

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Highlights of TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Management & Resource Recovery Advisory Council (MSWRRAC)
Meeting, Thursday, January 8, 2026

Attendance

Members Present

Mr. Steve Shannon
Mr. Chuck Rivette
Ms. Robin Alaniz
Mr. Jeffrey Mayfield
Mr. Brocke Lively
Mr. Scott Trebus
Judge David Dillard
Mr. Richard Abramowitz
Mr. Scott Pasternak
Mr. Frank Pugsley
Mr. Seth Cunningham
Ms. Risa Weinberger

Members Absent

Mr. Ken May
Mr. Tom Parker

TCEQ Staff Present

Ms. Charly Fritz
Ms. Megan Henson
Ms. Anna Lleras
Ms. Savannah Rains

Ms. Madison Howard
Mr. Santos Olivarez
Ms. Jessica Uramkin

Archived Webcast of the Meeting

The meeting was held online using MS Teams Webinar. The archived webcast of the meeting is available at [MSW Management and Resource Recovery Advisory Council—January 8, 2026 - YouTube](#).

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests—Mr. Jeffrey Mayfield, Council President

- Council members and TCEQ staff introduced themselves.
- Ms. Lleras took roll for the council members.

Waste Permits Division (WPD) Update—Ms. Charly Fritz, Deputy Director

- Rulemaking projects.
 - The division continues to work on various rulemaking projects. As the division moves further along, stakeholders will be updated.
 - The division will propose rulemaking to implement HB 3229 in the spring. HB 3229 targets recycling facilities who process solar panels, wind turbine blades, and EV batteries. The bill requires these facilities to provide a cost estimate for recycling or disposing of those components, financial assurance, and adds reporting requirements.
- MSW is implementing a new procedure for public meetings. The Q&A portion of the meeting will now take place on a one-on-one basis before the start of the meeting. The new format is meant to improve the environment of public meetings and involves more TCEQ staff.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Permits Section Update— Ms. Megan Henson, Section Manager

- Staffing & Projects
 - Two MSW vacancies; one engineer position and one environmental permit specialist position.
 - 20 permit applications and six registration applications are currently under review.
- FY 2025 Annual Report Summary
 - FY 2025 annual reports were due November 10, 2025. 97% of annual reports have been submitted.
- Exiting Post-Closure Care Guidance (RG-658)
 - The document includes steps on what to submit, to who, and when.
 - Most of the document focuses on assessing landfill conditions, including surface drainage control, groundwater, landfill gas, final cover, and leachate.
- Trade Fair 2026 will be in May in San Antonio.
 - Topics will include exiting post-closure care, alternative liner designs, liner evaluation reports, waste acceptance plans and special waste, and groundwater sampling and reporting.

Texas Council 2025 Compost Summit Highlights – Ms. Risa Weinberger, Advisory Council Member

- The Texas Composting Council held a summit in Katy, Texas in October 2025.
 - There were 71 registrants and 16 companies attending as exhibitors.

- The mission was to provide practical training for compost manufacturers, including addressing the fundamentals of operation, developing trends, and regulations.

Business & Program Services Section Update – Mr. Santos Olivarez, Manager and Ms. Jessica Uramkin, Grant Manager, Business and Program Services Section

- Council Position Application Update
 - 14 positions are filled currently.
 - There are four vacant positions for elected officials; the nominations will be left open, and applications will be reviewed as they are received.
- Compost Refund Program Update
 - On November 13, 2025, TCEQ held a discussion with multiple composting facilities to gain a better understanding of how the compost refund program is used.
- Regional Solid Waste Grant Program
 - 210 projects were approved and funded through the FY24/25 grants project. The projects varied in topics including general solid waste management, recycling, education and training, local enforcement, and household hazardous waste management.
 - The Lower Rio Grand Valley: Road to Recycling Project included participation of 30 local governments to collect and recycle nearly 50,000 tires.
 - The Nortex Regional Planning Commission had a project to repair fences to prevent illegal dumping.
 - Both the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) and Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) had projects involving disaster debris cleanup.
- Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant
 - TCEQ worked with five COGs to increase composting and recycling throughout the state:
 - CAPCOG created a school food waste diversion program;
 - East Texas Council of Governments created an incentive program and toolkits for institutions to reduce waste;
 - H-GAC created a tool that assesses recycling facility needs;
 - Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council created a school composting focused on vermiculture; and
 - North Central Texas Council of Governments created model ordinances and contracts for organic materials management.
 - EPA has announced a second round of funding for the SWIFR grant. The agency is awaiting further details.

Chapter 328 – Renewable Chemicals – Ms. Jarita Sepulvado, Rule Liaison, Waste Permits Division

- HB 4413 implementation (Rule Project No. 2025-026-328-WS).
 - HB 4413 added definitions for renewable biomass and renewable chemical and required TCEQ to adopt rules identifying third party certification systems for mass balance attributions.
 - WPD has proposed amendments to Chapter 328, Subchapter L. No changes were proposed to any municipal solid waste rules.
 - The proposed rules were published in the Texas Register on January 2, 2026. Public comments remained open until February 3, 2026.

MSW A and B License Curriculum Feedback – Mr. Paul Munguía, Work Leader, Occupational Licensing and Registration Division

- Composting and Medical Waste Training
 - Individuals managing medical waste or composting facility requiring a registration or permit must complete a TCEQ recognized or approved specialized training course.
 - There is currently no curriculum guidance for the specialized training courses. The council may send their input on curriculum guidance for specialized training for medical waste and/or composting.

Approval of October 9, 2025, Meeting Highlights

Judge Dillard made a motion to accept the meeting highlights. Scott Pasternak seconded the motion, and the highlights were approved by the council.

Action Items

- Email to council about requesting trade fair tickets and curriculum volunteer request with contact information.

Public Comments

- None.

Next Meeting

- April 9, 2026