Irrigator Advisory Council Minutes

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 9:00 am

Call to Order

Introduction of Members

Mr. James Garvin called the meeting to order at 9:10am. Members of the council that were present included Mr. James Garvin, Mr. Remmington Holt, Mr. Norm Werback, Mr. DJ Seeger, Ms. Paula Szymanski, Mr. Mark Peterson, and Mr. Sergio Martinez.
TCEQ individuals present include Mr. Joseph Hopkins, Ms. Jayme Martone, Ms. Yesenia Perez, Mr. Charles Middleton, and Ms. Teresa Etheredge.

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. DJ Seeger to approve the minutes from the February 2026 IAC meeting as they were written, the motion was seconded by Mr. Norm Werback. The vote to adopt was unanimous.

TCEQ Program Updates

Landscape Irrigation Program

Ms. Jayme Martone relayed the most recent investigation numbers for the program as well as recent training and outreach events the program has participated in.

Occupational Licensing

Ms. Teresa Etheredge provided updated licensing numbers to the council. A discussion took place on the potential cause for a rise in percent of irrigator exams passed. Ms. Etheredge gave an update on Occupational Licensing's ongoing rulemaking project

Cross-Connection Control

Mr. Charles Middleton discussed a recent backflow incident and a reminder about ensuring accuracy when filling out online BPAT forms.

Workgroup Updates

Survey Workgroup

Ms. Paula Szymanski gave a brief update on the workgroup's plan to analyze and present the data collected.

RG-466 Workgroup

Mr. Norm Werback gave an update on the workgroup's progress.

Rule Review Workgroup
Mr. DJ Seeger proposed a new workgroup be created to explore potential rule changes or proposals, starting with a focus on the Texas Water Development Board's legislative recommendation to require master valves on irrigation systems. Mr. DJ Seeger made a motion to create the new workgroup, it was seconded by Mr. Remmington Holt and approved by the council.

New Business

IAC Nominations Update
Ms. Jayme Martone updated the council on the nominations for new members to join the IAC. She let the council know there is still one week to submit nominations and encouraged anyone interested to submit a nomination.

Honorary License Request – DeVille Hubbard (LI0001836)
A discussion took place about Mr. Hubbard's request for an honorary landscape irrigator license and his career. Mr. Norm Werback made a made a motion to approve Mr. Hubbard's request for an honorary license, it was seconded by Mr. Sergio Martinez and approved by the council unanimously.

Honorary License Request – Paul Howard Bishop (LI0005227)
A motion was made by Mr. Mark Peterson for the consideration of a honorary license for Mr. Paul Howard Bishop be deferred to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norm Werback and approved by the council.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Norm Werback and seconded by Mr. Sergio Martinez. Council approved the motion to adjourn at 10:28am.