

Upper Colorado River Basin

Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC)

FINAL AGENDA

Meeting Agenda

Date & Time: April 23, 2026 | 9 a.m.

Location: Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA), 512 Orient, San Angelo, Texas

Moderator: Lexi Blackwood, UCRA

1. Welcome & Introductions **Nancy Blackwell, Chairperson, UCRA**
2. Texas Wildlife Association – A Brief Overview **Christine Foley, Conservation Educator, TWA**
Greg Simons, Natural Resource Entrepreneur, Past President, TWA
3. Texas NPS Program – Grant Funding Opportunities **Kristin DeBone, NPS Project Manager, TCEQ**
4. UCRA NPS Program Updates **Scott McWilliams, General Manager, UCRA,**
Lexi Blackwood, Environmental Specialist, UCRA,
Ellen Groth, Administrative & Financial Manager, UCRA
5. Break
6. A Day in the Life **JP Guadarrama, 2025 Summer Intern, UCRA**
7. Water Quality Reports **Scott McWilliams & Lexi Blackwood**
8. The Lifecycle of a Water Sample **Zoe Nichols, Water Quality Coordinator II**
Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)
9. Texas Parks and Wildlife Updates and News **Lynn Wright, Fisheries Management Supervisor**
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division
10. Comments, Discussion & Dismissal

MEETING NOTES

Upper Colorado River Basin Texas Clean Rivers Program Water Quality Advisory Committee Meeting April 23, 2026



Welcome & Introductions

Scott McWilliams, General Manager, UCRA

Texas Wildlife Association – A Brief Overview

*Christine Foley, Conservation Educator, TWA
Greg Simons, Natural Resource Entrepreneur,
Past President, TWA*

TWA's mission involves serving Texas wildlife and its habitat while protecting property rights, hunting heritage, and the conservation efforts of those who value and steward wildlife resources. TWA is built on three pillars: issues & advocacy, conservation and hunting heritage. The organization has youth and adult hunting programs. They also partner with TPWD on the Texas Big Game Awards program.

Christine Foley is the Conservation Educator for the area. She spoke about youth and adult education programs, some of which include distance learning, discovery trunks, land, water and wildlife expeditions, workshops, conferences for adults and youth, webinars and public events. UCRA will be partnering with TWA's field expedition at the Cargile Ranch next week.

Texas NPS Program - Grant Funding Opportunities

Kristin DeBone, NPS Project Manager, TCEQ

DeBone provided an overview of the Texas Nonpoint Source Program. The NPS program, funded by the Clean Water Act, is voluntary and stakeholder driven. The program priorities are to restore impaired water bodies, reduce pollutants and fund holistic watershed projects. Programs are jointly administered by the TCEQ and TSSWCB. DeBone explained the grant solicitation process, who is eligible for funding, and the funding parameters. All projects require a 40% funding match, and potential match sources were discussed.

A variety of partnerships are crucial to any successful application. The types of activities funded were discussed and a breakdown of TCEQ funded projects was shown. The components of a Watershed Protection Plan and what EPA looks for were presented. There are more than forty EPA accepted WPPs in Texas. Some examples of implementation projects include Septic System Repair/Replacement and Inventory, Animal Waste Reduction,

Riparian Restoration, Low Impact Development, Green Infrastructure, and Education and Outreach. NPS also produces an annual report which highlights projects from both agencies.

UCRA NPS Program Updates

Scott McWilliams, General Manager, UCRA
Lexi Blackwood, Senior Environmental Specialist, UCRA
Ellen Groth, Administrative & Financial Manager, UCRA

Green Infrastructure Project:

Blackwood presented information on the Green Infrastructure Project. COSA was unable to continue with the original project and UCRA was given an opportunity to amend the existing contract to create a green infrastructure guidance document for the downtown area along the river. A map of the project area survey results was provided. The data collection and methodology for the surveys were discussed. COSA has partnered with UCRA to install six pet waste stations along the river.

Groth discussed the outreach initiatives for the project that included the installation of a large-scale educational sheep, billboards and social media, youth activity books, and the guidance document.

Brady WPP Implementation Project, Phase II:

McWilliams reported that installation of the BMP is almost complete. Despite numerous challenges along the way, mostly due to the groundwater elevation at the site and weather, everything is in place and appears to be working well. Details about the process were provided and it was noted that the City of Brady staff were instrumental in the installation process. UCRA staff will be returning to Brady to finish the installation in a couple of weeks. Once the samplers are activated, sampling will begin with the first storm event.

Groth reported that UCRA hosted an event in Brady called “The Good News Luncheon” in January. Participants were given an opportunity to simulate an interactive vortex separator. Upcoming outreach events will include a Stakeholder meeting in late summer, a PSA campaign, annual Water Bill Inserts and a youth-based Bio Blitz in 2027.

A Day in the Life

JP Guadarrama, 2025 Summer Intern, UCRA

Guadarrama is a second year ASU student and UCRA’s most recent summer intern. He provided an overview of the UCRA internship experience and told the group a little about himself. Experience gained included: working in a professional work environment, performing data collection, gaining valuable field experience, and conducting research. The internship really confirmed his aspirations to be a wildlife biologist and the opportunity to conduct firsthand field work was an amazing opportunity.

Water Quality Reports

Scott McWilliams & Lexi Blackwood, UCRA

McWilliams provided an overview of water quality in the upper basin looking at trends in the upper basin reservoirs. Graphs depicting the trends were shown for Twin Buttes Reservoir, Lake Nasworthy, O. H. Ivie, O. C. Fisher, E. V. Spence, Oak Creek, Brady Creek & Lake J. B. Thomas. Blackwood discussed routine monitoring and provided status and updates of each of sites UCRA monitors.

The Lifecycle of a Water Sample

*Zoe Nichols, Water Quality Coordinator,
Lower Colorado River Authority*

Nichols provided participants with a look at water quality and how the Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) conducts water quality monitoring in the Colorado River basin. The Texas Clean Rivers Act was passed in 1991 and is funded by state fees to maintain and improve the quality of water within each river basin in Texas. Nichols gave a breakdown of program funding, showing maps with basin partners and 2026 monitoring stations.

Steps in the life cycle of a water sample includes, creating a coordinated monitoring schedule with other collecting agencies, developing a Quality Assurance Project Plan or “QAPP”, water sample collection, lab analysis, LCRA validation and submittal, validation by TCEQ, water data comparison to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (TSWQS), production of the Texas Integrated Report.

The Texas Integrated Report is produced every two years and assesses seven years of monitoring data. The 2026 Integrated Report covers the period of 12/1/2017-11/30/2024. In 2025 it was determined that 22 of the 83 water bodies assessed did not meet surface water quality standards. The 303(d) List was also shown for each basin.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Updates and News

***Lynn Wright, Fisheries Management Supervisor
Inland Fisheries Division, TPWD***

Wright said the zebra mussel status in Lake Nasworthy has had no significant changes and that they are still monitoring Twin Buttes. Golden algae populations have been stable and somewhat improved in the area; some lakes are back on the stocking list. Wright said TPWD is feeling a bit nervous about E. V. Spence, since the conductivity is creeping up due to low water levels. Everything else is status quo. There is no determination of why golden algae are stable right now; it is unpredictable.

One member asked about treatment options. Wright said that most treatment options just aren’t feasible because they are economically prohibitive if the area is too large. Treating a smaller environment is manageable, but bigger areas are not as easy to tackle.

Blackwood asked Wright to speak briefly about the ShareLunker program. Wright stated that this is an agency sponsored program that works with Anglers who catch fish that are 13 lbs. and larger. Participants partner with the ShareLunker program and are recognized for these achievements throughout the year.

Wright said that O. H. Ivie has been the number one bass trophy lake in the state for the last five years and believes that we are really lucky to have it.

Comments, Discussion & Dismissal:

There were no further discussions or questions asked. Blackwood thanked everyone for participating both in person and online, especially those presenting, and the meeting was concluded.



These meeting notes only provide a summary of the meeting and the presentations

To view presentations with details, visit the project webpage at:

<https://www.ucratx.org/crp-wqac>

Upper Basin CRP 2026 WQAC Meeting Attendees

Chris Wilde	CRMWD, Big Spring
Cole Walker	CRMWD, Big Spring
Jesse Ortega	CRMWD, Big Spring
Lisa Benton	LCRA, Austin
Zoe Nichols	LCRA, Austin
Lucas Graunke	LCRA, Austin
Kelly Kukowski	LCRA, ELS Labs, Austin
Darynne Jester	TCEQ Austin
Julie McAulay	TCEQ, Austin
Kristin DeBone	TCEQ, Austin
Savannah Hernandez	TCEQ, Austin
Robin Cypher	TCEQ, Austin
Kiran Freeman	TCEQ, Austin
Kirk Fleener	TCEQ, San Angelo Region
Kyle Garmany	Texas Water Trade
Christine Foley	Texas Wildlife Association
Greg Simons	Texas Wildlife Association
Lynn Wright	TPWD, San Angelo
David Villareal	TDA, Austin
JP Guadarrama	UCRA, San Angelo
Scott McWilliams	UCRA, San Angelo
Ellen Groth	UCRA, San Angelo
Lexi Blackwood	UCRA, San Angelo