

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
RECORD OF MEETING  
Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2019

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019  
Meeting No. 61

Place: TCEQ Campus Bldg. F  
Room 2210

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Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)  
Abiy Berehe (Temp Co-Chair)  
Leslie Bruce  
David Van Dresar  
Chris Muller  
David Villarreal  
T.J. Helton  
Bridget Scanlon

Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)  
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)  
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)  
Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)  
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)  
University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG)

Agency Staff

Leon Byrd  
Scott Underwood  
Alan Cherepon  
Kathy McCormack

Affiliation

TCEQ  
TCEQ  
TCEQ  
TCEQ

Program

Water Availability Division  
Water Availability Division  
Water Availability Division  
Water Availability Division

**MEETING HANDOUTS**

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, March 6, 2019
2. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record, January 6, 2019
3. Outreach Events Status Report, March 2019
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) Training Activities
5. Google Analytics reports on TGPC website activity, January 16, 2019 to March 4, 2019
6. Draft FAQ *Private Water Well Owners: How to Prepare Your Well for the Next Flood*
7. Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells
8. U.S. and Texas Drought Maps, as of February 26, 2019-Public Water Supply Systems (PWSs) Affected as of February 27, 2019; partial list of PWSs Limiting Water Use
9. 2019 Water-related Conferences in Texas

## MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 6, 2019

### CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee called the meeting to order. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. The minutes were provided by email and reviewed at this meeting.

### STATUS REPORTS

#### Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events

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

- AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events
  - No events since the January POE Subcommittee meeting
  - Nine events are planned through May 2019.
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - Three events are planned for this month

#### 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 8976 samples or attendees at TWON events since April 2011. It was reported that some of the training events might be tabled while waiting for a new coordinator. The outcome on discussion of plugging abandoned wells is that after one year 55% of those who say they have an abandoned well have plugged that well.

#### TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Abiy Berehe (TCEQ) reviewed the Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC website for January 16, 2019 to March 4, 2019.

### ANNOUNCE FUTURE MEETING DATE

The Next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 1:00 PM CDST, in TCEQ’s Building F, Room 2210.

### PRESENTATION

Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) gave a presentation titled *Update on Groundwater Arsenic Contamination in Texas*. It was found that the source of contamination in the High Plains and Gulf Coast is from volcanic ash and mobilization of oxyhydroxides rather than agricultural practices. The arsenic in arsenical pesticides are sorbed onto the soil profile in the shallow zone.

### REVIEW, DISCUSS AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

One of the four topics in the current *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan* (“Plan,” see: [https://tgpc.texas.gov/POE/TGPC\\_POE\\_GW\\_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf](https://tgpc.texas.gov/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf)) were briefly discussed.

Guy Fipps (Texas AgriLife) reported on the status of the ET network. The TWDB's TexMesoNet team is creating a statewide mezonet network and there were discussions on collaborating with the ET network. This appears to be the best strategy for an ET network in Texas.

### **POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES**

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) led a discussion on updating the AgriLife Extension reprints of the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) manual. David Villarreal made a motion that the printing allocation from the AgriLife Extension Contract be used for reprinting the TWON manual. The motion was seconded by Chris Mueller and passed by all members present.

A discussion on the Railroad Commission FAQ: *As a Well Owner What Should I Know About my Water Well?* was led by Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) and several suggestions were made. The members were asked to submit their suggestions by email so that the FAQ could be updated and reviewed.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The current drought maps and "2019 Water-related Conferences in Texas" handouts were distributed. These can be found under the "Additional Resources" heading / link on the POE subcommittee web page (see: <https://tgpc.texas.gov/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/>).

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.