

**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

RECORD OF MEETING

Second Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2024

Meeting Date: December 13, 2023

Place: Virtual Videoconference

Meeting No. 80

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Subcommittee Members

Affiliation

Joel Pigg (Co-Chair)	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
Peggy G Hunka (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Jessica Price	Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Julia Stanford	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
David Villarreal	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Robert Bradley	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Other Agency Staff

Affiliation / Program

Abiy Berehe	TCEQ / Water Availability Division (WAD)
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ / WAD
Grant Gibson	TCEQ / WAD
Cindy Hooper	TCEQ / WAD
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ / WAD
Scott Underwood	TCEQ / WAD

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda December 13, 2023
1. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Minutes, September 13, 2023
2. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) Training Activities Schedule
3. Outreach Events Status Report
4. Water Conferences
5. Drought Monitor Report
6. National Groundwater Awareness Week Poster options
7. Draft FAQ *How Do You Prevent Pesticide Contamination of Private Water Wells?*
8. Draft FAQ *Pesticides in Urban Groundwater?*
9. Draft update to FAQ *How Do You Form A Groundwater Conservation District?*
10. Draft update to FAQ *What is a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA)?*

MEETING RECORD OF DECEMBER 13, 2023

The TGPC approves all Subcommittee products, and designated TGPC members attending this Subcommittee meeting participated as an employee of their agency or organization -- not as a designated TGPC member. Therefore, this Subcommittee meeting was not subject to the Open Meetings Act and was held 100% virtually. The public was able to attend this meeting via teleconference or videoconference at no cost.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Attendees were introduced. The meeting minutes for the December 13, 2023, meeting were provided to the members by email for review prior to the meeting.

STATUS REPORTS

TWON Training Activities

Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON training schedule. During the previous quarter, TWON staff held five one-day events and seven one-hour events. Staff collected 430 samples. There have been over 3,023 samples or attendees at TWON events since May 2021.

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events

The current Outreach Events Status Report was reviewed, and is available on the [POE Subcommittee webpage](#)¹ under the “Additional Resources” heading:

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) Water Well Screening Events
 - Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reported there were seven events in August with four more events planned for December and January.
- TGPC Exhibit Booth:
 - The Texas Plant Protection Association Annual Conference was held in Bryan, Texas on December 5-6, 2023. An estimated 22 people visited the TGPC booth during this conference.

Review Groundwater Conferences

- Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the upcoming conferences. There are no TGPC booths planned at this time.

Review Drought Monitor

- Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the drought monitor report which shows that most of Texas is coming out of a drought except for the Central Texas / Lampasas area.

¹ <https://tgpc.texas.gov/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/>

National Groundwater Awareness Week Poster update

- Three options were presented to the POE Subcommittee, and one was chosen for printing. The data on the poster will also be updated. The pdf file of the updated poster will be distributed to all TGPC members in January.

ANNOUNCE FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024, by Teams Videoconference at 1:30 PM.

REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Review and discuss changes to the POE Educational Outreach Plan

- Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) led a discussion on the changes to the agenda and requested input on ways to increase educational outreach opportunities that can be listed in the Educational Outreach Plan.

Publications

AgriLife Extension Reprints

Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reported that reprints of *Water Well Basics* and *Nitrates in the Home* will need to be reprinted soon, but there are no reprints at this point.

FAQs and Fact Sheets:

The draft FAQs titled *How Do You Prevent Pesticide Contamination of Private Water Wells* and *Pesticides in Urban Groundwater* were approved and will be presented to the main TGPC Committee meeting in January 2024.

A draft update to the FAQ titled *How Do You Form a Groundwater Conservation District?* was discussed. Julia Stanford (TAGD) requested the opportunity to review this FAQ update. Consideration of this FAQ was postponed to the next meeting in March 2024.

A draft update to the FAQ title *What is a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA)?* was discussed and tabled for further review.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Abiy Berehe (TCEQ) announced that Kelly Keel will be the permanent Executive Director of the TCEQ.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.