

Workshop Item #1
4-H2O Water Ambassadors
Annual Update

Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors



TEXAS 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

A YEAR IN REVIEW



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Biological & Agricultural Engineering

Texas 4-H Youth Development

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Growing the next generation of
Texas water leaders!



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Department of Biological
and Agricultural Engineering

(27) NEW WATER AMBASSADORS ADDED

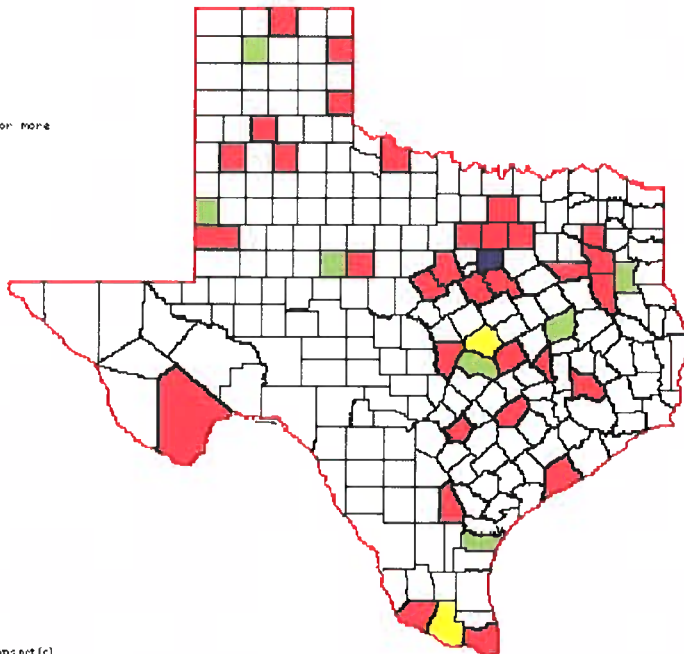
Since its inception in 2017, (158) youth have served as 4-H Water Ambassadors. There are currently (59) active members representing (41) Texas counties. In 2022, (27) youth were selected for service.



New Tier I Ambassadors (County): Ethan Averling (Dallas); Zane Ball (Johnson); Ryan Beasley (Hidalgo); Justin Braune (Guadalupe); Jesse Calk (Gaines); Victoria Canales (Bell); Andrew Childress (Henderson); Olivia Clifton (Rusk); Tara Easterling (Moore); Hunter Fox (Nueces); Emma Garza (Hidalgo); Joseph Haines (Montgomery); Brindle Harper (Lamb); Hunter Holder (Burnet); Chase Janke (Coryell); Aasia Kim (Erath); Jacy Lampe (Collingsworth); Megan Luna (Brewster); Khora Marez (Hidalgo); Eileen Martinez (Hidalgo); Sienna Molina (Cameron); Lucas Moreno (Hemphill); Texann Ralston (Hansford); Brock Riker (Parker); Mia Salazar (Hidalgo); Andie Saxon (Yoakum); and Clay Workman (Leon).

ALL 2022-2023 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS

- - 1
- - 2
- - 3
- - 4 or more



- (27) Tier I water ambassadors
- (15) Tier II water ambassadors
- (14) Tier III water ambassadors
- (3) Tier IV water ambassadors

Map designates the current number of youth representing each county.

Source: diymaps.net (c)

CURRENT ROSTER AND COUNTY AFFILIATION

TIER I 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS				
No.	First Name	Last Name	County	Class
1	Ethan	Averling	Dallas	Junior
2	Zane	Ball	Johnson	Freshman
3	Ryan	Beasley	Hidalgo	Junior
4	Justin	Braune	Guadalupe	Sophomore
5	Jesse	Calk	Gaines	Junior
6	Victoria	Canales	Bell	Freshman
7	Andrew	Childress	Henderson	Senior
8	Olivia	Clifton	Rusk	Sophomore
9	Tara	Easterling	Moore	Freshman
10	Hunter	Fox	Nueces	Junior
11	Emma	Garza	Hidalgo	Senior
12	Joseph	Haines	Montgomery	Freshman
13	Brindle	Harper	Lamb	Junior
14	Hunter	Holder	Burnet	Freshman
15	Chase	Janke	Coryell	Sophomore
16	Aasia	Kim	Erath	Freshman
17	Jacy	Lampe	Collingsworth	Freshman
18	Megan	Luna	Brewster	Sophomore
19	Khora	Marez	Hidalgo	Sophomore
20	Eileen	Martinez	Hidalgo	Sophomore
21	Sienna	Molina	Cameron	Sophomore
22	Lucas	Moreno	Hemphill	Sophomore
23	Texann	Ralston	Hansford	Freshman
24	Brock	Riker	Parker	Junior
25	Mia	Salazar	Hidalgo	Freshman
26	Andie	Saxon	Yoakum	Junior
27	Clay	Workman	Leon	Freshman

TIER II 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS				
No.	First Name	Last Name	County	Class
1	Lee	Barnhill	Fisher	Sophomore
2	Mallory	Bunch	Yoakum	Senior
3	Dora (D.A.)	Bush	Taylor	Sophomore
4	Peyton	Clifton	Rusk	Senior
5	Cora	Ford	Hidalgo	Sophomore
6	Jane	Gauntt	Bell	Sophomore
7	Roxane	Islas	Taylor	Sophomore
8	Cone	Johnson	Swisher	Sophomore
9	Daniel	Kernes	Wood	Sophomore
10	Hannah	Lewis	Hill	Sophomore
11	Robert	Miller III	Milam	Sophomore
12	Madison	Olivarez	Starr	Sophomore
13	Sophia	O'Neill	Williamson	Sophomore
14	Emma	Pool	Johnson	Sophomore
15	Charlotte	Sander	Hidalgo	Sophomore

TIER III 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS				
No.	First Name	Last Name	County	Class
1	Isaiah	Atoe	Tarrant	Junior
2	Savannah	Bearden	Cherokee	Junior
3	Sadie	Berry	Comanche	Junior
4	Vie Vie	Blanchard	Collin	Senior
5	Emma	Canales	Bell	Junior
6	Carlie	Estes	Williamson	Senior
7	John	Gauntt	Bell	Junior
8	Summer	Halbert	Brazos	Senior
9	Justin	Hill	Moore	Junior
10	Mark (Ty)	Kubecka	Matagorda	Senior
11	Ava	Larson	Denton	Junior
12	Shelby	Slavinski	Live Oak	Senior
13	Sierra	Snowden	Floyd	Junior
14	Kyle	Workman	Leon	Junior

TIER IV 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS				
No.	First Name	Last Name	County	Class
1	Joshua	Jones	Smith	Senior
2	Andy	Vela	Nueces	Senior
3	Madeline	Brown	Wilbarger	Senior

UP TO (30) YOUTH TO BE ADDED SPRING 2023

TIER I 4-H2O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy focused primarily on groundwater management in the High Plains and Panhandle regions. The tour began in San Marcos at the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. From there, tour stops included Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District, Southern Ogallala Conservation and Outreach Program member districts, City of Brownfield, Samuel Jackson, Inc., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and USDA-ARS in Bushland, High Plains Water District, Playa Lakes Outdoor Classroom, and North Plains Groundwater Conservation District. The academy concluded with a visit to John Bunker Sands Wetland Center in Seagoville.



North Plains Groundwater Conservation District demonstration farm tour—Dumas



High Plains Water Conservation District visit—Lubbock



Tour of Samuel Jackson, Inc. rainfall harvesting system—Lubbock



Water quality testing at Meadows Center for Water and the Environment — San Marcos



Walking through the Playa Lakes Outdoor Classroom — Nazareth



Southern Ogallala Conservation and Outreach Program mobile classroom—Brownfield

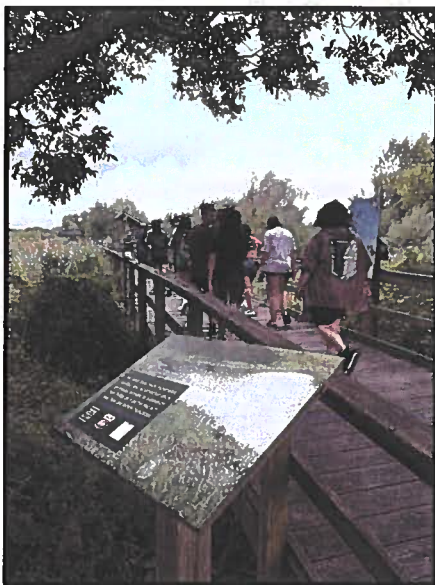


Check out our highlight video!

JUNE 12-17
HIGH PLAINS/PANHANDLE

TIER II 4-H2O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Tier II 4-H2O Leadership Academy, for second-year water ambassadors, focused on water issues in east Texas and along the Texas Gulf Coast. During the tour, youth learned about water and wastewater treatment, hatcheries and fisheries, wetland restoration, aquatic plants, marine ecosystems, and bays and estuaries. Tour stops included the Texas On-site Wastewater Treatment Facility, Texas Water Resources Institute, Galveston Bay Foundation, Long Acres Ranch (Richmond) and Sea Center Texas.



Sea Center Texas wetland and hatchery tour —Lake Jackson



Planting, water testing and seining with Galveston Bay Foundation—Beach City



Texas A&M Aquacultural Research and Teaching Center tour —College Station

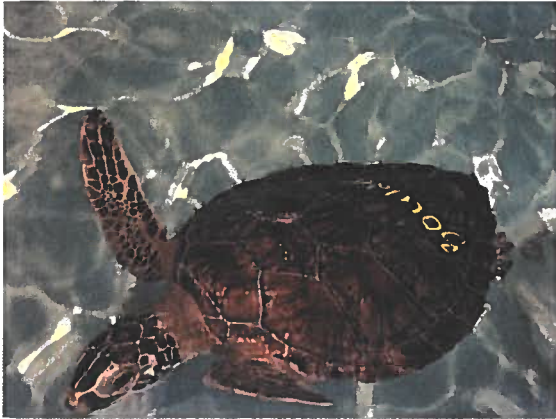


Fishing, water testing and learning about the Brazos River—Long Acres Ranch (Richmond)

JUNE 26-30 GULF COAST

TIER III 4-H2O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Third year water ambassadors toured south-central Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley and met with many water industry organizations and professionals. These included the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Headwaters on the Comal, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension at Weslaco, Lower Rio Grande Water District Managers Association, Arroyo Colorado Project and Sea Turtle, Inc. Students learned about irrigation districts, water quality, watershed protection, habitat restoration and agricultural irrigation methods in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.



Sea Turtle Inc. rescue and rehabilitation facility—South Padre Island



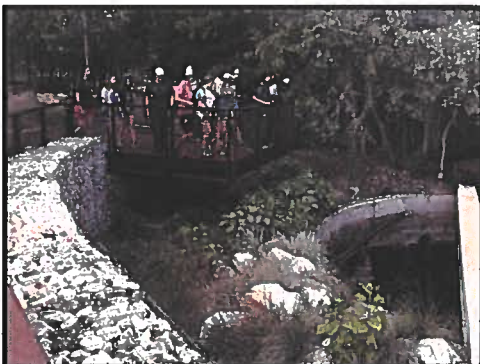
Canyon Lake George tour with Guadalupe Blanco River Authority—New Braunfels



Edwards Aquifer Authority Education Outreach Center—San Antonio



Dolphin Watch tour—South Padre Island



Headwaters on the Comal—New Braunfels



City of San Benito Facultative Lagoon Waste Water Treatment System—San Benito



Irrigation district canal automated gate system—Hidalgo

JULY 17-21 LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY

TIER IV 4-H2O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Fourth year and graduating water ambassadors participated in the first ever Tier IV 4-H2O Leadership Academy. The tour began in San Antonio with a visit with the Edwards Aquifer Authority, and continued west with stops at Upper Guadalupe River Authority, Dolan Falls along the Devils River, Sutton County Groundwater Conservation District, Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District, Irion County Water Conservation District, Balmorhea State Park, El Paso Water Utilities and White Sand National Park.



Dolan Falls along the Devils River with Texas Nature Conservancy and Sutton County Groundwater Conservation District



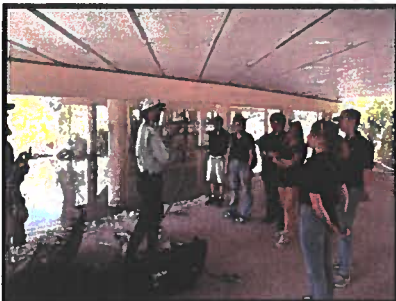
Edwards Aquifer Authority Education Outreach Center—San Antonio



White Sands National Park— New Mexico



El Paso Water Utility Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Center—El Paso



Ambassadors spent an afternoon with the Upper Guadalupe River Authority learning about wildlife management areas, water quality field techniques, healthy riparian areas, aquatic invertebrates, rainwater harvesting and water utility operation. They also got a tour of the UGRA Environmental Lab and toured their demonstration garden.



Ambassadors met with Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District. They learned about Comanche Springs and visited several flowing wells including Lake Boehmer which has been growing since 2003.



Check out our highlight video!



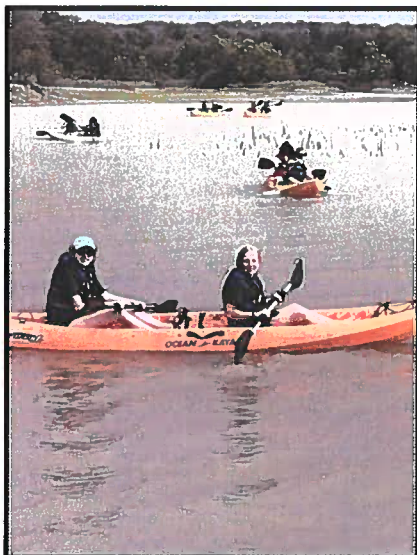
JULY 31—AUGUST 5 FAR WEST

SPRING RETREAT

A weekend spring retreat was held at the State 4-H Conference Center at Lake Brownwood. Dr. Jheri-Lynn McSwain, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, led a sportfish and micro invertebrate training. Ambassadors enjoyed collecting and identifying aquatic organisms, testing water quality, and fishing. They learned about electro-coagulation to treat water. There were several group activities including constructing a model community water system. At the conclusion, ambassadors presented their model as if they were teaching a youth audience.



Ambassadors worked in groups to build a model community water system.



Ambassadors enjoyed kayaking at Lake Brownwood.



The fishing was good! Several youth caught white crappie and striped bass.



Students used seines and dip nets to collect and inventory micro invertebrates in the lake. They learned how to use this data as indicators of water quality.



Each ambassador received an electro-coagulation-in-a-jar kit and learned how to use electricity to treat dirty water.



Ambassadors practiced using their models to teach about community water systems.

Check out our highlight video!



MAY 20-22 4-H CONFERENCE CENTER

FALL RETREAT

The fall retreat was an opportunity for water ambassadors to learn and practice new water education activities that they can teach in their communities. A simulated “water day” included six rotations where students led 10-20 minute sessions on rainfall harvesting, sprinkler systems, aquatic science, water testing, trivia games and the water cycle. A mock town hall was organized where students advocated different stakeholder interests in a controversial issue—flowing wells.



The aquatic science station included fish identification and aquatic health as well as casting and fishing basics.



The rainfall harvesting station included benefits, basic system components and uses of collected rain water.



The sprinkler system activity focused on basic construction, performance testing and efficiency.



The water cycle station discussed rainfall, infiltration, runoff, evaporation, condensation and transpiration.



During a mock town hall students were assigned one of five stakeholder groups and had to advocate for and defend their position on a specific controversial water issue.

OCTOBER 21-23
4-H CONFERENCE CENTER

WATER CONFERENCES

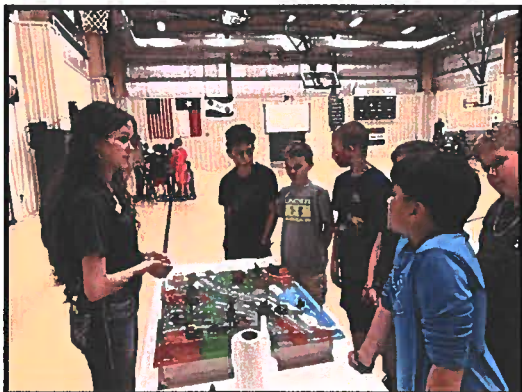
This year, we exhibited at the Texas Ground Water Association Annual Convention (Frisco), 6th Biennial Panhandle Conservation Symposium (Amarillo), Texas Groundwater Summit (San Antonio), Milam and Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit (Caldwell), and Bell County Water Symposium (Belton).



NETWORKING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AMBASSADOR SERVICE

4-H water ambassadors delivered presentations and led educational activities at county fairs, water/ag days and in schools, organized river and beach cleanups, and assisted water districts with educational efforts. In 2022, ambassadors reported **2,092** education and service hours and reached **21,842** youth and adults with water education.



Sarah Wood (Bell Co) taught students at Valley Mills Elementary School's Annual Water Day about hydration, pollution, aquifers and the water cycle using the EnviroScape watershed model.



Kyle Workman (Leon Co.) provided water education activities at the Leon County Water Fair.



Isaiah Atoe (Tarrant Co.) assisted Dr. Fox of TPWD and other volunteer scouts to install artificial fish habitats.



Tara Easterling and Justin Hill (Moore Co.) ran the District 1 4-H booth at the Tri-State Fair and Rodeo.



Madeline Brown (Wilbarger Co.) used the Texas A&M AgriLife Stream Trailer to teach 450+ 4th and 5th graders about stream formation and riparian zones at the Wilbarger County Ag Day.



Emma Pool (Johnson Co.) assisted the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District and Texas Master Naturalists at Action Nature Center.

Ambassador activities posted on our social media channels!

Andie Saxon (Yoakum Co.), Jesse Calk (Gaines Co.) and Mallory Bunch (Yoakum Co.) assisted Ms. Michelle Cooper (Southern Ogallala Conservation and Outreach Program) at the Jamboree in Denver City.

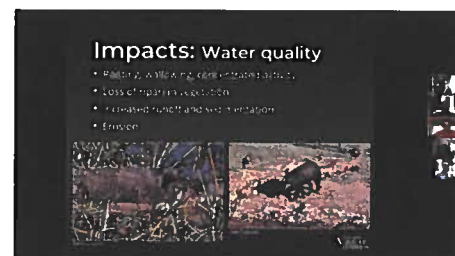


\$62,670—VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE

CONTINUING EDUCATION VIRTUAL SEMINARS

Water industry and education professionals delivered eight seminars during the year for water ambassadors to help them stay engaged and learning about Texas water issues.

SEMINAR TITLE	PRESENTER
H2Oaks Desalination Center	Heather Ginsburg—San Antonio Water System
Nueces River Authority	Sky Jones-Lewey—Nueces River Authority
Agricultural Waste Management—Challenges and Solutions in Manure	Dr. Zong Liu—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Department of Biological & Agricultural Engineering
Feral Hog Ecology and Impacts	Mikayla Killam—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
A Dive into Texas Water Issues	David Smith—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Department of Biological & Agricultural Engineering
Groundwater Law and Policy 101	Ty Embrey, Lloyd-Gosselink, Rochelle and Townsend, P.C.
Landscape Irrigation Technologies	Charles Swanson—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Department of Biological & Agricultural Engineering
Bring Baffin (Bay) Back	Dr. Michael Wetz, Harte Research Institute



The 4-H Water Ambassadors Program Advisory Committee met May 24 and December 14 to review program activities, provide constructive feedback and offer suggestions to guide the continued success of the program.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Smith—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	Adeline Fox—Texas Water Conservation Association
Jay Bragg—Texas Farm Bureau	Jill Garcia—Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
Michelle Wood-Ramirez—Tarrant Regional Water District	Whitney Grantham—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Sinclair Newby—Johnson County Special Utility District	Roxanna Reyna—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Julia Stanford—Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts	Megan Lamb—Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District
Michelle Cooper—Southern Ogallala Conservation & Outreach Prog.	Stephanie Keith—Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation Dist.
Dirk Aaron—Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District	Molly McKinney—Former 4-H Water Ambassador, Student Tech
Samantha Reiter—Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District	Riley Calk—Former 4-H Water Ambassador, Student Tech

ADVISORY GROUP MET MAY 24 AND DECEMBER 14

PROGRAM SPONSORS

The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors program is funded through private sponsorships and in-kind support. Funds are used solely for the mission and objectives of the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program. Thanks to all sponsor organizations for their support!



Like us on social media and keep up with our 4-H Water Ambassadors!



@TX4HWaterAmbassador



@4H2O_Ambassador



4h_water_ambassadors

Sponsorships are made to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

A LOOK AHEAD TO 2023

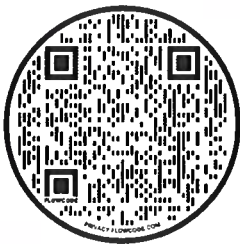
Through an application process, up to (30) youth are selected each spring from across Texas to serve as 4-H Water Ambassadors. Those chosen will participate in a Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy – a multi-day tour of Texas aimed at exposing youth to a wide diversity of water issues. Following the Academy, youth commit to a minimum of (40) hours of water education and service in their communities. Those who complete their service commitment may continue as 4-H Water Ambassador in successive years until they graduate high school and are no longer age-eligible to serve. Year 2 (Tier II), year 3 (Tier III) and year 4 (Tier IV) 4-H Water Ambassadors participate in 4-H2O Leadership Academies which focus on a different region of Texas, and renew their annual education and service commitment throughout their remaining terms of service.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

- * **March 15, 2023—Applications open**
- * **May 1, 2023—Applications close**
- * **May 10, 2023—Applicants notified of acceptance status**
- * **June 10, 2023—\$250 participation fee due**
- * **June 11-16, 2023—Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy**

HOW TO APPLY

Check out the informational brochure and online application instructions at:



<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/water/> or visit

<http://www.texas4hwaterambassadors.com>

The Texas 4-H State Water Ambassadors Program is led by Texas 4-H and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and supported in part by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation. A team of industry, organization sponsors, and stakeholders provide guidance for programming and serve as mentors for water ambassadors.

Workshop #2
Water Symposium Updates



November 16, 2022

Final Balance Sheet 1/5/2023

<u>Sponsors:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Commitment</u>	<u>Received</u>
	AGS	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Allan R Standen	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Bell County Engineer	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	Blanton & Assoc	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Gamblin & Assoc	\$500.00	\$500.00
	KPA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	Lloyd Gosselink	\$500.00	\$500.00
	LRE	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Michelle A Sutherland	\$500.00	\$500.00
	RW Harden & Assoc	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Sponsorship:		\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00

<u>Expenses:</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
TDT - Advertisement	\$1,168.75		
KDH - Advertisement	\$1,106.00		
Expo - Assembly Hall - Deposit	\$900.00		
Catering	\$2,790.00		
32 Round Tables	\$96.00		
11 8ft Tables	\$33.00		
Table linens	\$90.00		
219 chairs	\$109.50		
Staging	\$35.00		
Pipe & Drape	\$180.00		
Internet Access	\$20.00	2016	135
Texas Tour Gear	\$1,785.00	2017	165
Supplies/Coffee/Snacks	\$428.83	2018	158
Speaker Gifts	\$409.64	2019	157
Hotel - Dr. Eckstien	\$119.60	2020	N/A
Mileage - Dr. Eckstien	\$182.50	2021	183
Meal - Dr. Eckstien	\$12.90	2022	187
Total Expenses:	\$9,466.72		

CUWCD: Cost Share \$3,466.72

*1/5/2023
BEC*

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation
Transaction Detail By Account
October 2022 through September 2023

6:35 PM
01/05/2023
Accrual Basis

	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
53000 - Operating Expenses				
53600 - Educational Outreach/Marketing				
53605 - Event Cost				
	Bell County Engineer	Water Symposium - Sponsor	-1,000.00	-1,000.00
	Lloyd Gosselink	Water Symposium - Sponsor	-500.00	-1,500.00
	LRE	Water Symposium - Sponsor	-500.00	-2,000.00
	Blanton & Associates	Water Symposium - Sponsor	-500.00	-2,500.00
	Allan Standen	Water Symposium - Sponsor	-500.00	-3,000.00
	R W Harden & Associates, Inc	Water Symposium - Sponsor	-500.00	-3,500.00
	AGS	Water Symposium - Sponsor	-500.00	-4,000.00
	Michelle Sutherland	Water Symposium - Sponsor	-500.00	-4,500.00
	KPA	Water Symposium - Sponsor	-1,000.00	-5,500.00
	Card Service Center	Water Symposium - Expo deposit	900.00	-4,600.00
	Gamblin Engineering Group, LLC	Water Symposium - Sponsor	-500.00	-5,100.00
	Temple Daily Telegram	Water Symposium - Newspaper Ads	584.37	-4,515.63
	Killeen Daily Herald	Water Symposium - Newspaper Ads	1,106.00	-3,409.63
	Bell County Expo Center	Water Symposium - Facility/catering/Technology	5,138.50	1,728.87
	Gabriel Eckstein	Water Symposium - Mileage - Key Note Speaker	182.50	1,911.37
	Gabriel Eckstein	Water Symposium - Meal - Key Note Speaker	12.90	1,924.27
	Temple Daily Telegram	Water Symposium - Newspaper Ads	584.38	2,508.65
	Card Service Center	Water Symposium - coffee/snacks/paper goods/supplies	428.83	2,937.48
	Card Service Center	Water Symposium - Speaker gifts	409.64	3,347.12
	Card Service Center	Water Symposium - Hotel - Key Note Speaker	119.60	3,466.72
	Total 53605 - Event Cost		<u>3,466.72</u>	<u>3,466.72</u>
	Total 53600 - Educational Outreach/Marketing		<u>3,466.72</u>	<u>3,466.72</u>
	Total 53000 - Operating Expenses		<u>3,466.72</u>	<u>3,466.72</u>
TOTAL			<u>3,466.72</u>	<u>3,466.72</u>

1/5/2023
SEC

Workshop #5
88th Legislative Session

**Workshop
January 11, 2023**

**Workshop Item #5
88th Legislative Session and Groundwater Legislation Update**

Agenda Item #6:

Receive information related to the 88th Legislative Session and Groundwater Legislation

Narrative:

Per the FY23 budget year we agreed to have Legislative Services from Ty Embrey for the 88th Legislative session as follows:

A. Monitoring Services

- Identify and read all bills, committee substitutes, and amendments to assess impact on the District
- Ty will use Telicon legislative database to identify and track bills.
- Bill reports will be provided the District initially on a bi-weekly basis and then on a weekly basis as the Regular Session unfolds and more legislative activity occurs.
- Ty will bring bills of special interest to District's immediate attention.

B. Defensive Services

- Analyzing and advising CUWCD on legislative strategies to defend CUWCD's current groundwater management and regulatory structure.
- When necessary, consultations with legislators and legislative staff on issues and language of concern to CUWCD.
- Working with CUWCD reps, legislators and staff, and the Texas Legislative Council to secure the drafting of any necessary amendments.
- Meetings and briefings with CUWCD reps and key legislators and their staff on relevant legislation and addressing CUWCD and legislators' concerns.
- Identifying opportunities for CUWCD reps to testify before legislative committees and to meet individually with key legislators and their staff.
- Analyzing and advising CUWCD on the drafting of any necessary legislative amendments.
- Consultations with the Office of the Governor for defeat of legislation by that office of any legislation that is enrolled by the Legislature.
- Updating CUWCD on the provision of these legislative services and tasks through phone calls, meetings, and correspondence related to the provision of these legislative consulting services.

C. Advocacy Services

- Ty will work with CUWCD to identify legislation that is supported by and helpful to the efforts of the CUWCD.
- Ty will meet with legislators and legislative staff on a routine basis to urge the movement and passage of favorable legislation.
- Ty will work on amendments that can enhance filed legislation that is supported by CUWCD.

See attached some preliminary information related to discussions with TWCA and TAGD. The following is information from the Senate Water, Ag, and Rural Affairs Committee report to the 88th Legislature. The full report can be viewed at : https://senate.texas.gov/cmtes/87/c700/c700_InterimReport_2022.pdf

The summary recommendations related to the groundwater charge (interim charge 3) are as follows:

Interim Charge #3 states: *Groundwater conservation districts are the designated gatekeepers of Texas groundwater supply. The need for accurate and timely scientific data is critical when permitting groundwater. Specifically, regarding the basin of origin, if the science proves to be inaccurate, or better science enters the picture, and individual well-owners are impacted due to large water export permits, there should be a remedy for the for the landowners. Solutions could be funds to drill wells deeper to reach water or other compensatory means for those where the taking occurred.*

Recommendations

- ✓ *Encourage groundwater conservation districts to maximize tools such as export fees and contracts to adequately plan for mitigation.*
- ✓ *Texas should invest in updated groundwater availability models at the Texas Water Development Board. Additionally, the state should consider grants to groundwater conservation districts to employ the best available science at a local level.*
- ✓ *Encourage districts to incentivize and perform outreach to the benefits of data to individual landowner for the use of well meters.*
- ✓ *Continue to replenish the Agriculture Conservation grant funding for incentives for drip irrigation and other conservation technologies that have a proven record of water savings.*
- ✓ *Greater education to the public, including the public schools as to the importance of water conservation.*

The full discussion on the groundwater charge begins on page 40 of the full report. There are also recommendations related to investments in water infrastructure funding (charge 1) and water planning, including funding for new water supply opportunities such as produced water and desalination (charge 2).