Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

WATER UTILITY OPERATOR LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 12, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Hybrid Meeting through Microsoft Teams

Members Attending
Zachary Lillie, President
Angel Bustamante, Vice President
Adam Farguson
David Garza
Wesley Nebgen
Eduardo Montaña
Larry Bell
Leanne Wilson
Cory Moose

*Members attending virtually were directed to turn on their cameras to facilitate participation.
**Visitors were directed to turn off their cameras to alleviate buffering and internet bandwidth.

Members Absent
Harrold Burris
Melissa Loyd
Joseph McDaniel
Raymond Perez

Visitors
Crystal Bowman
Enrique Esparza
Matt Noland
Steve Ash
Chad Crawford
Tanny Busby
Russell H.
Paul Gast
Toni Rask
Daniel Nix
John Walden
Edward J Williams
Karen Menard
Larry Goldberg
Yolanda D Martin
Raymond Perez

TCEQ Staff Attending
Tamara Calhoun, Occupational Licensing and Registration Division (OLRD)
Teresa Etheredge, OLRD
John William Adams, OLRD
Chance Rushing, OLRD
Kenneth Smith, OLRD
Samantha Royall, OLRD
Sarah Ward, OLRD
Dania Grundmann, Water Quality Division (WQD)
Leticia Deleon, WQD
Dorothy Young, Water Supply Division (WSD)
Jason Robinson, Small Business and Local Government (SBLG)

Call to order:
The meeting was called to order by moderator Paul Munguia.

Member Introductions:
No new members.
Quorum check – quorum present.

Approval of Minutes:
A motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 13, 2025. The motion was made by Zachary Lillie and seconded by David Garza, all members approved.

Water Supply Division (WSD) Updates: Dorothy Young

- January 13, 2026 is the Drinking Water Advisory Work Group Meeting. Building F or virtual.
- Water Development Board has opened their applications for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Q&A Session
None.

Water Quality Division (WQD) Updates: Dania Grundmann

Upcoming WQD Meetings:
Water Quality Advisory Work Group on January 13, 2026 at 1:30 PM
Updates to Chapter 217 and Rule Implementations.

Occupational Licensing (OL) Updates: Tamara Calhoun, Teresa Etheridge, & Paul Munguia

Licensing Statistics
Licensing Statistics for 4th quarter of FY25 were sent out and no questions or concerns were raised.

Resiliency Exam Question Implementation
Resiliency exam questions were added to the D Water and the D Water Provisional licenses. TCEQ has created questions for all other levels of water licenses. Once approved by management we will start adding those questions to all water exams.

Implementation of the Training Regulatory Guidance

The new Training Regulatory Guidance document is ready to be published. Implementation of the New Instructor Qualification form is also ready for release. Once implemented there will be a $10 fee per course. This is only for stand-alone instructors' qualification reviews.

Demo of new Training Search Page
A demonstration of the new training search page was provided to the group. No questions from the group.

Guidance for Military Reiprocity
When an individual applies for reciprocity for a license, the license requirements for the state from which they come from must be substantially equivalent to Texas. The legislature change the reciprocity requirements for military individuals, which states the license and level must be similar in scope.

We are seeking assistance from our WUOLAC members to help us develop a guidance document that will help us guide the individuals that are applying and us to be able to appropriately designate a certain type of license or level for military reciprocity to determine "similar in scope" tasks as they relate to our licenses. Send an email to licenses@tceq.texas.gov if you are interested.

Ethics Training Survey
Sent Survey to 40,000 licensees – about 5000 responses.

- 50% support ethics training – 50% do not support ethics training
- 56% answered to 2 hours of ethics training was adequate
- 19% answered 4 hours of ethics training was adequate
- 25% other, which would include 3 hours or 1 hour
- 56% answered it should be required for all types of licenses
- 32% answered it should not be required for all types of licenses

We determined to keep ethic training in the rule package for two hours and to be included for all licenses, and not just water and wastewater operators. This process will need to go through the rule-making process and be approved by the Commissioners.

Rule Making Timeline

1) Commissioners approve proposed rules and get permission to publish in the Texas Register – May timeframe
2) Once published in *Texas Register*, it will be open to the public for a 30-day comment period.
3) Schedule a formal Public Hearing to hear any additional comments or questions
4) Rule package to go to Commissioners Agenda for adoption around the Fall 2026

WUOLAC Member Nomination Process
The terms of six members of WUOLAC expire on August 31,2026. These individuals are: Angel Bustamante, Harold Burris, Melissa Lloyd, Joseph McDanial, Corey Moose and Raymond Perez. We will be soliciting nominations to replace these vacancies. Current members may renominate themselves. Solicitations should be released on February 13 and will be posted in Texas Register for 30 days.

Q&A Session

Adam Farguson- Do any approved providers offer their course materials in Spanish?

> Paul Munguia- At this time, basic water (entry level) is available through a few select providers. However, it's not widely available.

Adam Farguson- Question relating to ADA Accommodations. Can individuals request an ADA Accommodation to have the exam translated to Spanish?

> Paul Munguia- Language barriers are not included in ADA. If the exam is available in Spanish, then an individual with an approved accommodation could take the oral exam but would have to travel to a TCEQ office where that service is available.

Michael Went- Question regarding Ethics training requirement and timeline.

> Paul Munguia- Dependent on timeline of the rulemaking process. The intention is to give training providers ample time to develop training and course materials.

Michael Went- Will the Ethics training be like the Resiliency training where four hours are required initially, and then also required on renewal cycles?

> Paul Munguia- Ethics training would only be a renewal requirement.

Steve Ash- Will Ethics training only be available as a standalone course, or can it be included into other courses to meet the requirement?

> Paul Munguia- The Ethics training could be made available as a standalone course, or included into an existing course, similar to resiliency. It is up to the training provider.

Michael Went- When does the fingerprint requirement go into place?

> Paul Munguia- It is not a requirement yet, but it replaces the attestation form for applicants and expedites the review process due to new requirements from DPS.

Adjourn
David Garza made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Adam Farguson. Meeting adjourned.

Contacts:

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