

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE REPORT SUBCOMMITTEE

RECORD OF MEETING

First Meeting, Fiscal Year 2027

Meeting Date: September 16, 2026

Place: Videoconference

Room: N/A

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING ATTENDANCE.....	2
MEETING HANDOUTS.....	2
RECORD OF MEETING	2
CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS.....	2
DISCUSS THE COMPLETION OF THE “ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TGPC: A REPORT TO THE 90TH LEGISLATURE” AND PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT TO THE TGPC	3
BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION	4
SET FUTURE MEETING DATE, IF NECESSARY	5
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	5
PUBLIC COMMENT	5
ADJOURN.....	5

MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Cindy Hooper (Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Robert Bradley	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Chris Heiligenstein	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Omar Valdez	Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS)
David Villarreal	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Stephanie Keith	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Giovanni Piccinni	Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Justin Thompson	University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG)
Chris Hooyboer	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

<u>Agency Staff</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Program</u>
Katie Brice	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Sarah Findley	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Dan Hannah	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
April Hoh	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Peggy Hunka	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Lauren Trotter	TCEQ	Water Availability Division

MEETING HANDOUTS

There were no meeting handouts.

RECORD OF MEETING

The TGPC approves all subcommittee products and designated TGPC members attending this subcommittee meeting participated as an employee or representative of their agency or organization, not as a designated TGPC member. Therefore, this subcommittee meeting was not subject to the Open Meetings Act, and it was held 100% virtually. The public was also able to attend this meeting via teleconference or video conference at no cost.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ), Chair of the Legislative Report Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. CDT and made preliminary meeting announcements. Subcommittee members

introduced themselves. The representative from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) was not present at the meeting.

DISCUSS THE COMPLETION OF THE “ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TGPC: A REPORT TO THE 90TH LEGISLATURE” AND PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT TO THE TGPC

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) introduced agenda item three and noted that the draft report with edits was sent by email to the subcommittee members the previous week. She said that the plan for this meeting was to review the report, discuss it and any recommendations, and then prepare to vote on sending the report to the full committee.

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) mentioned that there would be an opportunity to abstain from any portion of the recommendations, if needed, in order to vote on the report, and that this would be noted in the meeting record. Finally, the subcommittee would have a formal vote on sending the report to the TGPC at their October 2026 meeting.

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) shared her computer screen and went over the sections of the report, noting where non-substantive changes had been proposed in track changes. She began with the executive summary, which was updated to list the recommendations in the same order that they are listed in the report, and to add a sentence regarding the white paper recommendations without listing them all in the summary. There were no objections to these edits.

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) also pointed out some general report organization such as adding a heading for previous recommendations. Then in the body of the report, she reviewed the updates that were made by TCEQ’s groundwater program, such as adding the Fiscal Year 2026 numbers for public notification of groundwater contamination.

Next, the subcommittee reviewed the edits to the white paper recommendations, beginning with the Child Care Operations (CCO) white paper. Omar Valdez (DSHS) explained that his agency’s upper management disagreed with language that would compel DSHS to take direct action. Instead, the preference was that the recommendations do not specify that a particular agency must act because the responsibility may fall under the purview of more than one agency. The subcommittee discussed edits, removed the specific reference to DSHS, but kept the term “require” in the recommendations. The subcommittee agreed to revise White Paper Recommendation 1 to read: “Require, as part of the Child Care Licensing (CCL) application and renewal process, the collection of data on the source of drinking water used at child care operations (CCOs).” White Paper Recommendation 2 was revised to say: “Require the determination of the number of CCOs that use private water wells for drinking water and the number of children they serve.”

The rest of the recommendations were reviewed, and there were no comments. Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) pointed out that some minor edits were made (e.g., footnotes), and that she still needed to update the section on agricultural chemicals for the current biennium.

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) asked David Villareal (TDA) whether any additional recommendations from the Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC) needed to be considered, and he

replied that no changes were needed because the only draft WCAC recommendation pertinent to TGPC was already included in the report.

Finally, Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) mentioned that the report's cover page needed to be added and asked if anyone had an idea for a different photo than the one that had been used for several years. She said she would follow up on the ideas.

BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Final Draft "Legislative Report"

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) introduced agenda item 4. She reminded the subcommittee that the TGPC *Legislative Report* and its recommendations are a consensus of the committee and not necessarily a reflection of each member agency's position. In addition, although the TGPC strives for unanimous approval of all TGPC products, there have been occasions where member had concerns or there was dissension. If needed, TGPC members could approve parts of the *Legislative Report* and abstain from, or disapprove, other parts of the report. All approvals, abstentions, and disapprovals would be noted in the meeting recording file and the meeting minutes, and both of these are permanent records of the TGPC.

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) stated that she was aiming for the subcommittee to vote on the group of ten main recommendations first, and then the 13 white paper recommendations as a whole. She noted that for each of these, there would be an opportunity to abstain from one or more. Next, she indicated there could be a formal motion to send the overall publication to the main committee.

David Villareal (TDA) made a motion to send the ten main recommendations to the full TGPC committee, while allowing TCEQ to make non-substantial editorial changes as appropriate. The motion did not receive a second, so the motion died.

Next, Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) suggested they vote on the report's recommendations separately. She pointed out that this was not a formal motion and second, but the vote would allow the record to show who chose to abstain from any of the recommendations. The subcommittee agreed with the approach.

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) then asked the subcommittee members if they wanted to abstain from, approve, or disapprove the report's main recommendations 1 through 10. There were zero abstaining, and zero "no" votes. All members present voted "yes."

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) next introduced white paper recommendations 1 through 13 related to the CCOs, groundwater quality monitoring, on-site sewage facilities (OSSFs), wellhead impacts, and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) white papers. One subcommittee member, David Villareal (TDA), signified his agency's wish to abstain from all 13 white paper recommendations. The remaining subcommittee members voted "yes" on the white paper recommendations, and there were zero "no" votes.

Next, David Villareal (TDA) made a motion to approve the presentation of the final TGPC legislative report to the TGPC at their October 2026 meeting and to allow staff to make the

changes discussed at this meeting as well as non-substantive corrections. Justin Thompson (UTBEG) seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any further discussion, and being none, there was a vote on the motion to present the final *TGPC Report to the 90th Legislature* to TGPC at their meeting the following month (October 2026), with the changes discussed at this meeting, as well as non-substantive corrections and updates. All members present voted “yes” and the motion carried.

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) thanked the members for their time and effort on the report.

SET FUTURE MEETING DATE, IF NECESSARY

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) recognized that the subcommittee most likely would not need to meet again, but if required, the next meeting would be held on December 2, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. CST. David Villareal (TDA) asked whether this meeting would be too close to the publication of the report, and whether it would be possible to schedule a meeting sooner than that, if needed. Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) replied that this could be investigated if it became necessary to meet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m. CDT.