KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	24-1406-UF	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	9/26/2024 1:31 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.	Agency Address:	4200 Smith School Rd
Agency City:	Austin	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78744		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Director	Director First Name:	David
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Yoskowitz		
Reporter Name:	Michael Durand	Reporter Email:	mike.durand@tpwd.texas.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Lowell

Middle Name: Edward

Last Name: Matchett

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 7/18/1973 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 51

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 8/28/2024 2:20 PM

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Death Date and Time: 8/28/2024 2:56 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Evaluation?: Yes, results are available

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Gunshot wound of chest

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment: Not Applicable

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?: Decedent

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of weapon that caused death?: Handgun

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

Pre existing medical condition?: Not Applicable; cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death: Firearm

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	Nueces River (29.720799\ -100.034736)	City:	Barksdale
County:	Real	Zip:	78828

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Other, specify

Other Location Category:

Nueces River (29.720799\ -100.034736)

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody: Pre-Custodial Use of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

N/A

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Entry Date Time:

Entry Date Time N/A: ✓

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Elsewhere, specify

Death Location Elsewhere:

Nueces River (29.720799\ -100.034736)

General Information

Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?: Yes

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Operate Motor Vehicle in Rever Bed (Class C Misdemeanor)

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Operate Motor Vehicle in Rever Bed (Class C Misdemeanor)

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent display or use a weapon?

Decedent display/use of weapons: Yes, mark all that apply

Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details: Discharged firearm

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?:	No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs):	Unknown	Make suicidal statements?:	Unknown
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Unknown	Exhibit any medical problems?:	Unknown

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	No	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	No
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	No	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	No
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	No		

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint:	No

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

State Game Warden Clint Graham received a phone call from an anonymous caller on August 28, 2024, who stated that someone had driven in the Nueces riverbed near the Barksdale, TX bridge river crossing. The caller stated the vehicle was parked\stuck on the downstream side of the bridge. A person commits a violation of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Ch. 90 when he or she operates a motor vehicle in a protected freshwater area. State Game Warden Graham contacted the Real County Sheriff Deputy on duty in Camp Wood, Tx, identified as Jennifer Harvey, and requested that she also respond to the to the Barksdale Bridge crossing to contact the subject.

At approximately 2:20 pm State Game Warden Graham met with Deputy Harvey. The subject was observed to be approximately 150-200 yards downstream. Deputy Harvey utilized her PA speaker and requested the subject to go to her location after identifying herself. After several minutes the subject started walking toward the officers. Deputy Harvey utilized her PA speaker and requested the subject to walk back to his vehicle and drive to their location. The subject turned around, entered his vehicle, identified as a Jeep truck, and drove approximately 20-30 feet and stopped. After several minutes, State Game Warden Graham identified himself as a State Same Warden and directed the subject to drive to his location by utilizing his PA speaker. After several more minutes, the vehicle never moved. State Game Warden Graham walked into the riverbed where the subject could see him and started waving his arms to get his attention and to direct him to come to their location. The vehicle never moved. State Game Warden Graham returned to his patrol vehicle and again identified himself as a State Game Warden and requested the subject to come to their location.

At approximately 2:56 PM, State Game Warden Graham walked down a game trail along the riverbed to the subject's vehicle and observed him hunched over in the driver's seat. State Game Warden Graham notified Deputy Harvey that the subject was hunched over in his vehicle. A few minutes later, Deputy Harvey met State Game Warden Graham at his location. Officers approached the vehicle from behind and noted the engine was still running and the front windows were rolled down. Officers observed numerous empty beer cans in the bed of the Jeep truck. Deputy Harvey identified herself as a police officer and there was no response from the subject. Deputy Harver stated to State Game Warden Graham that it appeared the subject had a gunshot wound to his chest. State Game Warden Graham looked inside the vehicle and confirmed what Deputy Harvey observed. The subject was not responsive to commands given by officers and appeared to not be breathing. Neither Deputy Harvey nor State Game Warden Graham ever discharged their weapons. Deputy Harvey contacted Real County Sheriff and the Uvalde Texas Ranger. Texas Ranger Ryan Kindell arrived on scene and determined that this incident would be considered a Custodial Death. While on-scene, Texas Ranger Kindell located a .9 mm pistol on the floorboard of the subject's vehicle. Investigation is ongoing by Texas Ranger Kindell.

End of Summary