

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

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**Meeting Date:** June 22, 2023  
**Location:** LCRA Redbud Building  
**Meeting Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Attendees:**

Shay Ralls Roalson, Austin Water	Kathleen Jackson, Austin Energy
Kevin Critendon, Austin Water	Michael Hoffman, Austin Energy
Teresa Lutes, Austin Water	John Hofmann, LCRA
Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Austin Water	Monica Masters, LCRA
Helen Gerlach, Austin Water	Greg Graml, LCRA
Sara Eatman, Austin Water	Ron Anderson, LCRA
Ross Crow, City of Austin Law Dept.	

**Meeting Minutes:**

1. **Arrival and Welcome:** The EMC meeting began at 9:07 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 corrections.
3. **Basin condition update:** John Hofmann provided an update on current basin conditions. Lake storage has increased a small amount recently, gaining about 15 inches of combined storage for both Lake Travis and Buchanan. So far, Garwood has been able to use only run-of-river water, but LCRA is anticipating the first releases of stored water for Garwood in the next few weeks if conditions continue to stay dry. LCRA is projecting that the earliest combined storage would drop to 900,000 AF of storage is late July or August. LCRA will be providing conservation messaging materials to its customers during the summer to promote saving water. The next formal communication from LCRA to firm customers will be when lake storage reaches 950,000 AF.
4. **Committee reports:**
  - a. Technical Committee: Ron Anderson provided an update on Technical Committee progress. Topics that have been covered include LCRA water resource plan data and the Water Forward update process. Additionally, a subcommittee of the Technical Committee has been meeting to discuss optimization of water supplies, including a possible amendment to Austin's steam-electric rights and discussions of minimum combined storage.
  - b. Water Quality Committee: Monica Masters and Kevin Critendon provided an update on the water quality committee. The Committee met on April 4, 2023, to discuss water quality issues in the basin, including harmful algal blooms, zebra mussels, mining,

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dredging, and other topics. Another meeting of the Committee is planned to be scheduled in 2023.

**5. Water planning updates:**

- a. Water Supply Resource Report next steps: Monica Masters provided an update on LCRA's Water Supply Resource Report (WSRR). LCRA is now working to identify water management strategies (WMSs) for inclusion in the WSRR. A presentation to the LCRA Board focusing on the WMSs is planned for the Fall 2023 timeframe. Demands are largely finalized, and the final report on demand projections is currently being written. New supplies will be focused on addressing risks from uncertainty, especially in the upper basin.
- b. Water Forward 2024 update: Marisa Flores Gonzalez provided an update on the Water Forward 2024 plan work. Austin Water (AW) is working to finalize water demand projections for the plan, including update of the demand model and development of multiple demand scenarios. The demands are anticipated to be finalized in the summer 2023 timeframe. After demand projections are completed, AW will be performing a preliminary needs analysis to identify the range of water needs to plan for. This preliminary needs analysis will identify both water needs for Austin, as well as regional needs in the larger basin. A consultant will be working to update the Water Forward water management strategies characterization, including updated yields and costs, which will feed into the WMS analysis process in Spring 2024.

**6. Workshop presentations:**

- a. Update on climate and hydrology analysis for 2024 Water Forward update: Richard Hoffpauir presented on the work being done for the climate and hydrology analysis in the Water Forward 2024 update (WF24). WF24 will be looking at a range of water availability scenarios for the future which incorporate uncertainty from regional trends, demands, droughts worse than the drought of record, and climate change. To analyze how streamflow might change in the future due to the effects of climate change, AW partnered with a team of researchers at UT and with a climate technical advisory group. The WF24 climate analysis used the latest generation of global climate models (GCMs), CMIP6. The UT team selected 5 top-performing GCMs to use for the WF24 analysis, as well as three different emission scenarios to describe a range of possible climate futures. Streamflow models were developed to translate GCM outputs into projections of future streamflow.

In addition to generating climate-adjusted streamflows, WF24 is looking at stochastically-generated droughts worse than the drought of record, for both historical and climate-adjusted hydrology. Currently, AW is working to identify candidate droughts using the SPA method for use in generating scenarios for the preliminary needs analysis. This process will be iterative and drought selection will be adjusted as needed moving forward.

- b. 2022 WMP and Water Use Summary update: LCRA presented the summary of customer water use for 2022. 2022 was the first year that the total use was above the 2025

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average use projected in the WMP. Austin's use in 2022 was greater than the historical use in 2011 for the first time since 2011.

- 7. Other Items:** John Hofmann provided an update on Arbuckle Reservoir construction. Supply chain delays are currently slowing work, but LCRA anticipates staying on schedule and completing construction by the end of 2023. After construction and de-mobilization, six months of fill-refill cycles are planned for Arbuckle. The reservoir is planned to be fully operational by the end of 2024.
- 8. Adjourn:** The EMC meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.