

CLARIFIER

A PUBLICATION OF GULF COAST AUTHORITY

SPRING 2025

MASTER PLANNING

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CHAIR'S LETTER

Almost halfway into my first full year as Gulf Coast Authority Chair, I am energized by the progress we are making toward delivering on many components of the five-year strategic plan we began implementing in 2022.

- We demonstrated our continuing resilience during Winter Storm Enzo in January;
- We went live with our new enterprise resources planning (ERP) software April 1;
- We passed legislation to provide needed flexibility to our Board of Directors for acquiring quorum;
- We are celebrating the completion of a 20-year master plan for our facilities in June;
- We will see the first operations of our North Texas RailPort project in July, the first new facility GCA has built in 30 years; and
- We continue to provide stellar services to industry and our communities and to achieve national recognition for our reliability, safety, and compliance.

These are exciting accomplishments built on decades of hard work and the tremendous commitment of GCA leadership and staff.

I am honored to lead a Board that is focused on the vital services provided by GCA. Starting from a strong foundation, we strive to continuously improve our ability to deliver on our mission to protect Texas waters while supporting economic growth. At the same time, we are proactively addressing both current challenges—an aging infrastructure and workforce, regulatory changes, and economic uncertainty, among other issues—while anticipating and preparing to meet future needs and capitalize on opportunities.

I am proud of our Board, our senior leadership, and our incredible team of dedicated men and women.

Warm regards,



Kevin Scott



CEO'S LETTER

How exciting and inspiring to be surrounded by this GCA Team during a time of great progress and accomplishment!

After celebrating our 55th anniversary last year, we continue to deliver tremendous progress on multiple fronts: development of our people and process through continued policy reviews and improvements; implementation of a new enterprise system for human resources, accounting, and finance; continued commitment to our customers and communities through projects that enhance our personnel and professional development; and our first GCA Infrastructure Master Plan—a multi-year, GCA-wide initiative. This major undertaking not only captures where we are at today, it provides an additional tool for GCA to better steward our planning and projects for growth and rehabilitation. This edition features the importance of that work.

In addition, we continue to introduce you to our stellar team of professionals—our directors, in this issue; highlight GCA activities; recognize our GCA heroes through our SCRIPTS awards and retirement spotlights; and summarize a successful 89th Texas Legislature Session.

An ample supply of clean water for Texas continues to be an vital issue for the state's future and funding the initiatives that support that mission garnered a lot of attention this year. With great thanks and praise, GCA applauds the leadership of many individuals to pass water legislation this session. The legislature created a \$1.7 billion new, one-time infusion to the Texas Water Development Board to allocate as necessary and a \$1 billion per year annual dedication for 20 years, contingent on a statewide proposition that will be voted on this November.

As we look to the rest of 2025, I am inspired and amazed by all that we collectively continue to achieve — at GCA and in our broader water community. Together, we serve an important mission to protect the waters of Texas while supporting the environment and economic development.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Fazio Hale



MASTER PLANNING

Preparing for the Future

Water is the vital source that sustains our communities and our economy. Its proper management is crucial to the health of both humans and the environment.

Gulf Coast Authority, created in 1969 to clean up the waters of Galveston Bay, is committed to protecting the waters of Texas through environmentally sound, economically feasible, and technologically advanced wastewater and water management practices.

Today, GCA is deploying dynamic thinking, thoughtful planning, and careful management to anticipate and respond to growing challenges to the state's water supply. This includes developing a comprehensive master plan for its facilities that gives the Authority the tools it needs to continue fulfilling its mission: five, 10 and 20 years into the future.

When thinking about water, people often focus on what they consume, not what they leave behind. GCA, which tackles the hardest to treat water in the state, faces the complex challenges of a fast-growing population, regulatory changes, and aging equipment. Master planning is the essential tool to preserve and grow GCA's critical infrastructure, ensuring a resilient and sustainable future.

GCA facilities must operate continuously, with minimal downtime or disruption. By developing a unified master plan across all facilities, GCA is equipping its team with the tools to stay reliable every single day. Structured planning allows GCA to identify vulnerabilities before issues arrive; maintain, refurbish and replace equipment cost-effectively; and build new capacity to meet growing demand, all while delivering uninterrupted service to its customers.





“We began talking about master planning for the infrastructure of our facilities over three years ago as a way to memorialize some of our processes for asset management,” said Liz Fazio Hale, General Manager/CEO of GCA. “But the exercise is also about predictability in planning for capital improvement costs, rate stabilization, and people management.

“I like to think of master planning in three buckets: 1) where are we at today; 2) where do we want to go in five- and 10-year increments; and 3) how are we going to get there,” she added.

“Our master planning endeavor is a holistic, big-picture approach that outlines a long-term vision and the actions necessary to manage system-wide resources,” said Kevin Scott, GCA Board President.

Scott compares it to planning a cross-country road trip. One would never get in a car and start driving aimlessly, hoping for the best. Most sensible travelers carefully map out their journey by planning their route, scheduling rest stops, taking their car in for a checkup, and making sure they have the essentials for the road ahead.

That’s exactly what GCA is doing for its facilities. The master planning process is all about carefully preparing for the future instead of reacting to issues as they arise. The process involves taking stock of the facilities’ current condition, what will be needed in the future, and then figuring out the best path and course of action to get there. Just like a road trip, it’s not just about the destination, but also making sure the journey is smooth, efficient, and safe for everyone involved.

“With a master plan, GCA can anticipate growth and align resources with long-term goals,” Scott added.

CREATING THE MASTER PLAN



GCA’s master planning team, including senior leadership, technical staff, and facility managers, took on the challenge of developing a 20-year master plan and implementation strategy in 2022. The plan was to serve as an aid in determining the current rehabilitation and replacement needs of the Authority’s five facilities as well as a budgeting and planning tool for future modifications, upgrades, operational and maintenance improvement, and compliance with future regulations for efficient and economical wastewater treatment facilities.

After an exhaustive solicitation and evaluation process, the team identified a consultant to help with the effort. Together, they created a vision to guide the work:

To establish a data-driven dynamic framework to transform GCA’s future investment decision-making process for each of its five unique treatment facilities that will adapt to their highly variable system needs.

The team then set project goals:

- Capture facility data as the foundation for planning and decision making;
- Update facility capital improvement plan and prioritization process;

- Develop scalable, user-friendly tools for GCA to easily adapt to future planning;
- Provide a proactive framework to optimize investment decisions;
- Deploy a quantitative business case decision process; and
- Improve financial predictability through proactive asset planning.

“GCA’s Senior Management has been involved in the process since day one,” said Jonté Greer, Assistant Technical Director–General Engineering and project manager for the effort. “With support from the Board, they championed and pushed the concept, realizing how critical it is to GCA’s mission. At the same time, we all agreed that the most effective final plan required everyone at GCA to be involved. We knew the people who operate and maintain our equipment would be able to share their knowledge of current facility operations, areas of immediate focus, and what may be needed in the future.”

Practically, this meant hands-on visits by the planning team to each of the facilities, meeting with the on-the-ground folks to inspect equipment and discuss needs, starting in the fall of 2023. The team also conducted several workshops at each location.

“In some instances, for example, we have equipment well beyond its predicted useful life that is in better condition than materials and equipment that are much newer,” explained Fazio Hale. “Asset management and end-of-life diagnosis does not mean that we will automatically replace those assets as they hit the end of their expected useful life. It means that we will do thorough analysis to evaluate proper operation and then determine when and whether replacement is necessary.”

She noted that this is an area where the operations and maintenance crews’ insights are invaluable.

At the same time, the team was identifying the current status of each facility, what they expect in terms of customer needs into the future, and what would be required to meet those needs in terms of rehabilitations, preventive maintenance, and replacements, as well as new capacity to meet future growth. They also factored in the different funding mechanisms for each facility.

“I love the intentionality of our master planning process,” Greer said. “It will help minimize surprises, better manage risks, and position us to meet our customers’ future needs efficiently.”

ALIGNING FACILITY NEEDS TO CAPITAL SPEND

Information from the master plan feeds into and informs GCA’s capital investment plan. The master plan covers all five currently operating facilities and provides a repeatable methodology to regularly identify projects and prioritize needs while continuously updating asset conditions. The goal is for models to update annually with rolling 10- and 20-year time horizons, adjusting priorities as appropriate to capture new opportunities or address new challenges.

“This is a true master plan, evaluating not only our assets and capital projects, but also evaluating our treatment capacities and looking at upcoming regulatory items,” said Jonathan Sandhu, Technical Director. “Developing usable tools allows us to not only plan for the future but also be able to adjust as changes occur. Now we can better predict, plan, and budget maintenance-driven projects. This proactive approach results in smoother capital spend across multiple years.”





GCA's modern master planning leverages data to guide current rehabilitation and replacement efforts, optimize asset management, and refine operations and treatment strategies to provide facilities that are efficient and economical.

"The Master Planning process has allowed GCA to have a comprehensive plan for all the treatment facilities," said Phyllis Frank, Chief Technical Officer. "This effort will allow us to better forecast the investment needs in our facilities. Wastewater treatment, as part of critical infrastructure, requires

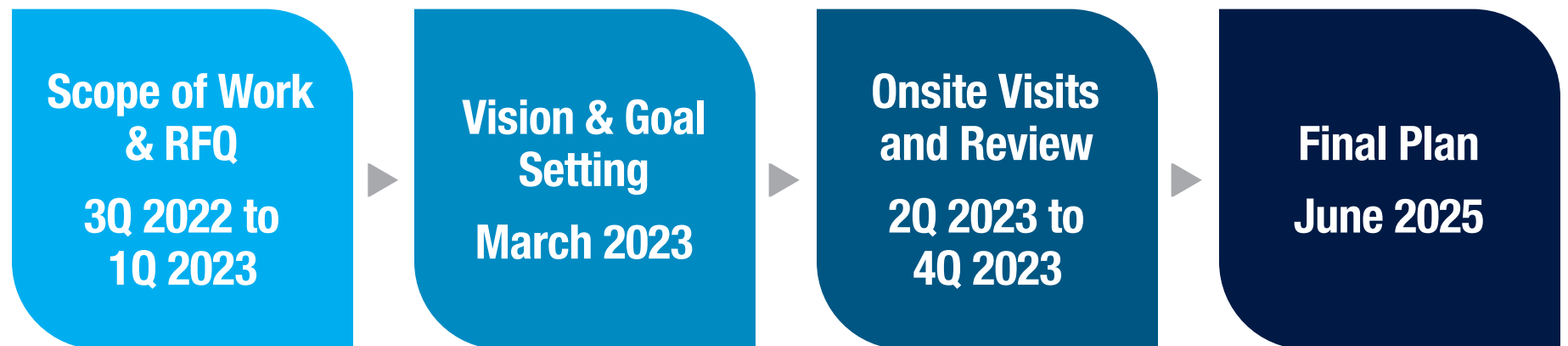
a high degree of reliability. Planning allows us to maintain reliable service. Importantly during this project, we have also developed tools that will allow us to refresh the planning look-ahead for each of the facilities on an annual basis."

A master plan that informs capital investment leads to better long-term planning, particularly given the differing funding mechanisms for each of GCA's facilities. Proactive maintenance and upgrades not only support reliability but are more cost-effective than reactive repairs.

"From a functional standpoint, this process gives our facility teams the tools they need to implement and maintain the plan," Greer added.

"With the incredibly high cost of infrastructure today and increasingly long lead times for supply chains, running to failure is no longer an option," said Fazio Hale. "With adaptability and foresight, the entire Authority is better prepared to navigate emergencies, expect the unexpected, and meet the demands of the future."

MASTER PLANNING TIMELINE



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

“With the foundation of a comprehensive master plan in place, GCA is positioned to meet the future head-on and turn challenges into opportunities,” said Amber Batson, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and a licensed professional engineer.

“At Gulf Coast Authority, master planning is how we turn vision into action, and how we ensure that every drop of water we manage reflects our unwavering mission: To protect the waters of the State of Texas through environmentally sound, economically feasible, and technologically advanced wastewater and water management practices,” Fazio Hale said.

“This was an incredible effort by everyone involved,” said Sandhu. “It was the commitment up and down the Authority, from the Board and Senior Management to our day-to-day operations and maintenance folks, that created this robust planning tool that will successfully guide GCA for decades to come.”

“It has been a massive undertaking,” agreed Frank. “I commend our Technical Services team for their incredible work leading the effort. I am impressed with the quality of the result and excited by the tools the master plan gives us to more thoughtfully and comprehensively balance

our facilities operations with customer needs, regulatory changes, and available resources, ensuring our ability to continue protecting state waters for many years to come.”

“I want to thank the entire GCA team for their work on the infrastructure master plan,” said Fazio Hale. “Across the Authority, we have expertise at every level of the organization. And, of course, thank you to our Board of Directors for the vision to identify this need and support the Authority’s effort to implement future infrastructure master planning—one that will pay dividends for GCA, its customers, and communities for decades to come.”

Tracking PFAS Regulations

The presence of per—and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is one of the most pressing challenges across the U.S. PFAS regulation and treatment is an evolving issue requiring strategic planning; collaborative research; and clear, effective public communication. In April 2024, EPA announced new national drinking water standards, setting legally enforceable limits and timelines for compliance for PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS chemicals. This May, EPA extended compliance deadlines and review of PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX).

Similarly, EPA has taken steps to address PFAS in wastewater via the Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15, issued in January 2023. This plan outlines how the EPA will work to protect the nation’s waterways and evaluate the extent and nature of PFAS discharges.

Gulf Coast Authority remains committed to protecting the environment and providing services while managing through regulatory uncertainty. Current EPA regulations place considerable liability on the treating public utilities. As GCA continues to monitor the evolving PFAS treatment requirements, the Authority is actively engaging in educational efforts at the state and federal levels while analyzing possible innovative treatment technologies.



GCA’s Liz Fazio Hale moderates a PFAS panel at the One Water conference held in Corpus Christi in May.



Directors Spotlight: Meet GCA's Directors



Human Resources: Keith Hardcastle

Keith Hardcastle joined Gulf Coast Authority in 2013 as Director of Human Resources & Public Information Officer, bringing 35 years of experience. He previously led the HR function for The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston Correctional Managed Care. He holds an MBA in Marketing and Behavioral Science, and a bachelor's degree in Economics and Sociology. Hardcastle is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources granted by the Human Resource Certification Institute, among other certifications.

At GCA, Hardcastle is responsible for all HR disciplines including recruitment and retention,

wage and salary, employee relations, benefits administration, and staff services, including public records for the Authority.

Hardcastle's focus is on "recruiting and retaining people who are equally passionate about our mission. GCA is a great place to work, develop a career toolbox, and join a great family of experts," he said. "We love to share our story with high schools, university and community groups and show the various opportunities GCA can offer to qualified individuals.

Looking ahead to the future of the industry, he added: "Treatable wastewater has a lot of potential real-world and reuse applications to take the pressure off of potable or drinking quality waters. We capably represent that future."

Legal: Hao Le

With nearly 30 years of legal experience, Hao Le joined GCA as Director of Legal Services last year, bringing his background representing governmental entities, including political subdivisions. Prior to GCA, Le served as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for South Texas College of Law and earlier, as General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at Texas Southern University. Hao has a Bachelor of Science in Advertising from The University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio.

His role includes ensuring that GCA's legal and contractual frameworks support the organization's



strategic goals. Le provides critical oversight in reviewing, drafting, and negotiating contracts that protect the Authority's interests while fostering strong and sustainable business relationships.

"With GCA's varied facilities and their respective needs, my biggest challenge is to understand and be knowledgeable on all matters that entail legal considerations — contractual, regulatory, and statutorily," he said.

Key legal considerations revolve around risk management and procurement, Le explained. "When we contract with other entities and companies, risk management includes review of provisions that establish the risk profile and allocation between the parties."

Another important task is staying up to date on changes to the law that affect GCA. He says membership in organizations such as National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and Texas Water Association (TWA) is vital in helping monitor the legal and regulatory landscape.

“What excites me is the opportunity to learn,” he said. “Every day, I learn something that is impactful to the Authority and I am really enjoying getting to know the people that work at GCA and determine how I can help them in being successful in their respective roles. The support from GCA has been amazing.”

Technical Services: Jonathan Sandhu



As Technical Director, Jonathan Sandhu leads the team responsible for capital projects, engineering, and system reliability.

Previously, he was an engineering consultant, providing services to municipalities, refineries, chemical, and petrochemical facilities around the world, including GCA for five of those years. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil/environmental engineering from the University of Missouri.

“Working with GCA as a consultant allowed me to get to know the Authority quite a bit before considering joining,” he said. “With a combination of interesting technical challenges and our unique structure, who could say no?”

He points with pride to the fact that it is his team who is responsible for identifying what is needed to protect the waters of the State of Texas.

“We are the first to evaluate what treatment processes are necessary, determine the most economical solution, and then oversee the design, construction, start-up, and commissioning to make sure we are fulfilling our mission. It is incredibly fulfilling work,” Sandhu said.

Sandhu is working with his team to address several challenges, including aging GCA infrastructure.

“The challenges of aging infrastructure, a new workforce generation, and new regulations are things we discuss daily in the Authority, and we are prepared to address them,” he said. “The world is changing at a very rapid rate. Drivers such as AI (artificial intelligence), an incoming workforce with vastly different expectations, and water scarcity will make the future unlike anything we have ever seen,” Sandhu said. “We need to be nimble and flexible to adjust as the world changes.

“I love problem solving; it's why I became an engineer. I'm in a unique role where I get to help the Authority identify and work through problems we face. It's the reason I get excited to go to work in the morning,” he added.



Safety: Kevin Smith

Kevin Smith joined GCA as Safety Director in 2024. He previously worked as an electrical and instrumentation technician in the petrochemical industry before pursuing occupational health, safety, and environmental management. Smith received an Associate's Degree in Safety Management from Lee College in Baytown and a Bachelor's in Occupational Safety and Health from Columbia Southern University in Orange Beach, Alabama.

Smith is driven by the desire to make a positive impact on members of his team and for GCA employees overall. He credits the involvement of



all levels of leadership with supporting a robust safety culture.

“Safety first is something most companies say,” he noted, “but at GCA, we really believe it, up and down the organization. My goal is to make sure that everyone continues to live it on a daily basis, both at work and at home. Safety isn’t something that’s a ‘nice-to-have’ or an add-on to other activities. It has to be at the core of everything we do.”

While still new to the role and GCA, Smith has set ambitious goals.

“Together, we will build on our already stellar safety program to design and implement processes that more fully engage all levels within the organization,” he said. “I hope to encourage everyone to take an active role in our safety program. These processes will help drive continuous improvement, boost employee morale, and provide a safer workplace for our team members.”

Information Technology: Kevin Davenport

With more than 30 years of experience working in information technology, Kevin Davenport has spent most of his career in the municipal and water sectors of government. He joined GCA in 2022, previously serving as the Director of IT for the City of West University Place. He also has served on numerous technology advisory councils and currently is an active member of the Texas Association of Government IT Managers, the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT), Government Management Information Sciences, and InfraGard, continually working to advance IT best practices in the public sector.



As IT Director, Davenport’s role is ensuring the technology that supports the Authority’s mission to protect Texas’ waters is secure, reliable, and up-to-date.

“I work closely with all departments and facilities, overseeing IT projects that meet government standards while safeguarding the data and systems vital to our operations,” he said. “By managing technology infrastructure, I help create a foundation that allows our team to operate efficiently, ensuring our work in environmental protection is always supported by the best available technology.

“Teamwork is at the heart of what I do,” he added. “By collaborating across departments, I ensure that technology solutions are tailored to support each team’s unique needs, furthering our collective goal of protecting the waters of Texas.

Gulf Coast Authority



WE'RE HIRING! JOIN OUR TEAM

We Offer a Comprehensive Benefits Package:

Health Insurance
(Medical, Dental, & Vision)

FSA/HSA/
Dependent Care FSA

Life, AD&D, LTD

Employee Assistance
Program

Paid time off (Holidays,
Special Leave, Vacation,
Parental Leave)

Retirement Program:
401(a) + Match, RHS,
457 & Roth-IRA

Tuition Reimbursement
Program

Stability Benefit:
Longevity Pay

For more information, visit
gcatx.org



GCA Change Gains Approval from Texas Legislature

State Senator Mayes Middleton filed SB 1504 in the 89th Texas Legislative Session with its companion HB 3256 filed by Representative Dennis Paul to assist GCA in its mission to protect the waters of the State of Texas through environmentally sound, economically feasible, and technologically advanced wastewater and water management practices.

Passed in both the House and Senate Chambers, Senate Bill 1504 provides GCA the opportunity to meet regularly via teleconference call, videoconference, or other similar telecommunication for the purposes of establishing a quorum, for voting, or any other meeting purpose so long as the Presiding Chair is present at the meeting's public location.

Currently, the Board is composed of nine members spanning three counties, requiring more than 65 miles of travel for some members. The bill gives the Authority the ability to regularly conduct business without the added external pressure of attending in-person.



(l-r) Liz Fazio Hale, Representative Dennis Paul, Kevin Scott, Billy Enochs



GCA Meets with Federal Officials

GCA made significant strides on Capitol Hill this April during Water Week 2025. GCA General Manager/CEO Liz Fazio Hale and Chief Operating Officer Scott Harris, along with Board Members Kevin Scott, Mark Schultz, and Jackie Peden, met with leaders to raise awareness of the GCA mission, highlight important industry issues, and promote initiatives that support the community.

A special thank-you to the members of Congress and staffers for their time, attention, and collaboration in finding solutions to ensure a cleaner and safer environment.



(l-r) Scott Harris, Mark Schultz, Liz Fazio Hale, Congressman Randy Weber, Jackie Penden, Kevin Scott, and Patrick Anderson



(l-r) Scott Harris, Jackie Peden, Liz Fazio Hale, Mark Schultz, and Kevin Scott



(l-r) Senator John Cornyn with Board Member Mark Schultz

INDUSTRY

Texas Water™ 2025 Brings Water Professionals to Houston



GCA employees gather at the Texas Water 2025 Awards Luncheon to celebrate.

Texas Water celebrated its 31st year as the largest U.S. regional water conference with a four-day program in March at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

The joint annual conference of the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Texas Section American Water Works Association, Texas Water caters to professionals in the wastewater and water industry. Attendees include water quality engineers, treatment plant technicians, scientists, government officials, regulatory agency personnel, manufacturers and their agents, libraries, universities, and groups and individuals concerned with protecting public health and the environment.

Texas Water 2025 attendance set a record, with 4,477 attendees, 2,569 exhibitors, and 735 volunteers, including 42 GCA team members.

GCA also took home several awards, with recognition in a number of categories.



(l-r) Board members Mark Schultz, Amber Batson, Kevin Scott, and Billy Enochs with GM/CEO Liz Fazio Hale (center)





brate the exceptional accomplishments of the team.



Liz Fazio Hale

Liz Fazio Hale, GCA General Manager/CEO served as the Texas Water 2025 Co-Chair. This is Fazio Hale's second time to serve in this role.

"It is an honor to represent GCA in the Houston-Galveston region, hosting our state's best and brightest in fresh water and clean water solutions."



Drew Castillo

Drew Castillo, Operations Supervisor of Municipal Operations at Blackhawk Facility, served on the Transportation Committee at this year's conference.



Denise Ehrlich, Washburn Tunnel Facility Manager



Ehrlich Attends Leadership Conference

In March, Washburn Tunnel Facility Manager Denise Ehrlich participated in the Water and Wastewater Leadership Center program at the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School of Executive Development, located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

This distinguished program is conducted in partnership with prominent water sector organizations, including the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the American Water Works Association, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the Water Environment Federation. It is designed to provide professional development for emerging leaders in the industry. The curriculum emphasizes effective communication, strategic adaptability in dynamic environments, and both personal and professional growth.

"The WWLC provided an amazing opportunity to network and learn with other leaders in our sector across the United States. In addition to learning new leadership styles, tools, and concepts, we also worked together in groups to practice what we learned. The program was extremely thoughtful and well-run in terms of content, quality, and efficiency. This was definitely the best training opportunity I've had the privilege to experience," Ehrlich said.

Ehrlich joins other GCA employees as an alumna of the program including General Manager/CEO Liz Fazio Hale, Chief Operating Officer Scott Harris, Chief Technical Officer Phyllis Frank, Chief Financial Officer Carrie Latimer, Senior Process Analyst Joanne MacDougall, and Assistant Technical Director-General Engineering Jonté Greer.

Bayport Facility Wins Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant Award

Gulf Coast Authority's Bayport Facility took home the Water Environmental Association of Texas (WEAT) Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant Award, presented during Texas Water™ 2025. It celebrates a Texas facility that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty. Bayport is GCA's largest facility, treating wastewater from multiple industrial sources. With customers ranging from petrochemical plants to warehouses and transportation facilities, Bayport handles the most diverse wastewater streams in the GCA system.



Three GCA employees were recognized for their accomplishments at Texas Water™ 2025.



**Scott Koerber -
WEF William D. Hatfield Award**

Scott Koerber, Chief Operator at the Bayport Facility, was recognized with the Water Environment Federation's William D. Hatfield Award at Texas Water 2025. This award celebrates operators of wastewater treatment plants for outstanding performance and professionalism. Scott has 43 years of service with Gulf Coast Authority, aiding in the advancement of wastewater operations. His value and expertise have earned the upmost respect and recognition from his peers and managers.



**Jevonne Bass –
WEAT Lab Analyst Excellence**

Jevonne Bass, Quality Assurance Manager at Central Lab, was honored with the Water Environment Association of Texas Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award at Texas Water 2025. This award recognizes individuals for outstanding performance, professionalism, and contributions to the water quality analysis profession. Jevonne has worked for Gulf Coast Authority for 20 years and is responsible for directing all quality assurance operations. Jevonne's passion for innovation, collaboration and employee engagement plays a key role in bridging the gap between the laboratory and facility operations.



**Phyllis Frank -
WEAT/WEF Lifetime Member**

Phyllis Frank, Chief Technical Officer, was recognized at Texas Water 2025 with the Lifetime Member Award celebrating her 35 consecutive years as a member of WEF/WEAT. Frank has spent 22 of those years at GCA, contributing to its mission in roles including Chief Administrative and Strategic Projects Officer, Facility Manager of Washburn Tunnel, and Director of Compliance. This prestigious award highlights her decades of leadership, service, and professional achievement.

COMMUNITY

Trash Bash: 'Clean it like you mean it!'

Early Saturday morning, March 29, saw Gulf Coast Authority staff, family, and friends doing their part of to help clean up the Galveston Bay Watershed at the 31st Annual River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayou Trash Bash®.



NACWA Philanthropy Trash Bash Award

NACWA recognized GCA with the 2025 National Environmental Achievement Award in the Community Leadership Category for its Trash Bash initiatives.

For more than 30 years, GCA has been an integral part of the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash® program. Each year, GCA contributes significant time and effort to the initiative with employees across the Authority participating.



Trash Bash 2025 Results

Thank you to all of this year's volunteers! Check out these great results!



2,414 Volunteers



**38 tons of trash
picked up**

119 tires recovered



**58 miles of
watershed covered**



GCA Supports Armand Bayou

On April 27, Gulf Coast Authority helped sponsor Armand Bayou's Earth Day Celebration. Armand Bayou Nature Center is one of the largest urban wilderness preserves in the United States and contains 4,000 acres of the natural wetlands forest, prairie, and marsh habitats once abundant in the Houston and Galveston area. Through preservation and education, the preserve strives to "Reconnect People with Nature."



PEOPLE

SCRIPTS: Going Above and Beyond

Peers and supervisors nominate team members who go above and beyond in demonstrating Gulf Coast Authority's core values: Safety, Communication, Reliability, Integrity, Planning, Teamwork, and Stewardship, for SCRIPTS Awards.

Rachel Cunningham

Rachel Cunningham, Washburn Tunnel Compliance Coordinator, has gone above and beyond her assigned duties, proving to be an invaluable team member at GCA. She has played a key role in emission modeling and provided training to the Compliance Coordinator at the 40-Acre Facility. In addition, she assisted with the Emission Inventory. Cunningham exemplifies the spirit of reliability, teamwork, and dedication to the Authority in all that she does.

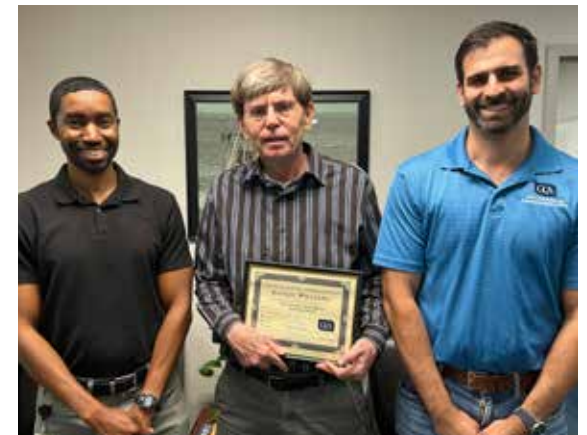


Daniel Williams + Stephen McLemore

Daniel Williams, Senior Project Engineer, and Stephen McLemore, Process Controls Engineer, were honored with SCRIPTS awards for their outstanding demonstration of GCA's core values during the Central Lab Back-up Generator Project.

Williams conducted a soil bearing test and reached out to Bayport Maintenance to request additional equipment needed to support installation of a 19,000-pound generator. Thanks to his detailed planning, the crane lift was executed safely, with no issues or impacts to schedule. Williams' proactive approach supports GCA's commitment to safety and planning.

McLemore proactively identified a potential safety issue and collaborated with the contractor to propose a safer approach using an existing crane. His quick thinking prevented delays and ensured the lift was completed smoothly and safely. McLemore's actions highlight GCA's dedication to safety and effective communication.



Washburn Tunnel Crew

When an unexpected issue hit the Washburn Tunnel influent line, Detrick King, Donovan McInturff, Jaime Valdez, Mike Morris, and Jonathan Ramos (not pictured) sprang into action. Working long hours in extreme heat, they safely re-routed the system in just two days, protecting both the environment and our customers. This success is a true display of their outstanding communication, planning, and teamwork. Washburn Facility Manager Denise Ehrlich (*center*) helped celebrate their accomplishment.



Retirements: Saluting Years of GCA Service



Robert Burke retired from GCA after 37 years of dedicated service. Burke began his GCA career in September 1987 as an Operator at Vince Bayou Transfer station. He moved to the Washburn Tunnel Facility the next year where he worked as an Operator before returning to Vince Bayou in 1996, where he stayed for the remainder of his career.



Cathy Delaney retired from Central Office's Tech Services team after serving as a Reliability Coordinator for 11 years. Delaney was key to ensuring the integrity of operational standards and processes.



Kelly Pressler retired from GCA's Central Lab after more than 21 years of service. Starting as a Chemist I, Pressler was promoted first to Chemist II and then to Lead Data Review Coordinator, the position she held at her retirement.



Charlie Middaugh retired after a career spanning 43 years as Washburn Tunnel's Warehouseman extraordinaire. He was known for his frugal purchasing approach and tending to the warehouse as if it was his own household.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kevin Scott
Chair,
Galveston County



Amber Batson
Vice Chair,
Harris County



Billy Enoch
Secretary,
Galveston County



J.M. "Mark" Schultz
Treasurer,
Chambers County



Stephanie Farner
Member,
Chambers County



Franklin D.R. Jones, Jr.
Member,
Harris County



Lamont E. Meaux
Member,
Chambers County



Jacqueline Peden
Member,
Galveston County



Robert L. Swanson
Member,
Harris County

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Elizabeth Fazio Hale
General Manager/
Chief Executive Officer



Scott Harris
Chief Operating Officer



Phyllis Frank
Chief Technical Officer



Carrie Latimer
Chief Financial Officer

CORE VALUES

S	SAFETY
C	COMMUNICATION
R	RELIABILITY
I	INTEGRITY
P	PLANNING
T	TEAMWORK
S	STEWARDSHIP



Protecting the waters of the State of Texas through environmentally sound, economically feasible, and technologically advanced wastewater and water management practices.

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