

From: Mike Byrd

March 8, 2026

Subject: 2026 Texas Water Conservation Symposium Trip Report, March 4, 2026

The event drew about 200 people. Overall, the presentations were excellent and provided some useful information. I sat at a table with 5 women from the Save Our Springs Alliance, another from the San Antonio Water System, and another from the Texas Water Development Board. Networking was good, and I learned some things about how others are conducting business

The first two sessions covered data centers and their water and energy demands. IMHO, our legislature is doing minimal to ease that impact. It appears that counties and municipalities will be leading that charge -- **SIGH!**

The third, fourth, and fifth sessions were on rainwater systems. They appear viable but require additional research (rainfall data for the last 100 years) before implementation. The first presenter (from Austin) has had a rainwater collection system for his yard irrigation for the last 20 years and has survived the last three drought periods. The fifth session was led by the CEO of the Shield Land Stewardship Group. They have built a fully contained rainwater collection system for a kids' camp on the Stewardship Ranch (west of Austin and north of Dripping Springs). He presented the challenges of building the system and dealing with TCEQ (not easy), as this was the first rainwater system for drinking water in Texas. One item covered was the collection of flush water. We have to flush our lines every 30 days. Collecting that water for subsequent irrigation or non-potable storage might be an option in the future—reuse for drinking water is not an option.

The sixth and seventh sessions covered material by the 89<sup>th</sup> legislature. The first presentation covered Proposition 4, and the second discussed SB14 on impact fees and how utilities are addressing those fees. The presentation on Proposition 4 discussed the \$20B allocated to the Texas Water Development Board and how the first billion will likely not be available until late FY2027. It generated a letter from me to the presenter, and the letter and her reply are attached.

After lunch, the next presentation was on how AMI meters can bring in younger people (school-age) to address water conservation. It was a great presentation, but it was not directly applicable to our water department.

The last three presentations were on irrigation systems and may, at some point, require us (SRB) to comply with existing TCEQ objectives.

The agenda is attached, along with my TWDB letter and response, and some of the presentations I could download are included in the zip file.

I recommend allowing Sean and Ken Atkins to attend this seminar next year. My costs are summarized below:

Symposium fee:	\$50.00 (includes breakfast and lunch)
Mileage:	\$116.00 (160 miles @ \$0.725/mile)
Parking:	\$14.00

Submitted by Michael C. Byrd, March 8, 2026