

# **Irrigator Advisory Council Minutes**

Thursday, August 7, 2025

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

## **Call to Order**

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### **Introduction of Members**

Mr. James Garvin called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Members of the council that are present included Mr. James Garvin, Mr. Norm Werback, Ms. Monique Cogburn, Ms. Paula Szymanski, and Mr. Mark Peterson; members absent included Mr. Remmington Holt, Mr. DJ Seeger, Mr. Sergio Martinez, and Mr. Jimmy Burgdorf.

TCEQ individuals present included Mr. Joseph Hopkins, Ms. Jayme Martone, Ms. Morgen Zander, Ms. Katherine McGlaughlin, and Mr. Paul Munguia.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Norm Werback to approve the minutes for the May 2025 IAC meeting as they were written, the motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Peterson. The vote to adopt was unanimous.

## **TCEQ Program Updates**

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### **Landscape Irrigation Program**

Ms. Jayme Martone introduced the new LIP staff member, Ms. Morgen Zander, who joined the team in June and relayed the most recent investigation numbers for the program as well as recent training and outreach events they participated in.

Mr. Joseph Hopkins reviewed legislation passed in the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session (SB471) which amended the Texas Water Code 5.176(c) about internal TCEQ investigation procedures and allows the agency to not conduct an investigation related to certain complaint in specific circumstances, such as repetitive or redundant complaints, or received from a complainant who has filed more than 5 unsubstantiated complaints within a 7 year period.

Mr. Hopkins also reviewed the process of investigating electronic advertisement for irrigation services not displaying a landscape irrigator license number and the requirements for Citizen Collected Evidence (CCE). Mr. Hopkins explained that in order for TCEQ to be able to substantiate an electronic/online advertisement violation, it must be viewable by the public and many times closed neighborhood pages or other member specific groups are not inaccessible and not something the program can corroborate.

### **Cross-Connection Control**

Ms. Katherine McGlaughlin introduced their new staff member, Ms. Deborah Carballo, and discussed a recent issue they were made aware of where a plumbing inspector was conducting CSI inspections over video call, she reminded those present that these inspections must be conducted in person. She also discussed some recent outreach and training they've been involved in and gave an update on a proposed new backflow assembly test form.

### **Occupational Licensing**

Mr. Paul Munguia gave an update about the revised irrigator licensing exam and informed the council about an application they received for a self-paced irrigator course, which would be the first self-paced option for the licensing course. A discussion took place about the challenges of a potential self-paced online irrigator license course and Mr. Munguia mentioned the need for feedback from a subject matter expert and members of the council.

Mr. Munguia also discussed a bill that was passed in the recent legislative session, HB1237, which increased the amount of time to renew an expired license, however all continuing education must still be complete before the expiration date.

### **Discussion on work-group progress**

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#### **Update from the Survey Work Group**

Ms. Paula Szymanski gave an update about the survey and new responses received and their plans to communicate to cities completing the survey that it was only for informational purposes and not to be used in any enforcement proceedings.

#### **Update RG-466 Workgroup**

Mr. Norm Werback gave an update about the work on updating RG466, they've been having very productive discussions and have completed a review of about three quarters of the document and expect to have a draft available for the council to review at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

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#### **Honorary License Request – Terry Vance LI0001393**

Ms. Martone discussed the request TCEQ received for an honorary license from Mr. Terry Vance and some information about his licensing history. The Council and members of the public present discussed the history of granting honorary licensing and decided that further information would be requested of Mr. Vance and that the matter would be taken into consideration at the next meeting. A motion was made and approved on this matter by the council unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Norm Werback and seconded by Ms. Paula Szymanski. Council approved the motion to adjourn.