Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: 08/28/2026 **Meeting Time:** 2:00 PM
Meeting Location: [redacted]

Note: The approved meeting minutes will be posted publicly per the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Office of Science Policy (OSP) requirement NOT-OD-25-082. All information on matters not covered by the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules will be redacted as allowed in NOT-OD-25-082.

Call to Order:
The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) met on 08/28/2026 [redacted]

The quorum required is 4. There were 7 voting members and 0 non-voting members present at the start of the meeting. Quorum was confirmed.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM.

Meeting Attendance:

Meeting Chair: Dr. Patrick Larkin, PhD.

Voting Full Board Members:

Name	Scientific Status	Affiliation Status	Attended by Teleconference?
Patrick Larkin, Ph.D. (Chair)	Scientific, rDNA expert	Affiliated	No
Jeffrey Turner, Ph.D. (Vice Chair)	Scientific, rDNA Expert and Animal Expert	Affiliated	Yes
Harshkumar Bhakta, M.S.	Scientific, EHS	Affiliated	Yes
Jonda Halcomb, Ph.D.	Scientific, Community Member	Non-affiliated	Yes
Lee Lehman, M.S.	Scientific, Plant Expert	Affiliated	No
Boram Lim, Ph.D.	Scientific, Kinesiology	Affiliated	Yes

Voting Alternate Members:

Name	Scientific Status	Affiliation Status	Attended by Teleconference?
Mary Mantle, R.EEG T, REP T. CMEG (for Y. Morris)	Scientific, Community Member	Non-affiliated	Yes

Non-voting Members in Attendance: None.

Members attending by teleconference were confirmed as able to actively participate.

Full Board Members Absent: Yessenia Morris, BS

IBC Staff: John Scarpa, PhD

Guests: Joshua Gonzalez (Health Sciences) from TAMU-CC

I. Conflict of Interest
Members are reminded to disclose any conflict of interest related to any of the items on the agenda. The Chair called for any disclosures of conflict of interest. Conflicts were declared and are noted in the minutes on the relevant items.

II. Minutes
Minutes from the July 24, 2026, meeting were reviewed. The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Hearing none, the motion to approve the July 24, 2026, minutes was made, seconded, and carried.

Vote Count	Vote Type	Comments
7	For	
0	Against	
0	Abstain	
0	Conflict of Interest	
0	Not present for Vote	

III. Old Business
[redacted].

IV. New Business
[redacted]

Education:
[redacted]

EHS: All Biosafety Cabinets have been certified. All autoclave boilers were state inspected and passed.
[redacted]

Other: None.

V. New Studies
[redacted]



[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]	

[redacted]

[redacted]

VI. Tabled Studies
None.

VII. De Novo Reviews

IBC Number:	**TAMU-CC-IBC-2026-0122**
Protocol Title:	Bacterial Source-Tracking in Texas Coastal Bays
Principal Investigator:	Turner, Jeffrey, PhD
Primary Reviewers:	Lee Lehman, MSc
Conflict of Interest:	Jeffrey Turner, PhD
Lay Summary:	This research examines microbial water quality and potential sources of fecal contamination in coastal, estuarine, and freshwater environments. Environmental water samples will be collected from locations such as bays, estuaries, rivers, creeks, canals, and other surface waters. Fecal indicator bacteria, including *Enterococcus* and/or *Escherichia coli*, may be measured using standard culture-based water quality methods such as IDEXX Enterolert or Colilert. To identify potential sources of fecal contamination, water samples may also be analyzed using microbial source tracking (MST). Environmental samples are filtered, DNA is extracted from the collected microorganisms, and PCR-based methods are used to detect or quantify genetic markers associated with fecal material from humans and animals, including livestock, wildlife, and birds. These molecular methods detect microbial DNA and do not require propagation or culture of the organisms represented by the genetic markers. The overall goal of this research is to better understand the occurrence, distribution, environmental drivers, and sources of microbial contamination in surface waters. Results may be used to evaluate water quality, identify areas or conditions associated with elevated fecal contamination, assess potential risks to recreational or other water uses, and support development and evaluation of water-quality management strategies.
Biohazardous Agents:	Bacteria (Enterococcus sp and E. coli), human feces, swine feces
NIH Guidelines:	III-F: Use of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules for detection (e.g. probes)
Submission Type:	Research Protocol
Biosafety Level:	BSL-2

PI Turner present at 2:36 PM.

Open Discussion: PI indicated this is a De Novo submission and the only changes were personnel. The committee and reviewer had no questions or concerns. Risks are mitigated with appropriate PPE or through other means.

PI Turner exits at 2:38 and does not return. (Quorum maintained)

Closed Discussion: No other comments or concerns from the committee.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve with a permit expiration date of three (3) years and an annual expiration date of one (1) year was made, seconded, and carried.

Vote Count	Vote Type	Comments
6	For	
0	Against	
0	Abstain	
1	Conflict of Interest	Turner
0	Not present for Vote	

VIII. Annual Reviews
None.

IX. Amendments



Vote [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]	

[redacted]

X. Reportable Events
None.

XI. Lab Inspections
[redacted] were inspected by EHS on August 27, 2026, and found to be acceptable for the proposed project (i.e., BSL-2 with no biosafety cabinet).

XII. Biological Safety (BSR) or Chair Review
None.

XIII. Miscellaneous
[redacted]

XIV. Closing Comments
[redacted]

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM.