ to deliver the required notice, and it also added a new requirement for notice to be provided to each residential address within one mile of the contamination site. State agencies are required to identify private water wells that may be impacted by confirmed groundwater contamination, and they must also provide each residential address within one mile of the contamination site. The IET's current state agency contact was Cindy Hooper (TCEQ, cindy.hooper@tceq.texas.gov, 512-239-4271).

David Villarreal (TDA) asked whether groundwater contamination needed to be confirmed by a laboratory prior to contacting the IET, and Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) indicated that this was not necessary. Omar Valdez (DSHS) asked whether the IET interim protocol could be shared with TGPC members, and Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) indicated that she would check on this. Carly Rotzler (TPWD) asked if the TCEQ Hotline (800-832-8224 for spills, or 888-777-3186 for non-spill emergencies) should be called if groundwater contamination was discovered, and Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) indicated that the IET should be contacted if TPWD regulated the circumstances under which it was found, but the usual communication channels should be used if it is a TCEQ-regulated activity. Eric Simon (TCEQ) added that the closest TCEQ Regional Office can also be contacted if there are any questions about the correct process.

Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee – Report to the 90th Legislature – Reactivation of Legislative Report Subcommittee and Appointment of Members

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) provided background information on the TGPC Legislative Report Subcommittee. David Villarreal (TDA) proposed, Justin Thompson (UTBEG) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved reactivation of the Legislative Report Subcommittee. Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) was named Chair of the Subcommittee, representing TCEQ, and the following Subcommittee representatives were identified:

- RRC – Chris Heiligenstein;
- DSHS – Omar Valdez;
- TDA – David Villarreal;
- AgriLife Research – Giovanni Piccinni;
- UTBEG – Justin Thompson; and,
- TDLR – Chris Hooyboer.

David Van Dresar (TAGD) indicated that he would provide Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) with the name of the person who would attend these Subcommittee meetings as the representative from his organization.

Amendments to 31 TAC Chapter 601, Groundwater Contamination Report – Discuss and Approve Proposal for Publication

Eric Simon (TCEQ) announced that SB 2124 (<https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/html/SB02124F.htm>) was passed in the 89th Texas Legislature’s Regular Session (2025) which amended Section 26.406(c) of the Texas Water Code (TWC). This bill moved the publication deadline for the TGPC’s annual *Joint Report* from April to June. Because the word “April” appears in TGPC rules, the rules needed to be opened and updated to implement the bill. The rule proposal process was intended to begin at this meeting so that rulemaking could be completed at the TGPC meeting in April 2026. However, the rule team had recently learned of some possible new requirements, and additional time was needed to review this information, so the rule proposal would be introduced at the TGPC meeting in April 2026.

Set Future Meeting Date

The next TGPC quarterly meeting was scheduled for April 8, 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)

Katie Brice (TCEQ) reported that, since the last TGPC meeting, the TCEQ IET had met two times with no groundwater contamination cases to review. However, there were some recent cases that would require over 25,000 notices to be sent to residents and potentially affected private water well owners and users due to the passage of SB 1663 of the 89th Texas Legislature’s Regular Session (2025). The IET had also been finalizing their protocol due to SB 1663 which amended TWC Section 26.408(b) regarding the notice of groundwater contamination, and a new webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/groundwater/groundwater-planning-assessment/groundwater-contamination-notification-what-you-need-to-know>) had been created that would provide additional information to those receiving notices.

Groundwater Management Areas

David Van Dresar (TAGD) reported that Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) were due from the Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) to TWDB in five months and that all GMAs were in the process of finalizing their DFCs.

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

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Nonpoint Source Pollution

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

National Groundwater Information

Linzy Foster (USGS) shared information regarding their National Water Availability Assessment Report (<https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/integrated-water-availability-assessments/national-water-availability-assessment>) which provides a synthesis and interpretation of water availability in the past, present, and future.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rules Update

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

- 2025-033-331-WS – SB 616 and SB 1061: Injection Through the Edwards Aquifer for Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Class III Production Area Authorization Amendment; and,
- 2026-001-293-OW – House Bill (HB) 2080: Update to 30 TAC Chapter 293 Relating to the Petition Requesting Commission Inquiry of a GCD.

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

New Publications

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

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) announced that the TGPC had again prepared a National Groundwater Awareness Week poster for its members. The event was scheduled for March 8 – 14, 2026, and the poster file would be available for download from the TGPC homepage by the end of January 2026.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

9. ADJOURN

Eric Simon (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:37 PM CST.