

**Executive Management Committee Quarterly Meeting
Austin-LCRA Water Partnership
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: February 28, 2023
Location: LCRA Redbud Building
Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Shay Ralls Roalson, Austin Water	Anna Bryan-Borja, Austin Water
Kevin Critendon, Austin Water	John Hofmann, LCRA
Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Austin Water	Monica Masters, LCRA
Helen Gerlach, Austin Water	Greg Graml, LCRA
Kathleen Garrett, Austin Energy	Ron Anderson, LCRA
Ross Crow, City of Austin Law Dept.	

Meeting Minutes:

1. **Arrival and Welcome:** The EMC meeting began at 10:02 a.m. Shay Ralls Roalson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the group did a round of introductions.
2. **Standing Items:**
 - a. Review agenda: Agenda was reviewed; no items added.
 - b. Review/approve minutes: Minutes were approved with minor typos corrected.
3. **Staffing changes and committee assignments:** Shay Ralls Roalson is the new Director of Austin Water and has replaced Robert Goode on the EMC. LCRA requested that Vic Ramirez be removed from the Water Quality Committee and replaced with Monica Masters, with Bryan Cook, LCRA, remaining on the committee.
4. **2022 COA-LCRA Partnership Annual Report:** Helen Gerlach presented the draft annual report for the EMC's consideration and potential approval. After review, the EMC voted unanimously to adopt the report. Austin Water and LCRA will coordinate to get the signed, approved, report circulated to the EMC group and posted to the partnership website.
5. **Basin condition update:** John Hofmann provided an update on current basin conditions. Drought conditions persist in the Austin area and throughout the basin. For a comparison with the 2010's drought, the combined storage on Feb. 6 is 275,616 AF greater in 2023 than in 2012. ENSO conditions are shifting towards neutral for the summer, so conditions are projected to shift more towards normal moving forward. Lake Buchanan is providing the bulk of water supply releases currently, as Lake Travis levels are fairly low in current operations.

LCRA may consider adjusting drought stage restrictions in the future to add more responsiveness in the early time periods of a drought when storage may still be relatively high. LCRA's drought contingency plan is due to be updated by April of 2024 and may incorporate those considerations. It is likely that we will be in Extraordinary Drought Condition per the LCRA Water Management Plan on the March 1st evaluation date, meaning that interruptible water for first and second season will be cut off. Garwood irrigation division will also have limited access to stored water, but will continue to have priority right to run-of-river flows. Garwood use for

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2023 is expected to be similar to last year's use, but may use different ratios of run-of-river versus stored water.

6. Committee reports:

- a. Technical Committee: Ron Anderson provided an update on Technical Committee progress. The Committee is back on their monthly meeting schedule and will continue to meet through 2023. A subcommittee of the Technical Committee focused on long-term water supply optimization will also continue to meet in 2023.
 - i. Teresa Lutes provided an overview of the draft proposed assignments to the Technical Committee for 2023. The 2023 list is based on the 2022 assignments, with updates made to reflect completed tasks and new issues. The assignment list was approved as presented.
- b. Water Quality Committee: Monica Masters provided an update on the water quality committee. The Committee is on a quarterly meeting schedule and will continue to meet in 2023 to coordinate on the EMC assignments.
 - i. Teresa Lutes provided an overview of the draft proposed assignments to the Water Quality Committee for 2023. The 2023 list is based on the 2022 assignments, with updates made to reflect completed tasks and new issues. The assignment list was approved as presented.

7. Water planning updates:

- a. Water Supply Resource Report next steps: Monica Masters provided an update on their Water Supply Resource Report (WSRR). LCRA is currently working through the best way to communicate information related to their multiple scenario approach. The team is working to wrap up demands and needs so they can begin working on water management strategies.
- b. Water Forward 2024 update: Marisa Flores Gonzalez provided an update on the Water Forward 2024 plan work. The next Water Forward meeting is March 28th, and will cover the equity and affordability road map being developed for the 2024 plan. Population projections for the updated plan are substantially finalized, and are being used to generate water demands which are estimated to be complete in the April/May timeframe. The climate and hydrology update for the 2024 plan is also in the process of being finalized, and the team will be presenting that work and their results at several upcoming conferences. The preliminary needs assessment is estimated to be completed in the June/July timeframe, followed by analysis of water management strategy analysis and optimization. The goal is to have the Water Forward 2024 plan complete by spring 2024, with council approval being targeted in fall 2024.

- 8. Other Items:** Monica Masters highlighted that LCRA is tentatively planning to have a firm customer meeting on April 11th from 10-11am, and a water management plan meeting on June 6th from 10 a.m.-12p.m. John Hofmann also noted some LCRA interaction with the holders of the Corpus Christi water right.

- 9. Adjourn:** The EMC meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.