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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 21, 2025

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
John T. Dupnik, P.G., Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Science
and Conservation

FROM: Denise Livingston, Program Specialist, Municipal Conservation
Erika Mancha, Director, Conservation and Innovative Water Technologies

SUBJECT: Appointments to the Water Conservation Advisory Council

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider the appointment of nine members to the Water Conservation Advisory Council.

BACKGROUND

The Texas Legislature created the Water Conservation Advisory Council (Council) in 2007 to serve as an expert resource in water conservation to state government and the public. The Council is composed of volunteers representing 23 different interest groups. Chapter 10 of the Texas Water Code directs the Board to appoint members of the Council to staggered six-year terms ending in odd years.

KEY ISSUES

On August 31, 2025, terms for eight interest group members expire, including a state agency-designated representative for the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Additionally, there is a ninth vacancy for the Refinery and Chemical Manufacturing interest group that expired on August 31, 2023, but was inadvertently overlooked. As a result, the Council requests to fill a shorter-term appointment for this interest group through August 31, 2029.

The TWDB solicited nominations to fill these vacancies via correspondence with interest group representatives, professional organizations, regional water planning groups, and by posting a notice to the Council's website. A total of 15 individuals were nominated

Our Mission

Leading the state's efforts
in ensuring a secure
water future for Texas

Board Members

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | Tonya R. Miller, Board Member
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

(Attachment 1). In addition, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board submitted a letter designating their Council representative.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on their individual commitment to and expertise in water conservation, the Executive Administrator recommends the following appointments to represent the interest groups listed and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board with terms set to expire August 31, 2031:

1. **Agriculture** – John Bender, Consultant, Texas Corn Producers
2. **Groundwater Districts** – Adam Foster, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
3. **Irrigation Districts** – Anthony Stambaugh, General Manager, Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2
4. **Institutional Water Users** – Eddie Wilcut, Water & Energy Efficiency Services Practice Leader, Plummer and Associates
5. **Mining and Recovery of Minerals** – CJ Tredway, Water Policy Consultant, Texas Oil and Gas Association
6. **Professional Organization with a Water Conservation Focus** – Colin McDonald, Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Water Foundation
7. **Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board** – Mitch Conine, Program Administrator, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
8. **Water Control and Improvement Districts** – Dustan Compton, Water Conservation Manager, Tarrant Regional Water District

Based on their individual commitment to and expertise in water conservation, the Executive Administrator recommends the following appointment to fulfill the remaining term for the indicated interest group with a term set to expire August 31, 2029:

9. **Refining and Chemical Manufacturing** – Tanushri Jain, Environmental Reporting Director, Dow

Attachment:

1. Summary of nominations for appointments to the Water Conservation Advisory Council

Attachment 1: Summary of nominations for appointments to the Water Conservation Advisory Council

Nominee	Title and company	Interest group	Nominator	Letters of support
** John Bender	Texas Corn Producers Board	Agriculture	David Gibson, Executive Vice President, Texas Corn Producers	None
Tillery Sims	Co-owner, Sims Land Services	Agriculture	Jim Mazurkiewicz, Texas A&M University, Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership	Jim Mazurkiewicz, Texas A&M University, Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Lacy Cotter Vardeman, Founder and President, Sandhills Area Research Association
Adam Foster	Executive Director, Texas Association of Groundwater Districts	Groundwater Conservation Districts	Zach Holland, General Manager, Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District	2024 Texas Alliance of Groundwater District Resolution
Eddie Wilcut	Principal/Water & Energy Efficiency Practice Leader, Plummer Associates	Institutional Water Users	*Bill Hoffman, President, Hoffman & Associates, LLC	None
Anthony Stambaugh	General Manager, Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2	Irrigation Districts	Troy Allen, President, Texas Irrigation Council Antonio Uresti, President, Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association	None
Michael Kent	Manager, Donna Irrigation District	Irrigation Districts	Troy Allen, President, Texas Irrigation Council	None

*Current Water Conservation Advisory Council member

**Current Water Conservation Advisory Council Alternate

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Nominee	Title and company	Interest group	Nominator	Letters of support
			Antonio Uresti, President, Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association	
*CJ Tredway	Water Policy Consultant, Texas Oil and Gas Association	Mining and Recovery of Minerals	Tulsi Oberbeck, Vice President of Government & Regulatory Affairs, Texas Oil and Gas Association	None
Tillery Sims	Co-owner, Sims Land Services	Mining and Recovery	Jim Mazurkiewicz, Texas A&M University, Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership	Jim Mazurkiewicz, Texas A&M University, Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Lacy Cotter Vardeman, Founder and President, Sandhills Area Research Association
Chris Maxwell-Gaines	Owner, Innovative Water Solutions LLC	Professional Organizations - focused on water conservation	Self-nomination	Heather Kinkade, Executive Director, ARCSA International
Christina Kaeini	Senior Director of Government Relations, The IAPMO Group	Professional Organizations - focused on water conservation	Self-nomination	None
** Colin McDonald	Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Water Foundation	Professional Organizations - focused on water conservation	*Sarah Schlessinger	None

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Nominee	Title and company	Interest group	Nominator	Letters of support
Shannon Hamilton	Executive Director, Central Texas Water Coalition	Professional Organizations - focused on water conservation	Joe Don Dockery, Burnet County Commissioner	None
Tanushri Jain	Environmental Reporting Director, Dow	Refining and Chemical Manufacturing	Will Nipper, Dow <i>Nomination received after deadline.</i>	None
* Dustan Compton	Water Conservation Manager, Tarrant Regional Water District	Water Control and Improvement District	Dan Buhman General Manager, Tarrant Regional Water District	Grace Darling, Arlington Conservation Council
Kyle Miller	General Manager, Wichita County Water Improvement District No.2	Water Control and Improvement District	Troy Allen, President, Texas Irrigation Council Antonio Uresti, President, Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association	None
** Mitch Conine	Program Administrator	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	Rex Isom, Executive Director, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	Agency Appointment

*Current Water Conservation Advisory Council member

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