

# Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Drinking Water Advisory Work Group (DWA WG) Meeting

January 12, 2021

## Program Updates

### - *Welcome*

**Michele Risko – Manager** - Drinking Water Standards Section

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Dania Grundmann – Special Assistant – Drinking Water Standards

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**Steven Swierenga – Manager** - Drinking Water Special Functions Section

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Sean Ables – Special Assistant – Drinking Water Special Functions Section

[Sean.Ables@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Sean.Ables@tceq.texas.gov) (512) 239-1758

## Permitting & Registration Support Division

### *Occupational Licensing Section*

**Shannon Watson** – Section Manager

Occupational Licensing – [shannon.watson@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:shannon.watson@tceq.texas.gov)

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**Tamara Calhoun** – Team Leader

Occupational Licensing – [tamara.calhoun@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:tamara.calhoun@tceq.texas.gov)

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No updates.

# Office of Compliance and Enforcement

## *Program Support Section*

### **Kristi Mills-Jurach – Division Director**

OCE Program Support and Environmental Assistance Division – [Kristi.Mills-Jurach@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Kristi.Mills-Jurach@tceq.texas.gov)  
(512) 239-1261

### **Kendra Houston – Program Support Section Work Leader**

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### **Marilyn Gates – Program Support Section Manager**

OCE Program Support Section – [Marilyn.gates@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Marilyn.gates@tceq.texas.gov)  
(512) 239-4662

### **Al Fuentes - PWS/Water Liaison**

OCE Program Support Section – [Alfonso.Fuentes@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Alfonso.Fuentes@tceq.texas.gov)  
512-239-1407

No updates.

# Environmental Assistance Division (EAD)

## *Small Business and Local Government Assistance Section*

### **Carmen Ramirez-Garcia - Team Leader**

Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) Section

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RTCR Webinars – Four webinars completed but [Registration](#) is open for the last two.

- January 14, 2021 from 1pm – 4pm CST
- January 21, 2021 from 1pm – 4pm CST

Licensed water operators can receive 3.0 hours of CEUs for attending the webinar.

# Water Supply Division

## ***Plan & Technical Review Section (PTR)***

### **Plan and Technical Review Section**

Joel Klumpp - Manager

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Brittney Wortham-Teakell – Technical Specialist/Special Assistant

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### **Plan Review Team**

Vera Poe - Team Leader

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### **Response and Capacity Development Team**

Kenneth Dykes – Team Leader

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### **Technical Review and Oversight Team**

Stephanie Escobar – Team Leader

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## ***Plan Review Team (PRT)***

The team is accepting electronic submittals along with hard copy submittals when customers are able. Submittals may be sent via email to [PTRS@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:PTRS@tceq.texas.gov)

Number of plans and specifications submittals processed by the Plan Review Team in October to December 2020: 667. The team is pleased to welcome Jose Castillo who started on May 2, 2020.

Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey: The survey is very important for water systems funding as the sum of the state needs are used to determine the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) allotment Texas will receive. The DWSRF has become a major funding source of water system projects in Texas and careful completion of the survey benefits many Texans. The survey includes all systems with a population greater than 100,000 and a sampling of systems with populations less than 100,000. Data collection began January 1, 2021. TCEQ appreciates PWSs working with staff and its contractor to accomplish this important task

## ***Technical Review and Oversight Team (TROT)***

Number of Exception and Alternative Capacity Requirement requests processed by the Technical Review and Oversight Team during October 2020 – December 2020: 413.

## ***Response and Capacity Development Team (RCDT)***

Number of free on-site Financial, Managerial, and Technical (FMT) Assistance assignments made for public water systems by the Response and Capacity Development Team October – December 2020: 178. This number excludes assignments made for wastewater systems and contractor training events.

### **Capacity Development:**

- Do you need funding or other assistance? The Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee (TWICC) is an umbrella organization designed to help water and wastewater systems find funding and other assistance. TWICC is made up of state and federal funding, regulatory and assistance agencies including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Texas Rural Water Association (TRWA), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), General Land Office (GLO), Texas American Water Works Association (TAWWA) and Communities Unlimited. The last TWICC meeting was hosted remotely by PUC on November 18, 2020. The next TWICC meeting is being hosted remotely by Communities Unlimited on January 20, 2021. If you are interested in talking to TWICC members about potential projects, funding and other assistance you can contact Dorothy Young at [dorothy.young@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:dorothy.young@tceq.texas.gov). Information on TWICC members, funding sources and other resource links are available at [www.twicc.org](http://www.twicc.org).
- Do you know a water system that is helping other water systems? There is a new category in the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Recognition program called Water Partners: Water Systems Helping Water Systems. Check out the details at [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/recognition/water\\_partners.html](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/recognition/water_partners.html).

### **Texas Optimization Program (TOP):**

From October to December 2020:

- TOP staff and contractors assisted at the City of Lake Jackson to help remediate and restore the distribution system. TOP provided training to PWS operators and managers.
- TOP has been working with Technical Review and Oversight Team (TROT) staff to provide online training to small groups of representatives of low-pressure membrane plants. The training covers new monthly reporting requirements and provides guidance for verifying compliance in low-pressure membrane plants.

### **Drought:**

- As of January 5, 2021, approximately 8% of the state is in exceptional drought, 11% of the state is in extreme drought, 18% of the state is in severe drought, 20.5% of the state is in moderate drought, and 24% of the state is abnormally dry, and 17% of the state is not experiencing drought.
- As of January 5, 2021, the state's monitored water supply reservoirs are 82.2% full, a decrease of 3.5% since July 2020.

- Staff continue to monitor and provide additional resources to one High-Priority system and two Watch List systems until their current projects are completed.

**Assistance for At-Risk Public Water Systems:**

- Staff continue to monitor eleven systems in receivership, six systems under temporary management and thirteen systems designated as “Primary At-Risk.”

**Cross-Connection Control:**

- Program staff are utilizing several options for remote Cross-Connection Control Program (CCCP) Surveys to provide technical assistance.
- The TCEQ Cross-Connection Control Subcommittee conducted its most recent quarterly meeting remotely on December 3, 2020. It was well attended with participation amongst members and new members continue to attend. Topics discussed include creating a workgroup for Data Capture and a discussion on the Lead/Copper rule. Interested attendees can subscribe to meeting notifications on the TCEQ homepage.
- The Cross-Connection Control Program continues to receive many requests for approval of alternate forms.

***Drinking Water Standards Section***

**Michele Risko** – Manager

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**Dania Grundmann** – Special Assistant

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***Drinking Water Assessment Team***

**Laura Higgins** - Team Leader

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No updates.

***Drinking Water Quality Team***

**Kasy Stinson** - Team Leader

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No updates.

## ***Drinking Water Special Functions Section***

**Steven Swierenga** - Manager

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**Sean Ables** – Special Assistant

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## ***Drinking Water Technical Review Team (DWTRT)***

**Emma Jones** – Team Leader

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### **Public Information Requests (PIRs)**

*(Kent Steelman and Data Support Group)*

- PDW Section Responses to Public Information Requests Completed – **1**/
- PDW stated it had no responsive documents – **12**
- PDW provided individual response and/or data package – **6**

### **Data Support**

*(James Stapel, Kent Steelman, Rylan Fields, Ben Wesley, Lee Apostolo, Stephen Taylor)*

- Continued work on the 2019 Annual Compliance Report
- Continuing implementation of courtesy reminder project
- Federal Reporting of Compliance Data to EPA
  - Texas submitted **485,536** records to EPA for review
    - These data include information on public water system facilities, compliance samples, and violations and enforcement actions
    - TCEQ has a current error rate of **0.09%**

### **Sample Migrations**

*(Lee Apostolo)*

- Environmental Electronic (E2) Reporting
  - **125,636** sample records submitted through E2
  - **82** labs are reporting through E2
- Chem Reporting
  - Sample records migrated **22,325**
- Lead and Copper Migrations
  - Sample records migrated **3,919**

## **Enforcement**

(Sally Paramo, CarMello Manning, Caleb Ingle, Arin Kent-Poole)

### **Enforcement**

- 3rd Quarter 2020
  - **41** Enforcement cases
  - **1** Data maintenance case
- 2nd Quarter 2020
  - **41** Enforcement cases
  - **0** Data maintenance case

### **Pre-Enforcement**

- Notes for 2nd Quarter 2020
  - 78 new systems reviewed
    - 58 systems have been completed
    - 157 systems are still open and have unresolved violations
- Notes for 2nd Quarter 2020
  - 206 new systems reviewed
    - 136 systems have been completed
    - 176 systems are still open and have unresolved violations

### **Post-Enforcement**

- Notes for 3rd Quarter 2020
  - 3 new system reviewed
    - 2 case have been closed
    - 24 cases are still open and have unresolved violations
- Notes for 1st Quarter 2020
  - 1 new systems reviewed
    - 1 case have been closed
    - 32 cases are still open and have unresolved violations

## **Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)**

(Arin Kent-Poole and Kent Steelman)

CCR generator is live and our interns are trained and reviewing incoming CCRs

## ***Drinking Water Inventory and Protection Team (DWIP)***

**Patrick Kading** – Team Leader

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Leticia DeLeon – Technical Assistant

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## **Boil Water Notices**

(Mike Howell)

In Q4 2020, the DWIP team received notification of 501 issued Boil Water Notices and 483 Boil Water Notices rescinded.

## **Public Notice**

(Kristi Krieg, Mike Howell and Nicole Frisbie)

### **Public Notices Submitted (Data Entry):**

Oct 2020: 786

Nov 2020: 496

Dec 2020: 386

Q4 2020 Total: 1,668

### **Public Notice Violations:**

Oct 2020: 324

Nov 2020: 214

Dec 2020: 206

Q4 2020 Total: 744

## **Public Health Service Fees**

(Teri Cisneros)

### **CY 2020:**

Total invoices: 7,037 (approximately)

Amount invoiced: \$25,498,764 (approximately)

Date invoices were mailed: November 2019 (dated 11/30/2019)

Due date: 12/30/2019

As of 01/11/2021 **99.88% collected for CY2020**

### **CY 2021:**

Total invoices: 7,034 (approximately)

Amount invoiced: \$25,941,000 (approximately)

Date invoices were mailed: November 2020 (dated 11/30/2020)

Due date: 12/30/2020

## **Regulatory Assessment Fees**

(Teri Cisneros)

**CY 2019:** 2,273 postcards mailed out December 2019.

As of 01/11/2021 **96% collected**

**CY 2020:** 2,278 postcards mailed out December 2020.

## **Inventory Team Information:**

(Hannah Evans, Nicole Frisbie, Zach Spivey, Taylor Nickell, Collin Goostree, Kendall Adair, Paiton Upshaw, Celinda Vallejo-Rodriguez, Tabitha Guardiola, James Harville, Katia Ayala, Emily Mailman)

In Q4 2020, DWIP Inventory Team received 1,555 requests and processed 1,269 requests.

## **Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP)**

(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)

12 EPP letters went out from [October 2020](#) to [January 2021](#).



## **Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness**

*(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)*

2,114 Emergency Contact Update (ECU) forms were processed between October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. Water systems are encouraged to keep their emergency contact information up to date at all times. The information can be verified on [Drinking Water Watch](#). A water system needing their information updated can email in their request to [pdws@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:pdws@tceq.texas.gov) or call (512) 239-4691 to request a 2020 form. TCEQ began to mail out the 2021 form in October 2020 to ensure updates for water systems across the state are completed by May 2021.

If you have any questions you can also contact Leticia De Leon at (512) 239-4978 or (512) 965-2371.

## **Superior Systems**

*(Leticia DeLeon and Taylor Nickell)*

12 Superior System letter reviews were conducted from October 2020 to January 2021.

## **Source Water Protection (SWP)**

*(Mason T. Miller)*

- TCEQ DWIP Team manages the SWP contract and assists public water systems with completing and updating SWP plans.
- TCEQ SWP contractor is CDM Smith
- During FY21 CDM Smith and subcontractors will complete source water protection plans for 28 groundwater systems and one surface water body.
- TCEQ DWIP Team assists Texas Rural Water Association as they work with public water systems updating SWP plans and implementing best management practices throughout the state.
- Partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to implement SWP at State Parks.
  - SWP plans have been completed for Guadalupe River State Park and Choke Canyon State Park Calliham
- TCEQ DWIP Team staff serve as the TCEQ GPS Coordinators and Trainers for TCEQ's staff and contractors.
- TCEQ DWIP Team assists with the Texas Optimization Program (TOP)
- Texas Optimization Recognition Program Update:
  - Water Treatment Plants that received annual awards September 2020 through November 2020: Trinity River Authority Lake Livingston WTP Two Years, City of Waco – Riverside WTP Two Years, City of Greenville WTP Six Years, City of San Marcos WTP Seven Years.
  - 23 surface water treatment plants participating in Recognition Program, currently four have met all the requirements continuously for 5 to 10 years, three for 10 to 15 years and one for more than 15 years.
  - For more information on the Texas Optimization Recognition Program please contact Mason T. Miller at [mason.miller@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:mason.miller@tceq.texas.gov)

## **PDW Conference Save the Date**

*(Mason T. Miller)*

- Mark your calendars for the Annual PDW Conference August 10-11, 2021.

**Next DWA WG Meeting: April 2021**