



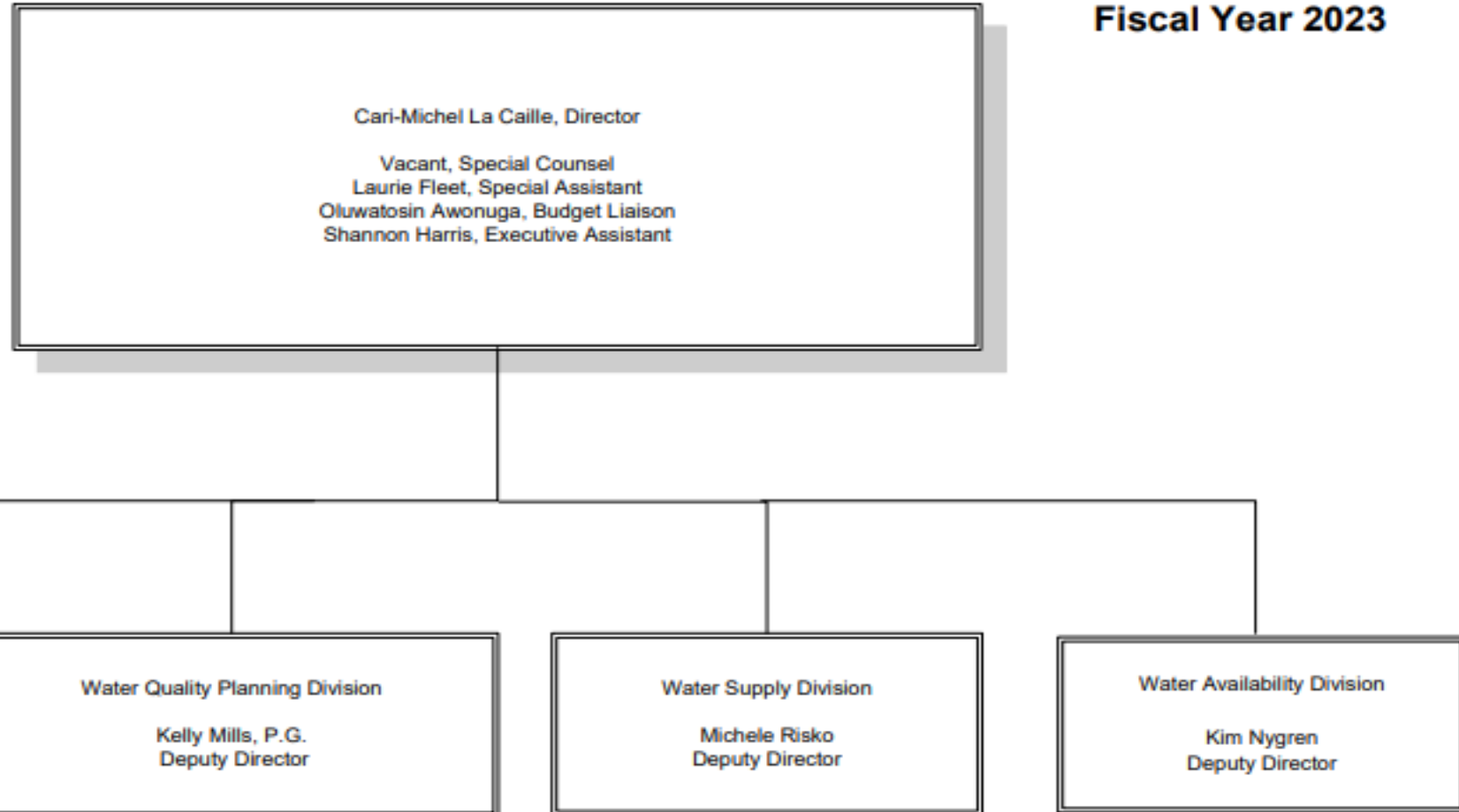
Water Quality Division Update

Robert Sadlier, Deputy Director

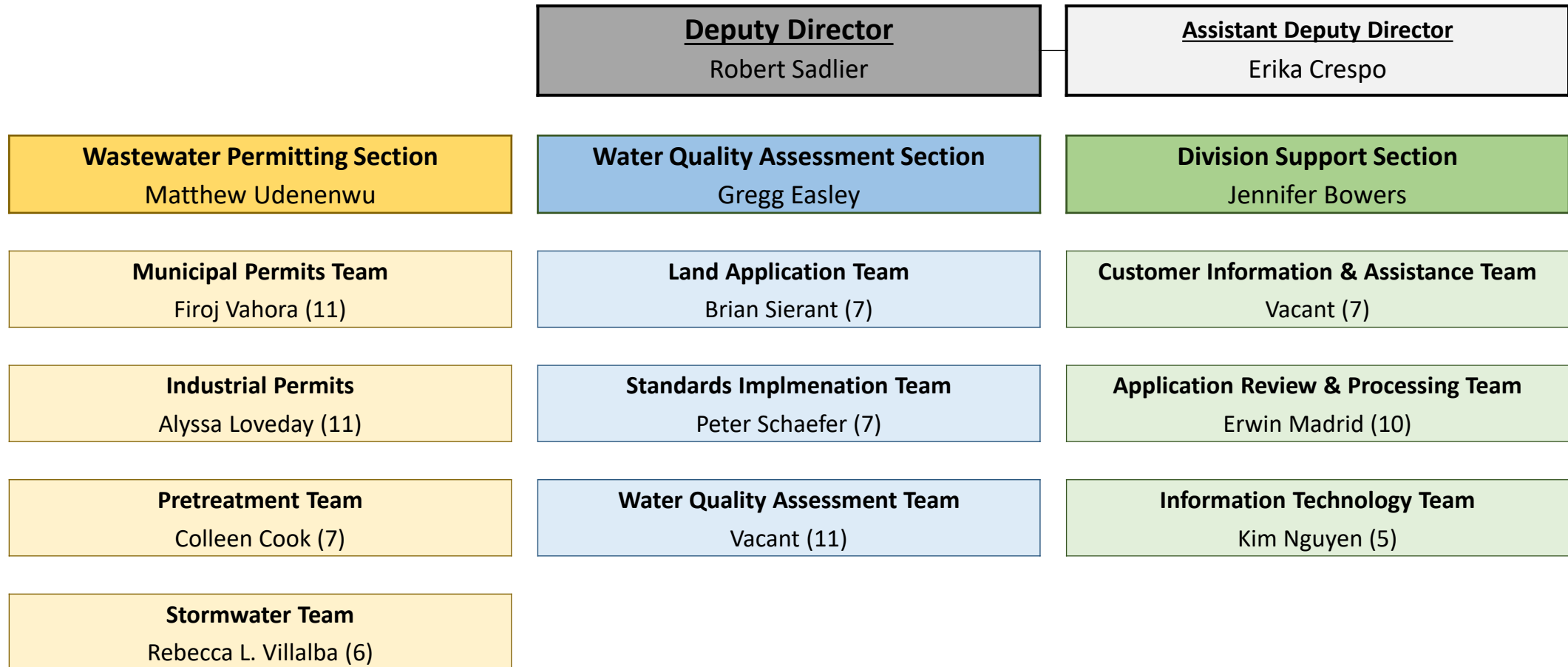


OFFICE OF WATER

Fiscal Year 2023



Water Quality Division Organization



Water Quality Division – FY23 Overview

- Fiscal Year 2023 (September 2022-August 2023):
- 103 FTEs (+2 due to Sunset)
- 20% of positions turned over (-)
- 853 incoming water quality applications (+)
- 752 water quality applications processed
- 76 response to comments filed (+)
- 60+ bills reviewed during the 88th legislative session
- 23 public meetings attended (+)
- 9 contested case hearings attended (+)

Wastewater Permitting Milestones

170 days Application Process
+ 160 days Draft Permit Process
330 days



Application and Application Review

Public Notice of Application



Technical Review of Application



Draft Permit



Public Notice of Draft Permit



Public Comment Period

Consideration for Final Action

Improvement Initiatives

- Since 2021, WQD focused on streamlining permitting processes and reducing permitting timeframes.
- Addressing backlogged applications
- Process changes, modernization, engaging stakeholders
- Challenges: staff turnover, loss of senior staff, and increasing workloads
- FY23 (**9/1/22-8/31/23**) average processing timeframe – **141 days** to filing with TCEQ's Office of the Chief Clerk

88th Legislative Session Implementation

- **HB 0692**
 - Disposal and land application of dairy waste
- **HB 1688**
 - Expansion of water quality protection areas for quarries to include “Coke Stevenson Scenic Riverway”
- **SB 1289**
 - Allows alternative disposal for reclaimed wastewater



TCEQ Sunset Legislation

SB 1397 Impacts to Water Quality Permitting Process

- Public Notice Information (Section 8, 9)
- Community Outreach (Section 10)
- **Electronic Posting of Permit Applications** (Section 11)
- Permitting Procedures Generally (Section 12)
 - Electronic Publication of Notice, Newspaper Verification, **Security at Public Meeting**, Elected Official Notice, Temporary and Indefinite Permit Reporting

TCEQ Sunset Legislation

Electronic Posting of Permit Applications

TCEQ will post administratively complete permit applications on its website

- permit application and any associated materials, revised or amended permit application
- applicant for a permit, permit amendment, or permit renewal that will include address of the TCEQ website in published notice

Security at Public Meeting

The commission may request that an applicant for a permit that is the subject of a public meeting provide uniformed security at the meeting sufficient to provide for the safety of all attendees and orderly conduct at the meeting or hearing.

Other Rule Updates

- **Wastewater System Design Criteria** (30 TAC Chapter 217)
 - Wastewater System Design Criteria Stakeholder Group
- **Reclaimed Water** (30 TAC Chapter 210)
 - Updated rules adopted February 8, 2023
- **Quadrennial Rule Reviews ongoing**



General Permit Updates

- Oil and Gas Extraction General Permit (TXG310000)
 - Commission to consider adoption in November/December 2023
- Oil and Gas Outer Continental Shelf General Permit (WQG280000)
 - Commission to consider adoption in November/December 2023
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) GP (TXG920000) (Renewal)
 - Public Notice in February 2024 / Adoption target June 2024
- Livestock Manure Compost General Permit (WQG200000) – renewed 9/27/23
- Petroleum Contaminated Water General Permit (TXG830000) – renewed 8/16/23

Wastewater Regionalization

- Regulatory Guidance (RG-632): Evaluating Regionalization for Proposed Wastewater System is now available on the TCEQ website.
 - www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/tceq-regionalization-for-wastewater

Water Quality Advisory Workgroup (WQAWG)

- WQAWG is open to the public and is a voluntary group of participants who meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues related to water quality, wastewater permits, and wastewater standards
- www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/WQ_advisory_group.html
- Next meeting is October 24, 2023



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