



## Monthly Summary from STPRA's Austin Team:

*July 2016*

-- **The House Natural Resources Committee** heard testimony in early June on interim charges concerning the functioning of the State Water Plan and the effectiveness of the new process to challenge Desired Future Condition (DFC) rulings by groundwater conservation districts. There were also witnesses to a water exporting conflict involving groundwater in Pecos County that is proposed to be moved to Midland-Odessa. There will be a follow-up hearing on that dispute in Ft. Stockton on September 19<sup>th</sup>

--**The Senate Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs Committee** held a committee hearing on June 20<sup>th</sup> that focused on the State Water Plan process. A hearing on July 25<sup>th</sup> will delve heavily into groundwater ownership, production, and transfer. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup> that will broadly cover most water-related issues concerning state government.

These interim hearings do not involve the consideration of any specific proposed legislation, since bills for next spring's legislative session cannot be filed until November.

Archived and live videos of committee hearings can be accessed at: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

-- **The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission** voted on June 20th to approve revised rules to implement stricter regulations to help prevent the further spread of Chronic Wasting Disease among deer and other cervids. Several members of STPRA attended the meeting and testimony was given by STPRA Executive Director Susan Kibbe and STPRA members David Kelly and Jonathan Dodd. The deer breeders walked out of the meeting early in the proceedings, portending a probable battle in the next legislative session because of their opposition to the stricter regulations.

--**H2O4TX** will bring its water issues orientation tour to Region N in Corpus Christi on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will feature Corpus Christi Rep. Todd Hunter and Bech Bruun, a Corpus native and former Rep. Hunter staffer, who is now chair of the Texas Water Development Board. The agenda can be found here: <http://texaswatertour.info/events/2016/7/18/region-n>

*Making a Difference for a Better South Texas*

[www.STPRA.org](http://www.STPRA.org)