

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

RECORD OF MEETING

First Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2021

Meeting Date: September 9, 2020
Place: Virtual Teleconference
Meeting No. 67

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Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)
Peggy G Hunka (Co-Chair)
Leslie Bruce
Lynne Fahlquist
Chris Muller
Evelyn Reategui-Zirena
Claire Satterwhite
David Van Dresar
David Villarreal

Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Texas Railroad Commission
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Texas Department of Licensing and Registration (TDLR)
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

Other Agency Staff

Abiy Berehe
Alan Cherepon
Grant Gibson
Cindy Hooper
Leah Martinsson
Kathy McCormack
Joel Pigg
Rebecca Storms
Scott Underwood

Affiliation

TCEQ
TCEQ
TCEQ
TCEQ
TAGD
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AgriLife Extension
TWDB
TCEQ

Program

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

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, September 9, 2020
2. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record, June 10, 2020
3. Outreach Events Status Report, September 4, 2020
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) Training Activities Schedule
5. AgriLife Extension Recent and Upcoming Water Well Screenings
6. Google Analytics reports on TGPC website activity, FY2020 and June 1 - August 31, 2020
7. Draft TGPC POE Annual Report, September 4, 2020
8. Fact Sheet, "Drinking Water Problems: Arsenic"
9. Draft Update to *Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells*

MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Due to COVID-19 this meeting is being held for the first time ever via a videoconference using the Microsoft Teams platform.

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:

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Water (AgriLife Extension) Well Screening:
 - There was one event in Hockley County during the past quarter and none were scheduled at this time. They are actively watching current storms and are ready to respond if a hurricane hits the Texas coastline during the 2020 season.
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
 - A virtual booth was displayed at the TAGD Virtual Groundwater Summit (virtual). A new agenda line item for developing a virtual booth will be on the next agenda.

TWON Training Activities

Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON training schedule. He noted that screening / water sampling is an important aspect of the program, along with the educational component. AgriLife Extension is going to try a couple of 4-hour programs in the far western Hill Country: Sutton, Kimble, Edwards, Kinney, Uvalde, and Real Counties. They are working with some of the GCDs who will conduct the sampling rather than taking them back to College stations. There have been over 10,080 samples or attendees at TWON events since April 2011, with 42 during the previous quarter.

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) mentioned that they are starting to plan for more of the TWON 1-hour educational programs, and they may add more online depending on what the county extension agents and sponsors want – they are being flexible right now. There are suggested watersheds on the TWON schedule that we have been in contact with and will get to them as well.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

P. Hunka reviewed the Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC web page for the period June 1 through August 31, 2020. A comparison to the previous quarter of 2019, and FY 2020 data were also discussed. There appears to be an increase in use for this quarter compared to the same quarter last year and could be due to COVID-19 and the ability for more people to attend the meetings virtually.

ANNOUNCE FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 1:30 PM CST. At this time the videoconference format is expected to remain for the next meeting.

REVIEW, DISCUSS AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Topic Updates (see: https://tgpc.texas.gov/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf):

- **Abandoned wells** - Joel Pigg was asked to be a Champion on the Abandoned Well topic along with David Van Dresar (TAGD) and Claire Satterwhite (TDLR).
- **Texas Evapotranspiration Networks** - P. Hunka attempted to share a TWDB News video on Texas Mesonet but was unable to due to bandwidth issues.
- **Septic tanks** - D. Boellstorff announced that Anish Jantrania has agreed to be the Champion of the Septic Tank topic.

Draft TGPC POE Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report

P. Hunka reviewed the draft document with the Subcommittee. There were a few suggestions for edit, including updates related to COVID operations and, adding the links update to the *Landowners Guide to Plugging Abandoned Wells*

- Action Item: There was a motion (David Villareal with TDA) and a second (David Van Dresar with TAGD) to adopt the draft annual report subject to the changes discussed at this meeting, to present at the next TGPC meeting. The motion passed. Peggy will make the changes and send to the Subcommittee prior to presenting it at the full committee meeting.

Publications

AgriLife Extension Reprints - D. Boellstorff said that they were able to get the Arsenic fact sheets printed. J. Pigg noted that the fact sheets were reprinted in English and Spanish. They utilized a letter-sized trifold to accommodate the map.

FAQs and Fact Sheets:

Update on the AgriLife Extension Fact Sheet: Drinking Water Problems: Arsenic.

This was discussed by J. Pigg combined with previous topic of reprints.

Discuss/Review Draft Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

P. Hunka led a discussion of proposed changes for the guide. Several ideas were discussed, including a suggestion to define terms. Peggy said she would make the changes discussed today and invited additional comments since there wasn't much time to review for this meeting. This will be discussed once more at a Subcommittee meeting before presenting it to the main committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Hunka stated that there will be two changes to future agendas to add a publications status update and a line item for the virtual booth.

Chris Muller (TWDB) mentioned that he will be retiring soon, and that Rebecca Storms (TWDB) will be taking his place.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.