

Texas Association of Regional Councils
Solid Waste Planners Association
Semi Annual Meeting @ 8:30 a.m.
September 18, 2024
Minutes

Members Present

Shauna Duff, AACOG
Candilyn McLean, BVCOG
David Lopez, CTCOG
Emily Martinez, CBCOG
Erin Hernandez, CVCOG
Andrew Harmon, DETCOG
Bridget Booty, ETCOG
Paul Wilson, GCRPC
Kaitlin Strane, GCRPC
Alejandra Cruz, GCRPC
Falen Bohannon, HOTCOG
Cherly Mergo, HGAC
Erin Livingston, HGAC
Wendy Almanzan, HGAC
Melisa Gonzales-Rosas, LRGVDC
Karina Aguirre, MRGDC
Hannah Ordonez, NCTCOG
Alexa Gilbert, NCTCOG
Miranda Boler, PBRPC
Daphne Morcon, PRPC
Lori Gunn, PRPC
Veronica Diaz, RGCOG
James Moore, SETRPC
Lauren Nichols- SPAG
Alexis Taylor-Baker-TCOG

Guests Present

Anju Chalise, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Jessica Uramkin, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Sara Walters, Keep Texas Beautiful
Kristen Sorensen, Keep Texas Beautiful
Shaun, Auckland, South-Central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource

Falen Bohannon, HOTCOG, called the Solid Waste Planner's Association meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

- Everyone introduced themselves.
- The Solid Waste Coordinators reviewed the Minutes from the February 7, 2024 meeting. Erin Hernandez, CVCOG, made a motion to approve the minutes. Melissa Gonzales-Rosas, LRGVDC, seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.
- The Solid Waste Coordinators reviewed the Financial Report. Melissa Gonzales-Rosas, LRGVDC, made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Erin Livingston, HGAC, seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

Old Business

Falen Bohanan, HOTCOG, gave a summary from the last meeting.

New Business

The Solid Waste Planners elected new officers. Erin Hernandez, CVCOG, made a motion to accept the nominations of Lauren Nichols, SPAG, for Chair and Daphne Morcom, PRPC, for Vice Chair. Melissa Gonzales-Rosas, LRGVDC, seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation. Candilyn McLean, BVCOG, made a motion to accept the nomination of Erin Livingston, HGAC, for Secretary. Melissa Gonzales-Rosas, LRGVDC, seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

New Solid Waste Planners Association Officers:

Chair- Lauren Nichols, SPAG

Vice Chair- Daphne Morcom- PRPC

Secretary- Erin Livingston-HGAC

FY 2022/2023 Legislative Report Preparation

Erin Livingston, HGAC, gave a presentation describing how to prepare the legislative report. She explained that each of the Councils of Government (COG) will receive a two-page spread for their individual reports to the Texas Legislature. The group discussed focus topics, like the problem with scrap tires. They would like to include a focal point topic in the legislative report. The overall focal point topic was recycling.

Cheryl Mergo, HGAC, asked if anyone receives awards for Keep Texas Beautiful or for NATO, they should share the information on the COG list serve.

Shauna Duff, AACOG, shared their illegal dumping campaign with Legacy 79 in San Antonio Texas. It is called "Dumping Hurts".

Keep Texas Beautiful Updates

Sara Walters gave a presentation about how Keep Texas Beautiful can help communities recycle. She explained the EPA grant, Expansion of Recycling (Rural Recycling Network). She discussed important dates for the Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA). Kristen Sorenson let the group know about the new Texas Litter Database. There will be a webinar about how to use the new Texas Litter Database on October 2, 2025.

The new Texas Litter Database will allow participants to:

1. Conduct cleanups in their areas
2. Use Survey123 to share data
3. View data from other cleanups in the Dashboard
4. See success stories in Story Maps
5. Use that data to implement solutions

Sustainability Programs for Local Governments

Shaun Auckland gave a presentation about the South-Central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER). The mission of SPEER is: helping local governments and communities implement energy efficient practices and supporting sustainability goals, including waste management facilities. She also discussed best practices in solid waste energy efficiency. Shaun shared information about the Community Energy Leadership Coalition (CELC). This is a statewide collaborative of cities and public entities in Texas that has a focus on energy efficiency, operational energy management, and sustainability in public services, including solid waste.

TCEQ Updates and Training

Jessica Uramkin from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) provided some TCEQ updates. She informed the group about the FY 2024/2025 upcoming reporting due dates. She discussed payments and carryforwards. Jessica discussed the 89th Legislative Session as it relates to travel to present to the legislators. She provided information about the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant. She also let the group know that the solid waste facility applications are now online.

The meeting was adjourned.