

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Aqua Texas event: beware—long response !  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:49:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[20240326-HTGCD-Drought-Contingency-Plan \(2\).pdf](#)

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Attachment for agenda item re city maps .  
Thanks!

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Savior, Lauren" [REDACTED]  
**Date:** May 2, 2024 at 2:31:09 PM CDT  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Aqua Texas event: beware—long response !

Hi there,

Thank you for your consideration and honesty. Many apologies for the delay in response! Below are some points of clarification that may be helpful.

Our water conservation goals are strongly aligned with that of the Wimberley Valley and various organizations designed to protect your local groundwater. Overall, we have a strong commitment to our One Water approach which includes updating our drought contingency plan and enforcing those requirements, providing education and resources to residents, and proactively engaging our communities. We agree with Mayor Rasco in that working together will make a difference. A One Water approach will only work if we are one team.

In direct compliance with the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (HTGCD), we are required to implement measures within our Drought Contingency Plan, which include watering restrictions. Due to District declaration, your community has been on STAGE 4 watering restrictions since August of 2022. Aqua is unable to be less strict than your local district. We understand that STAGE 4 restrictions aren't ideal, especially for such a prolonged amount of time, but the current restrictions are in place out of necessity for the protection of your groundwater resources.

As your water utility service, we don't use any of the water that is served, it is provided

straight to homes and business within the community. Because of this, we heavily rely on our customers to make conservation goals become accomplishments. We often hear from residents that they are very conservation minded but when looking up consumption, usage patterns are not always consistent with these statements. We don't take this negatively at all; this only broadens our opportunity to continue residential education on what excessive use is and how to implement water smart practices.

Water collection systems are an awesome way to promote One Water, and we support the benefits of it. Using collection systems for indoor use will ultimately help reduce the demand/impacts on the aquifer. Historically, however, indoor water use has not been the problem within our customer base. On a monthly basis across the state, especially during the summer, we notice end-users using up to 2/3 of their water outside primarily on lawns. Long term, this won't be sustainable. Our focus remains on bringing down outdoor water use so we can secure the needed water for indoor use within our communities. We have ramped up the requirements of STAGE 4 with the implementation of the 8,500-gallon excessive use limit and increased the water smart material sent to your community as our attempt to spread the call to action. As drought continues to persist, conservation measures could become the new normal, and they might have to if we really want to preserve our resources. Unfortunately for residents in the Wimberley Valley, there isn't a way to easily fix things so that we can get off restrictions. That decision ultimately is up to HTGCD. Some insight into their rule for termination of stages:

Within its jurisdiction, HTGCD uses river flow as an indicator for drought declaration. According to **Rule 13**, the Blanco River and Pedernales River must flow at certain rate for 60 *consecutive* days before the District can move out of a drought stage. Within the Jacobs Well Groundwater Management Zone (JWGMZ), Jacobs Well has to sustain a certain flow before moving to a lower stage of drought. Their [Drought Contingency Plan](#) is attached for reference.

Moving into 2024, I am happy to report that there has been a tremendous improvement in lowering the demand for water and in overall conservation. There is still work to be done, however. Through our partnership in the Woodcreek Task Force, we are hoping to see more improvement. A common theme of my conversations with customers in the Wimberley Valley and honestly CTX at large, is xeriscaping and how to access resources. I've observed that there may be a need for some additional exposure to the material, and a lunch and learn could be a great way to have a soft introduction/refresher to the world of xeriscaping. The event would simply be an opportunity for people to attend if they are interested in learning more about drought resistant landscaping and how to maintain it. Content would be strictly educational and informative on what options residents have. Part of Aqua's overall goal for our conservation program is to have a more informed customer and we believe this type of community engagement upholds the mission of our One Water initiative.

Your commitment to prior responsibilities is completely understandable and we will continue our search in a different direction for organizations to partner with at this time. As the Mayor stated, we are open to all sorts of ideas for future events to promote Wimberley Valley One Water. Let us know if an opportunity for collaboration comes up!

Thank you again for your time and consideration, your input is valued. If you have any additional questions, I am happy to answer them.

Best wishes,



**Lauren A. Savior**  
**Environmental Compliance Specialist**  
**Aqua Texas Inc.**

1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 400W, Austin, Texas 78723  
O: 512.990.4400 ext. 56136



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**From:** Jeff Rasco [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:27 PM  
**To:** Savior, Lauren [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Aqua Texas event: beware—long response !

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open

attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks,  
Jeff

**Jeff Rasco**  
**Mayor, City of Woodcreek**  
City email: [jeff.rasco@woodcreektx.gov](mailto:jeff.rasco@woodcreektx.gov)  
512-296-7276 text/call  
FB: [@Rasco4Woodcreek](#)  
[Request a meeting with Jeff](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jeff Rasco** [REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 3:19 PM  
Subject: Re: Aqua Texas event: beware—long response !  
To: Iris Ramos [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

First of all, how did the surgery go, Iris? Haven't we seen you walking since? Hope all is well.

Your points are well taken. I can't speak for Aqua, but they have expressed great interest in helping to provide education on water use, and the Learn at Lunch was just one idea. They may be willing to provide some sponsorship for Arbor Day, for instance. We've discussed educational panels, an outdoor education environment (on the old Woodcreek North golf course), some type of support for rainwater capture, etc. Their ears are open to good ideas, and if we pool our resources, I do believe we can make a difference.

Thanks, we'll circle back after the eclipse.  
Jeff

**Jeff Rasco**  
**Mayor, City of Woodcreek**  
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On Sun, Mar 31, 2024 at 11:39 AM Iris Ramos [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Lauren and All,

Sorry about my delay — I'm having another eye surgery tomorrow, and I've been in another world of many pre and post-op tasks, and typos !

I appreciate the willingness of Aqua Texas to organize a community program to address pertinent water issues.

When I received the first notice of a joint program, I had thoughts and many concerns about a joint venture. Becky and I discussed mutual concerns ;please know that I aspire to be diplomatic and frank , and agree that we need to work together . Water, not simply planting better choices, is our main focus now. I will drink water that I need for my health before giving it to my yard . Yet, It's a painful Sophie's choice for me .

We continue to hear and see community angst about being on stage 4 water restrictions for almost a year . The neighborhood is peppered with yard signs regarding the polarity between aqua Texas and the "people " . I have not heard accountability from aqua texas. Did I miss it?

Let's shift the talking points a bit . Maybe we all need to take responsibility for the water challenges?

Although a free lunch is always a welcome gift , I'm not sure that it's a clearly defined olive branch within a program about xeriscaping . Most everyone loves a target to blame for their discomfort and inconvenience. Right now ,Aqua Texas is the blaming target .

Rather than waiting for the courts to decide who is to blame, or discussing how to work with this situation with new plantings, ( involving expense , effort , etc) , most people ( that I know) want to hear how to fix it so we can get off water restrictions that monitor our water use.

For many years now, the master naturalists and the master gardeners, as well as native plant societies , have been informing and educating our community about xeriscaping , native plants, and the steady changing of landscapes into deserts . And —

The city of woodcreek is forming a much needed water task force . ( Yay!!)

Your program suggestions are wonderful. Yet , we have been engaging in similar offerings for our community for several years now . FYI—On april 27, 2024, the City of Woodcreek Tree Board's Arbor Day celebration will focus on xeriscaping with native plants and water use in the garden .

We've locally explored your chosen topic with gusto !

If aqua Texas is offering a program , I would prefer to focus on water — how water arrives at our homes ( thinking before the pipe and the delivery trucks), how we arrived at water restrictions and how to collect it responsibly . It's a focus on the bigger environmental picture with shared responsibilities.

How about a program on how to collect water and use it responsibly in our homes, not just gardens?

Invite experts to describe water shed issues , and how to build simple water collection systems at home .

A program of this order would attract more men , as well as women .

Personally speaking, my recent purchases of interest have turned towards rain barrels, gutters, water pumps, etc., as well as my water usage bills.

I don't know the planned program budget, but Instead of lunch, how about a gift of snacks and tea or coffee, and maybe door prizes of gift certificates towards rain barrels or rewards for lower water usage ?

I am sorry that I arrived late to this conversation. I appreciate the liberty to express my views, and am open to more conversation.

Because of many current responsibilities, I regret that I am not available for more involvement in more programs this spring or summer .

Thanks for listening—

Iris Ramos ,

Woodcreek Tree Board

On Mar 31, 2024, at 9:29 AM, Rebecca Denton

[REDACTED] wrote:

Well, I stand corrected. You have the right attitude.

I am traveling the week and won't be available to work on this until eclipse week or later.

Becky

On Mar 30, 2024, at 4:51 PM, Jeff Rasco

[REDACTED] wrote:

Whenever we can get together based on your schedules... I strongly support the Watershed Association as well, but I would also like to depoliticize our water issues. We've got to work together, in my opinion.

Thanks,

Jeff

**Jeff Rasco**

**Mayor, City of Woodcreek**

City email: [jeff.rasco@woodcreektx.gov](mailto:jeff.rasco@woodcreektx.gov)

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[Request a meeting with Jeff](#)

On Sat, Mar 30, 2024 at 11:12 AM Rebecca Denton

[REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Iris,

I'm headed out of town Monday and will be gone all week.

When I return let's find a time to talk about the proposed

Aqua Texas event. I'm a bit uncomfortable at this point, as

I support the Texas Watershed Association and their opposition

to Aqua's impact on our ground water.

Thanks,

Becky

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]