

# Irrigator Advisory Council Minutes

Thursday, November 6, 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 9:06am. 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. Mark Peterson; members absent include Mr. Remmington Holt, Mr. Sergio Martinez, and Mr. Jimmy Burgdorf.

TCEQ individuals present included Mr. Joseph Hopkins, Ms. Jayme Martone, Mr. Charles Middleton, and Mr. Chance Rushing.

### Approval of Previous Minutes

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

## TCEQ Program Updates

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### Cross-Connection Control

Mr. Charles Middleton gave a brief update on the progress to update RG-478 (Establishing and Managing an Effective Cross-Connection Control Program) and their continued approval of alternate BPAT and CSI forms. The next Cross Connection Control subcommittee meeting will be held on December 4, 2025, in person and virtual.

### Occupational Licensing

Mr. Chance Rushing gave an update on the implementation of the new Landscape Irrigator exam. He discussed the pass rates for the new test and that so far there haven't been any surprises or unexpected results. He also discussed some issues they've been seeing with folks posting exam questions for various licensing exams online and how to report this when people come across them, in order to preserve the integrity of the licensing exams. He also discussed a recent rule petition to add ethics training for certain occupational licenses within the agency, the rule petition does not currently include Landscape Irrigator licenses but other water and wastewater licenses; that rule petition is ongoing.

A question was asked about the availability of licensing classes in Spanish, and a discussion took place on what options there currently are for Spanish speakers and opportunities for additional classes to be approved in Spanish.

### Landscape Irrigation Program

Ms. Jayme Martone gave an update about filling a vacant position within the program and provided an overview of the investigations conducted by the Landscape Irrigation program during FY25, which took place from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025. This included information on which counties complaints were received from, investigation outcomes, and general violation types.

## **Work-Group Updates**

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### **Survey Work Group**

Ms. Paula Szymanski gave a brief update on the new responses they've received and plans to continue gathering responses.

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

Ms. Martone gave a brief update that the group continues to edit and update RG 466. They hope to have a draft to present to the whole council at the next meeting.

## **New Business**

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

A discussion took place about Mr. Vance's request for an honorary landscape irrigator license and his career. Mr. Werback made a motion to approve Mr. Vance's request for an honorary license, it was seconded by Mr. Mark Peterson and approved by the council unanimously.

The council received a new request for an honorary license from Mr. Frank Chaloupka, LI0003339, and the council will request additional information before considering his request at the next meeting.

### **SAWS Conservation Dept Presentation**

Ms. Karen Guz, VP of Conservation at San Antonio Water System (SAWS), gave a presentation on to the council and discussed topics on drought conditions, new watering rules, and other opportunities for future irrigation savings.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Norm Werback and seconded by Mr. Mark Peterson. The council unanimously approved the motion to adjourn at 10:59am.