

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
RECORD OF MEETING  
Fourth Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2016

Meeting Date: June 22, 2016  
Meeting No.: 50

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
Room: 2210

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Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)

Peggy Hunka (Co-Chair)

Chris Muller

Chris Moore

Sarah Schlessinger

Linda Ruiz McCall

Deba Dutta

David Villarreal

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Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)

Bureau of Economic Geology of the University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG)

Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas Department of Agriculture

Texas Water Research Institute (TWRI)

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Interested Parties

Damian Kemper

Peter Sprouse

Affiliation

National Resource Mgr/Educator

Zara Environmental LLC

**MEETING HANDOUTS**

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, June 22, 2016
2. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record, March 1, 2016
3. Outreach Events Status Report, June 2016
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, June 17, 2016
5. Google Analytics reports on TGPC website activity, February 25 – June 20, 2016
6. *What Do I Need to Know About Capping a Water Well for Future Use?*
7. Draft *What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG)?*
8. Draft *What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG)?*
9. Draft *What Does it Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities?*
10. Draft *What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process?*

11. Drought 2016 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of June 16, 2016; U.S. Drought Conditions June 2016; Public Water Supply Systems (PWSs) Affected as of June 16, 2016; excerpt from the TCEQ List of Texas PWSs Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages as of June 16, 2016.
12. Texas Realtor Magazine article posted online April, 2016.
13. 2016 Water-related Conferences in Texas, June 2016.

## MEETING RECORD OF March 1, 2016

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Peggy Hunka (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:37 AM CDST. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. The minutes were read by the members and approved.

### 2. STATUS REPORTS

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events, Abandoned Water Well Closures, and TGPC Exhibit Booth

The current Outreach Events Status Report (available on the POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://tgpc.texas.gov/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/>, under the “Additional Resources” heading) was reviewed:

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) Water Well Screening Events
  - Four since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - None planned through September 2016
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closure Education
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - None scheduled at this time
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
  - National Groundwater Awareness Week Poster at the Capitol had an estimated 1,275 view and the Splash! Into Edwards Aquifer Exhibit had an estimated 458 views. The TGPC Booth at the TCEQ Trade Fair held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> had an estimated 401 visitors.
  - One is planned through August 2016

The Website Demonstration was presented earlier than scheduled on the agenda because Sarah Schlessinger had to leave at 10:00AM. She gave an overview of the information that is available on the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts website.

#### TWON Training Activities

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON schedule of completed, confirmed, obligated, and suggested water well one-day training events and workshops. There have been over 6264 samples or attendees at TWON events since April 2011.

#### TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) the Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC website for February 25, 2016 through June 20, 2016. The average website visit duration was 1:53 minutes down almost one minute, and the average pages/visit was down to 1.93 pages/visit from 2.05 in December. Website activity spiked in March probably due to The National Groundwater Awareness Poster, and publication of the Texas Realtor Magazine article in April As usual,

GovDelivery emails regarding the quarterly TGPC meeting also generated a spike in website activity.

### 3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2016, at 1:00 PM CDST, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 2210.

### 4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

*TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition*

#### Topic Updates

Three of the four topics in the current *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan* ("Plan", [http://tgpc.texas.gov/POE/TGPC\\_POE\\_GW\\_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf](http://tgpc.texas.gov/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf)) were not discussed at the meeting since there were not representatives present to provide updates. The Texas Well Owner Network updates had been given previously in the meeting.

#### Publications

Further discussion on the FAQ for scientific monitoring wells was held. It was decided that adding a statement on the importance of scientific wells to the "*What do I Need to Know About Capping a Water Well for Future Use?*" was not a good option. Linda Ruiz McCall (Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG)) suggested the title of a new FAQ could be "Why are scientific monitoring wells important and how can I help?" She also suggested that Chris Muller (Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)) write the first draft because the TWDB has a number of these types of wells in place for their water level network.

### 5. POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) opened the discussion on the FAQs listed below. All of the FAQs were reviewed at the last meeting and since that time were updated by TWDB to include the 2017 State Water Plan information.

- *What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG)?*,
- *What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs)?* ,
- *What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process? , and*
- *What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities?*  
FAQs Revisions

A motion to approve these FAQs was made by Chris Miller and seconded by Linda Ruiz McCall. The motion carried and the four FAQs were approved for posting on our website.

### 6. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

The review of the Texas drought map precipitated a conversation on the need for a flood FAQ. Al Cherepon (TCEQ) mentioned an article in the E-Clips about an oil slick developing after the recent heavy rains. Diane Boellstorff (Texas AgriLife) stated that they were getting questions at their TWON events asking about what to do after a flood. Chris Muller (TWDB) mentioned that they have a group that deals with flood issues. It was decided that everyone would find out what resource are available at their agencies and send that information to Peggy Hunka for distribution to the other committee members for further discussion at the next meeting.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The list of 2015 – 2016 Water-related Conferences in Texas was available for POE Subcommittee members.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## 9. ADJOURN

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:06 AM CST.