

Workshop Item #1

**Board Meeting
October 8, 2025**

**Workshop Item # 1
2025 Bell County Water Symposium**

Agenda Item:

1. Receive updates related to the 2025 Bell County Water Symposium.

Narrative:

Registration is now open for the 2025 Bell County Water Symposium on Wednesday, November 19th, 2025, at the Cadence Bank Center in Belton from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. A full line up of program speakers are listed on the 2025 flyer. A news release and announcement have been prepared for print, website, and social media advertising. This month, District staff will continue planning efforts and procurement related to catering services, audio/visual services, facilities set up, educational booths, advertisements, and program materials.

Event Sponsor Pledges as of 10/01/2025:

Advanced Groundwater Solutions	\$500.00
Bell County Engineer's Office	\$1,000.00
Collier Consulting	\$500.00
Eno Scientific	\$500.00
Frees & Nicholes	pending
Garney Construction	pending
INTERA	\$500.00
KPA Engineers	\$1,000.00
KT Groundwater	\$2,000.00
Lake Stillhouse Clean Water	\$1,000.00
Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C.	\$1,000.00
LRE	\$250.00
Envision Water (Michelle Sutherland)	\$500.00
MRB Group	pending
Texas Rural Water Association	pending
Plummer Associates, Inc	\$500.00
WCID #1	\$500.00
Capital Farm Credit	Water Sponsor
Central Texas Water Alliance	No charge
Bell County Commissioner's Court	No charge
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Bell County	No charge
TOTAL	\$9,750.00

Attachments:

- 2025 Flyer
- 2025 News Release

24th Annual BELL COUNTY WATER SYMPOSIUM



Every drop counts!

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

8:00 AM	Doors Open Join us for hot coffee, refreshments, and to visit our exhibits.
9:00 AM	Welcome & Introductions The 100-Year-Old Elephant in the Room of Texas Water Planning Mr. Michael Irlbeck, Director of Business Development, EPCOR Brazos G Regional Water Planning: Preparing for Growth, Drought, and Future Demands Mr. Tony Smith, Associate Vice President, Carollo Engineers Building Water Resiliency: ASR Project Updates from the City of Temple and Fort Hood Dr. David Smith, Principal, INTERA Dr. Neil Deeds, Vice President and Principal, INTERA
10:45 AM	Networking Break & Morning Refreshments The District Groundwater Report Ms. Whitney Ingram, General Manager, Clearwater UWCD Tools and Insights: Data-Driven Groundwater Resource Management in Bell County Mr. Mike Keester, Principal, KT Groundwater
12:00 PM	Lunch & Keynote Address PFAS Challenges in Focus: Biosolids and Drinking Water Ms. Meg Pierce-Walsh Water Quality/Permitting Practice Leader, Plummer Associates, Inc Rural Water in Central Texas: Balancing Expansion and Public Trust Mr. Jason Knobloch Deputy Executive Director, Texas Rural Water Association
2:45 PM	Closing Remarks



Ms. Sarah Kirkle
Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs
Texas Water Association
**Shaping Texas Water Policy:
Legislative Outcomes
from the 89th Session**



Every drop counts!

THIS EVENT IS FREE BUT REQUIRES RSVP BY NOVEMBER 10TH.

Doors Open: 8:00 AM
Program: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cadence Bank Center
301 W Loop 121
Belton, TX 76513

RSVP

254.933.0120



Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District

P.O. Box 1989, Belton, Texas 76513
Phone: 254/933-0120 Fax: 254/933-8396
www.cuwcd.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2025

Contact: Whitney Ingram, General Manager
wingram@cuwcd.org

24th Annual Bell County Water Symposium Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District, together with local partners, will host the 24th Annual Bell County Water Symposium on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at the Cadence Bank Center, 301 W Loop 121, Belton. Since 2001, the symposium has served as a cornerstone event in Bell County, offering valuable insight into local and regional water strategies, policies, and regulatory responsibilities. Legacy partners include the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Bell County, the Bell County Engineers Office, and the Bell County Commissioners Court, with many additional sponsors supporting this year's event. The annual symposium provides an intimate setting for stakeholders to recognize the shared responsibility of meeting the water needs of communities and industries across Central Texas.

The imminent need for water supply resiliency becomes more evident as the county navigates growth and climate variability. Since its inception, Clearwater's investment in scientific endeavors has helped citizens, local leaders, and policymakers better understand water resources and the advantages of emerging technologies.

The day's Keynote will be delivered by Ms. Sarah Kinkle, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs for the Texas Water Association. Since 2020, Sarah has worked with members of TWA to develop policy positions and advance initiatives at the Texas Legislature. Previously, she was Director of Policy and Planning at Texas 2036 and spent 13 years at the Sunset Advisory Commission, working across most sectors of state government to make government work smaller and smarter. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Services and Development from Tarleton State University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Texas.

Doors open for registration in the Assembly Hall at 8:00 AM. Come early to enjoy hot coffee, light morning refreshments, and visit the booths of our educational partners. Formal presentations will begin at 9:00 AM. Whitney Ingram, CUWCD General Manager, will serve as a moderator for the event.

Presentations throughout the day will center around answering a looming concern – *How does Bell County ensure the resiliency and viability of our region's water supply?*

¹ Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) is a political subdivision of the State of Texas and underground water conservation district created and operating under and by virtue of Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution; Texas Water Code Chapter 36; the District's enabling act, Act of May 27, 1989, 71st Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 524 (House Bill 3172), as amended by Act of April 25, 2001, 77th Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 22 (Senate Bill 404), Act of May 7, 2009, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 64 (Senate Bill 1755), and Act of May 27, 2015, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 1196, Section 2 (Senate Bill 1336)(omnibus districts bill); and the applicable general laws of the State of Texas; and confirmed by voters of Bell County on August 21, 1999.

Our first speaker of the morning will be Mr. Michael Irlbeck, Director of Business Development at EPCOR. Mr. Irlbeck will walk attendees through the critical components of Texas water planning as it relates to big issues with aging infrastructure, storage capacity, funding, and drought. Texas relies on surface water to meet most of its crucial demands, but is our approach sustainable?

Next up, Mr. Tony Smith, Associate Vice President at Carollo Engineers, will provide a brief update on the status of the 2026 Brazos G Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) and Brazos G Regional Water Planning group efforts.

Then, Dr. Neil Deeds, Vice President and Principal at INTERA and Dr. David Smith, Principal at INTERA, will showcase their innovative approach to extending current water supplies through Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) in Bell County. The team will present updates on the two concurrent ASR projects both centered on the Lower Trinity, or the Hosston formation.

After a break for networking and refreshments, presentations will focus on local District work. CUWCD General Manager, Whitney Ingram, will provide an update on the groundwater resources across the county highlighting the District's management strategies and initiatives. Mr. Mike Keester, Principal at KT Groundwater and the District's Hydrogeologist, will discuss how years of data collection across the District have led to better resource management. Over the past several years, his team has developed analytical tools to help the District interpret conditions, trends, and the effectiveness of management strategies.

Following a catered lunch and Keynote address, Mrs. Meg Pierce-Walsh, Water Quality/Permitting Practice Leader, Plummer Associates, Inc., will discuss a heavy topic for policy makers as she addresses the ever-changing landscape of PFAS regulation and effects on our water supply.

To end the day Mr. Jason Knobloch, Deputy Executive Director at the Texas Rural Water Association, will discuss the issues that face rural water suppliers balancing an expanding customer base and public trust to provide safe and clean water.

The Board of Directors and Clearwater UWCD staff look forward to another year showcasing the importance of both surface water and groundwater to Bell County's robust economy and way of life. Sponsors of the 2025 event are KT Groundwater, Advanced Groundwater Solutions, Collier Consulting, Eno Scientific, Frees & Nicholes, Garney Construction, INTERA, KPA Engineers, Lake Stillhouse Clean Water, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C., LRE, Envision Water, Plummer Associates, Inc, WCID #1, Capital Farm Credit, Central Texas Water Alliance, Bell County Engineer's Office, Bell County Commissioner's Court, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension–Bell County.

This event is free, but requires your RSVP by November 10, 2025. Call 254-933-0120, email tsmith@cuwcd.org, or visit our website at www.cuwcd.org.

2 | *Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) is a political subdivision of the State of Texas and underground water conservation district created and operating under and by virtue of Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution; Texas Water Code Chapter 36; the District's enabling act, Act of May 27, 1989, 71st Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 524 (House Bill 3172), as amended by Act of April 25, 2001, 77th Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 22 (Senate Bill 404), Act of May 7, 2009, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 64 (Senate Bill 1755), and Act of May 27, 2015, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 1196, Section 2 (Senate Bill 1336)(omnibus districts bill); and the applicable general laws of the State of Texas; and confirmed by voters of Bell County on August 21, 1999.*

Workshop Item #2

**Board Meeting
October 8, 2025**

**Workshop Item # 2
Groundwater Management Plan Update**

Agenda Item:

2. Receive TWDB comments on draft Groundwater Management Plan update.

Narrative:

GMP Pre-Review 1: CUWCD sent draft 1 for pre-review on July 3, 2025.

Comments Received from TWDB: September 5, 2025

Comments from Pre-review 1 required changes to checklist items 8 and 9 (on pages 14-15) expanding the section to fully consider water supply needs and water management strategies in the 2022 State Water Plan, and checklist items 27-30 (on page 19) to expand the section to address surface water management issues, and specifically, encourage the development of surface water supplies.

Suggested changes enhanced Section E – Assessing Drought Conditions (on pages 19-20) by including web links, clarifying the purpose to readers, and adding additional management objectives and performance standards indicating that updates from the U.S. Drought Monitor will be reported regularly during District meetings.

GMP Pre-Review 2: CUWCD sent draft 2 for pre-review on September 30, 2025.

Comments Received from TWDB: October 3, 2025

TWDB recently updated their checklist to include all required elements of a management plan outlined in Texas Water Development Board Rules (31 TAC §356 Subchapter E) and in the Texas Water Code (TWC §36.1071). During the 89th session, the adoption of HB 2078 (Gerdes/Perry) made several changes to TWC § 36.1071 and § 36.108 to enhance transparency and accountability in the management and achievement of DFCs.

KT Groundwater assisted District staff in including information for the checklist items in reference to the most recently approved desired future conditions: (on pages 9-13)

1. The most recently approved desired future conditions are included in the plan.
2. Provide a plain language explanation of how the district is monitoring and tracking the achievement of the desired future conditions.
3. Provide a plain language explanation of how the district has performed in achieving the DFCs during the preceding five-year joint planning period.

Finally, the appendices were populated with newly revised datasets from TWDB.

Plan Adoption: CUWCD Public Hearing is set for November 12, 2025 (3-day notice required, posted October 7, 2025). The final draft plan is available for review on the District's website at <https://cuwcd.org/about/governing-documents/#groundwater>, and notice of the draft plan will be sent to all surface water entities within the District boundaries by email.

The plan must be adopted by Board resolution. Following plan adoption, CUWCD will provide additional notice of the adopted plan to the same entities by email. Finally, all documentation and a digital version of the final plan will be submitted to TWDB.


NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) will hold a public hearing and consider adopting proposed update with revisions to the District Groundwater Management Plan at 1:30 p.m., November 12, 2025, in the Clearwater Boardroom located at 640 Kennedy Court, Belton, Texas. Copies of the revised Management Plan are available for review at the District Office and the CUWCD website at <https://www.cuwcd.org>.

Contact the CUWCD at 254-933-0120 for additional information.

Dated: October 7, 2025

CLEARWATER UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: 
Whitney Ingram
General Manager
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Directors

RECEIVED FOR POSTING
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Workshop Item #3

**Board Meeting
October 8, 2025**

Workshop Item # 3
Proposed Funding of Additional Scientific Studies for FY26

Agenda Item:

3. Receive request for proposed funding of additional scientific studies for FY26.

Narrative:

In August 2025, the Board of Directors set the FY26 budget at \$983,594.00 with line item 50250 – Contingency Fund balance at \$89,175.00. The two proposals listed below were presented in workshop during budget development. However, by taking the most conservative approach to budget development, these projects were not recommended for the final budget during adoption. With funding now available to complete these two projects in FY26, the GM recommends that the Board reallocate funding from 50250 – Contingency Fund to fully fund the two projects listed below. This would take place as budget amendments during the November meeting.

Service	Task ID	Purpose	Proposal	NTE Cost	CUWCD ID	Additional Information
LRE	2026.3	Technology & Analytics	Task 3.3 - Online Version of Production Report	\$5,800	53305	Create an online version of the production report excel file that will allow the District to search and filter the production data along with conditional formatting to alert when permits are nearing their production limits.
Pete Diaz	TXFW CO	Cooperative Opportunities/ Scientific Study	Salado Salamander Monitoring Program for calendar year 2026	\$22,055	53120.2	For continuing efforts at the springs for Salado salamanders we propose quarterly sampling at the Downtown Complex, Robertson, Solana Ranch, Gault and other locations as they arise. Sampling will consist of active timed searches at the springs, comparable to previous years. Following the active search drift nets should be deployed to passively sample for salamanders and document the aquifer community. Using these two types of sampling techniques maximizes the opportunity to document the salamanders at these locations given the small surface populations.
Total				\$27,855		

TASK ORDER 2026.3 Dashboard Enhancements

This Task Order is made the ___ day of _____, 20___, by and between Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (“Client”) and LRE Water (“Consultant” or “LRE”) pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the Engagement Letter executed between the Parties on the 4th day of September, 2019, (“Agreement”), which incorporated this Task Order by reference.

1. The Services to be performed by Consultant under this Task Order are as follows:
 During FY 2022, LRE Water developed a new Dashboard and data management/ display system for Clearwater UWCD. Under this task we will continue to improve the dashboard, with enhancements or addition of the following tools/functionality:

Task	Cost	Notes
3.1 – Add Well Registration Totals table	\$3,200	Create a table or filter on existing wells table to allow for the user to see total number of well registrations based on other criteria (aquifer, driller, etc).
3.2 –Search Radius Query Tool	\$4,300	Modify the existing search radius tool to create a report of wells in the specified area that include well owner information to allow the District to easily send out notifications. This report could be adapted in the future to include other information within the search radius, such as Water Quality results, production totals, etc.
3.3 – Online version of Production report	\$5,800	Create an online version of the production report excel file that will allow the District to search and filter the production data along with conditional formatting to alert when permits are nearing their production limits.
3.4 – BellCAD Parcel API Improvements	\$2,600	Working jointly with the District and BellCAD, we will find a solution to allow direct linking of property IDs to the external property information website.
3.5 - Rainfall Harvesting Calculator	\$12,000*	Implementing daily PRISM precipitation data to the existing interactive map that will allow a user to enter their home/property roof square footage and calculate the potential rainfall harvesting feasibility based on their needs.

* Estimated costs reflect the addition of a new tab or pop-up calculator within the existing interactive map. Should the District request any further enhancements, such as generating PDF reports, embedding links to local guidance or installer directories, or automating data updates, we will revisit and refine this estimate to accommodate the expanded scope.

Salado Salamander Monitoring Plan

Fiscal Year 2026



Submitted to Dirk Aaron of Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District

By: Peter Diaz
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
500 East McCarty Lane
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 353-0011, ext. 235
Fax (512) 392-0270
Pete_diaz@fws.gov

Background

The Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (TXFWCO) began monitoring for the Salado salamander in 2015. With closure of the 11th year of monitoring data more information about the salamander is known than in previous years. Based on the data collected from these monitoring events over the course of the last five years, we know that the salamanders:

- are reliably present at most localities although hard to detect
- are at Anderson Spring
- have surface populations that are low ($N < 200$) even at prime sites highlighted by the mark and recapture study at Solana Ranch Spring #1
- can be tracked individually using the head photos based on work from Solana
- associate with cobble and gravel substrates occasionally with *Nasturtium* sp. (watercress) when present
- have a large prey base within the aquifer
- appear to have similar reproduction cycle to the Georgetown and Jollyville salamanders
- tend to maintain fidelity to areas close to the spring origin
- exhibit homogenous genetic diversity among the northern population

For continuing efforts at the springs for Salado salamanders we propose quarterly sampling at the Downtown Complex, Robertson, Solana Ranch, Gault and other locations as they arise. Sampling will consist of active timed searches at the springs, comparable to previous years. Following the active search drift nets should be deployed to passively sample for salamanders and document the aquifer community. Using these two types of sampling techniques maximized the opportunity to document the salamanders at these locations given the small surface populations.

The one caveat to this sampling regime would be if there is a draw-down of the aquifer to where the springs go dry. If this were to occur, then sampling should occur post cessation of flows.

Scope of Work

The TXFWCO proposes to continue monitoring of the salamander populations at the Solana Ranch and within the Salado Springs Complex in Bell County, Texas. Sampling in 2021 will be done **quarterly**. Goals of the monitoring include:

- examine other locations within the complex that salamanders may inhabit
- continuing gathering data on population size through mark and recapture efforts
- log habitat association data
- continue work at other locations

Photographic identification of individuals will continue along with injecting captured juvenile salamanders with visible implant elastomer. The TXFWCO has all required permits for monitoring.

Habitat data will include:

- Characterization of the substrate for each site according to a modified Wentworth scale
- Basic water chemistry measurements, including dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, pH, and temperature.
- A measure of water quantity such as spring discharge, stream/pool depth, stream/pool width, and/or flow rate.

Products

Data collected from this sampling will provide:

- Habitat associations within each site
- Data on where salamander are within the springs
- Data on population shifts over the course of the year and collections for long term dataset
- midterm report
- End of year report
- The duration of the project is from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026, to be amended as necessary.

Hours	Daily Cost	Sampling Events	Days				Total
GS 11	\$410	30					\$12,300.00
Analysis/Write ups	\$410		12.68				\$5,199.03
Total Salaries							\$17,499
Fuel	Miles	MPG	Gallons	Cost/gal	Cost Per Trip	Number of Trips	
Truck	160	10	16	\$3.50	\$56.00	13	
							\$728.00
Sub-Total							\$18,227.03
FWS Overhead @ 21%							\$3,827.68
Total							\$22,054.70

Workshop Item #4

**Board Meeting
October 8, 2025**

**Workshop Item # 4
GMA 8 Joint Planning Update**

Agenda Item:

4. Receive updates related to GMA 8 DFC determination, per TWC section 36.108.

Narrative:

CUWCD is actively participating in GMA 8 efforts to support the development and adoption of new DFCs by May 1, 2026, including the feasibility of adopting DFCs for each established management zone and assessing the impacts of groundwater use in Williamson County on aquifer conditions in Bell County.

Update:

This update includes tasks that have taken place since September 10, 2025.

On September 22, 2025, CUWCD hosted the Southern Region Technical Committee Meeting in the District's boardroom to define expectations for the next DFC/MAG run (4.3). The following representatives attended:

1. Whitney Ingram, Clearwater UWCD (voting)
2. Mitchell Sodek, Central Texas GCD (voting)
3. Patrick Wagner, Middle Trinity GCD (voting)
4. Natasha Bates, Saratoga GCD (voting)
5. Scooter Radcliff (Virtual), Southern Trinity GCD (voting)
6. Dillon Bybee, Prairielands GCD (non-voting)
7. Mike Keester, Consultant
8. James Beach, Consultant
9. Isaac Johnson, Consultant
10. Al Blair, Consultant
11. Neil Deeds, Consultant

The Northern Region Technical Committee met on September 29, 2025.

The Southern Region Technical Committee will meet again (virtually) on October 9, 2025.

The next public GMA 8 Joint Planning Meeting will be on November 14, 2025 at Prairielands GCD in Cleburne.

Mike Keester, KT Groundwater, will continue to attend planning meetings and assist the District in work related to the adoption of DFCs for GMA 8.