

# 2004 Texas Water Monitoring Congress



Because water is a continuing critical resource in Texas affecting the public, environment, and economy of Texas, The Texas Water Monitoring Council (TWMC) sponsored the Fifth Texas Water Monitoring Congress on September 15-17, 2004 at the University of Texas at Austin, J.J. Pickle Research Campus Commons Center. Approximately 210 individuals representing 87 organizations attended the Congress.

The purpose of the 2004 Congress was to offer participants opportunities to discuss issues, network with colleagues, share successes, and bring new ideas back to their own programs. The conference agenda included plenary presentations and focus group discussions. This working conference provided a forum for effective communication, cooperation, and collaboration among individuals and organizations involved in water monitoring in Texas.

This year, the Texas Water Monitoring Council solicited papers for the plenary session. The keynote speaker for the Congress was Andrew Sansom, director of the International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources Texas State University – San Marcos. Presentations included ground- and surface water monitoring, data management, education, volunteer programs, and other topics. The summaries of the plenary session talks included in this document and the presentations and papers are posted on the TWMC website ([www.TxWMC.org](http://www.TxWMC.org)). Detailed reports from the five focus groups are included in the 2004 Texas Water Monitoring Congress Proceedings. This report is available on the Internet at the address listed in the contact information.

The core of the Congress was five focus groups that convened in breakout sessions to discuss Quality Assurance/Quality Control, Public Outreach, Technology and Technological Solutions, Groundwater Issues, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Applications and Solutions.

Each group reviewed the recommendations made by the 2002 Congress, assessed progress, and developed recommendations for current and future goals and actions. On the last day, the five focus groups presented the following recommendations:

## GIS Applications and Solutions

- Involve more Project Managers and Executives in GIS discussions
- Support for the StratMap program and the legislative goals of TGIC
- Make more data available to the public.

## Groundwater Monitoring Issues

- Provide TWDB with allocation funds to new Groundwater Districts for the purpose of data collection
- Include Groundwater Districts in the approval of proposed permits that could affect groundwater in their district
- Improve well inventory of old and abandoned wells
- Improve accessibility of old well records and make them widely available in a digital format

## Public Outreach

- Volunteer monitoring programs should target relevant parameters that match the needs of the community
- There should be a TWMC sanctioned public outreach forum that meets more frequently than the Congress. The purpose of the forum would be to share ideas on how to implement the suggestions.

## Quality Assurance/Quality Control

- Agencies should continue progress toward consistency in methods and data comparability through common terminology and formats in QAPPs
- TCEQ and TPWD will develop QA/QC guidelines for biological sampling for regulatory programs and consider the challenges these requirements pose to monitoring entities
- TCEQ should develop a robust system for acquiring data for defined uses, including regulatory purposes
- Continuous real-time monitoring will become an increasing component of monitoring programs. Data validation, control checks, and display of real-time data present major challenges and opportunities

## Technology and Technological Solutions

- Incorporate existing infrastructure and expertise (USGS) into the development of continuous monitoring networks with other agencies. Continue to research and try new technologies.
- Continue to use partnerships to address water quality issues.
- Form a multi-entity planning workgroup to direct continuous monitoring efforts.
- Investigate new uses of continuous data.
- Develop a technology clearinghouse or web page as an online resource for monitoring personnel.

# The Texas Water Monitoring Council



## Statement of Purpose:

The Texas Water Monitoring Council is a broad-based collaborative body formed to help achieve effective and efficient collection, interpretation, and dissemination of basic data and processed information for use in addressing issues, policies, and management of Texas Waters. TWMC operates through consensus building among its members and addresses the full range of water resources, physical, chemical, and biological, including ground- and surface- waters, in freshwater and estuarine environments.

## Texas Water Monitoring Council Members

Brazos River Authority  
Lower Colorado River Authority  
Sabine River Authority  
Tarrant Regional Water District  
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Texas Watch - Southwest Texas State University  
Texas Water Development Board  
Texas Water Foundation  
Texas Water Resources Institute  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
United States Geological Survey

## Contact Information

Information about the Council or 2004 Texas Water Monitoring Congress, including the Proceedings can be found at [www.TxWMC.org](http://www.TxWMC.org).

or

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