

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

Meeting Date:	March 1, 2016	Place:	TCEQ
Campus, Bldg F		Room:	3202A
Meeting No.:	49		

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
Guy Fipps	AgriLife Extension
Peggy Hunka (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Chris Muller	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Chris Moore	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Ashley Wendt	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Sarah Schlessinger	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Linda Ruiz McCall	Bureau of Economic Geology of the University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG)

<u>Agency Staff</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Program</u>
Cary Betz	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Abiy Berehe	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Leon Byrd	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Marcia Workman	TCEQ	Water Availability Division

<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Barrett Clark	Zara Environmental LLC
Peter Sprouse	Zara Environmental LLC

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, March 1, 2016
2. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record, December 2, 2015
3. Outreach Events Status Report, March 2016
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, February 28, 2016
5. Google Analytics reports on TGPC website activity, December 1, 2015 – February 25, 2016
6. Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Publications List
7. TSSWCB Water Supply Enhancement Program package (fact sheets, tables, maps, and report titles)
8. Draft *What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG)?*
9. Draft *What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG)?*

10. Draft *What Does it Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities?*
11. Draft *What is the Status of the Regional water Planning Group (RWPG) Process?*
12. National Groundwater Awareness Week in the *Take Care of Texas* Newsletter
13. Drought 2016 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of February 23, 2016; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, February – May 2016; Public Water Supply Systems (PWSs) Affected as of February 24, 2016; excerpt from the TCEQ List of Texas PWSs Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages as of February 25, 2016.
14. 2016 Water-related Conferences in Texas, March 2016

## MEETING RECORD OF March 1, 2016

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 AM CST. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. Al Cherepon noted that he was listed as a Subcommittee member rather than staff.

### 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.state.tx.us/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
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - Six planned through October 2015
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closure Education
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - None scheduled at this time
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
  - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (84 estimated attendees)
  - Five planned through August 2016

#### TWON Training Activities

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON schedule of completed, confirmed, obligated, and suggested water well screening events and workshops. There have been over 5,700 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011.

#### TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) the Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC website for December 1, to February 25, 2016. The average website visit duration was 2:04 minutes down 0:01 seconds, and the average pages/visit was down to 2.05 pages/visit from 2.17 in December. The GovDelivery

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

### 3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday June 22, 2016, at 9:30 AM CST, 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.state.tx.us/POE/TGPC\\_POE\\_GW\\_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf](http://tgpc.state.tx.us/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf)) were discussed at the meeting:

- Abandoned Water Wells – No update.
- TWON – Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported there was no new information other than what was already discussed.
- TSSWCB Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP) – Ashley Wendt (TSSWCB) stated that the 2015 Water Supply Enhancement Report is now available at <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/reports#wsep>.

##### Popular Press Articles

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the warehouse inventory of printed AgriLife Extension publications used for TWON and TGPC outreach events. The POE Subcommittee discussed using the reproduction allocation in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 TCEQ and AgriLife Extension POE Contract to print/reprint the following AgriLife Extension publications:

- *Hydrogen Sulfide in Drinking Water* (L-5312) and,
- *Understanding and Maintaining your Septic System* (L-5491).

Sarah Schlessinger (TAGD) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the above popular press articles be reprinted using funds from the 2016 TCEQ and AgriLife Extension POE Contract.

##### TWON Fact Sheets

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) discussed progress on an update to the AgriLife factsheet titled, *Solving Drinking Water Problems in the Home*, which has a table of treatment options. There are a few new treatment options since the last update that need to be added to the table.

##### Draft *What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG)?*

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension), led a discussion on *What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG)?* Sarah Schlessinger (TAGD) provided

feedback, along with several other POE Subcommittee members. It was decided that since the author was not at the meeting the Subcommittee could not vote on this FAQ until the next meeting.

Draft *What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG)?*

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the draft *What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG)?* FAQ update and Linda Ruiz-McCall (BEG) provided feedback, along with several other POE Subcommittee members. It was decided that since the author was not at the meeting the Subcommittee could not vote on this FAQ until the next meeting.

Draft *What Does it Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities?*

Draft *What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process?*

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the draft of the two FAQs listed above. No comments or suggestions were made.

The last two FAQs were approved for posting on the website.

## 5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Peter Sprouse and Barrett Clark of Zara Environmental gave a presentation on the benefits of using abandoned wells as monitoring or scientific wells. It was decided that the POE Subcommittee could develop some guidance on keeping a well open while meeting the state requirements for surface completion and proper capping. A suggestion was made that a survey be sent to Groundwater Conservation District asking about their current regulations regarding scientific or monitoring wells.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) passed around a picture of the RRC National Groundwater Awareness poster was set up in their lobby. Chris Miller (RRC) said that he would get on social media and promote National Groundwater Awareness week.

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

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## 7. ADJOURN

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:50 AM CST.