Irrigator Advisory Council Minutes

February 5, 2026

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Call to Order

Introduction of Members

Mr. James Garvin called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Members of the council that were present included Mr. James Garvin, Mr. Norm Werback, Ms. Monique Cogburn, Ms. Paula Szymanski, Mr. DJ Seeger, and Mr. Remmington Holt, and Mr. Mark Peterson; members absent included Mr. Sergio Martinez and Mr. Jimmy Burgdorf.
TCEQ staff present included Mr. Joseph Hopkins, Ms. Jayme Martone, Ms. Yesenia Perez, Ms. Katherine McGlaughlin, Mr. Paula Munguia, Mr. Chance Rushing, and Ms. Teresa Etheredge.

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. DJ Seeger to approve the minutes for the November 2025 IAC meeting as written; the motion was seconded by Ms. Paula Szymanski. The vote to adopt was unanimous.

TCEQ Program Updates

Landscape Irrigation Program

Mr. Joseph Hopkins introduced the new LIP staff member, Ms. Yesenia Perez, who joined the team in January and Ms. Jayme Martone relayed the most recent investigation numbers for the program as well as recent training and outreach events they've participated in.

Cross Connection Control

Ms. Katherine McGlaughlin gave an update on the progress to update RG 478 (Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Cross-Connection Control Program) and a workgroup being put together to discuss and research firefighting foams as related to backflow prevention. She also discussed some recent outreach and training they've been involved in and as well as alternate form approvals.

Occupational Licensing

Mr. Paul Munguia discussed a new page on the website they're working on, where people will be able to filter licensing and continuing education classes by license type and see which classes count towards multiple license types. He wanted to get feedback from the council about an idea for a potential new requirement to become an instructor for the irrigation licenses class.
Ms. Teresa Etheredge provided updated licensing numbers to the council.

Workgroup Updates

Survey Workgroup

Ms. Paula Szymanski gave a brief update on the responses they've received to the survey of irrigation programs and plans to move forward with the data collected.

RG-466 Workgroup
Mr. Norm Werback and Ms. Martone gave a brief update that the group continues to edit and update RG466.

The council discussed a few other possible workgroup topics but chose not to create any new workgroups at this time.

New Business

IAC Nominations Update
Ms. Martone discussed the upcoming nominations for new council members. There will be three council members cycling off in February 2027, Mr. Garvin, Mr. Burgdorf, and Mr. Peterson. They will be soliciting nominations for two licensed landscape irrigators, irrigation inspectors, or irrigation technicians, and one public member. Nominations will be accepted from mid-April until May 15th, 2026.

A discussion took place about an issue where rental contracts require the tenant to irrigate the property even during drought restrictions, so if the tenant irrigates per the rental contract, they are getting fined/penalties from the water provider but if they don't irrigate, they are getting fined by the landlord.

Honorary License Request – Frank Chaloupka (LI0003339)
A discussion took place about Mr. Chaloupka's request for an honorary landscape irrigator license and his career. Mr. Seeger made a motion to approve Ms. Chaloupka's request for an honorary license, it was seconded by Mr. Werback and approved by the council unanimously.

Honorary License Request – Cindy Lowe (LI0003215) & Chester Sutton (LI0000040)
A discussion took place about Ms. Lowe and her late father Mr. Sutton's request for honorary landscape irrigator license, and their careers. Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the request, it was seconded by Mr. Seeger and approved by the council unanimously.

Master Valve Legislative Recommendation – Nathan Riggs/SAWS
Mr. Nathan Riggs, Conservation Department Manager with San Antonio Water Systems, gave a presentation to the council on the work and data they've collected on the effectiveness on master valves at reducing water waste.

A brief discussion took place about the possibility or logistics of virtual irrigation system assessments.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Werback and seconded by Mr. Holt. The council unanimously approved the motion to adjourn at 11:21am