

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Third Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2004

Meeting Date: April 29, 2004
Meeting No.: 00

Place: TCEQ Campus, Building F
Room: 2210

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

PO&E of TGPC Members

		<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Program</u>
Bruce Lesikar	(Co Chair)	TCE	
Frank Fuller	(Co Chair)	TCEQ	Policy & Standards
Lee Parham		TDLR	
Michael Hare		TDA	
Cheryl Maxwell		Clearwater UWCD	
Ric Jensen		TWRI	

Agency Staff

Mary Ambrose		TCEQ	
John Lich		TCEQ	Technical Analysis Div
Steve Musick		TCEQ	Technical Analysis Div
Dana Porter		TCE	
Monty Dozier		TCE	

Interested Parties

Mel Davis		TSSWCB	
Lynne Fahlquist		USGS	

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda
2. Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Charge
3. TEX*A*Syst information sheet
4. Rural Water Well Assessment Check Sheet
5. Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells
6. Texas Groundwater Conservation District Color Map

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Bruce Lesikar started the meeting at 01:34 pm. He began with self introductions of those attending the meeting.

DISCUSSION OF SUBCOMMITTEE CHARGE

- Bruce Lesikar suggested that the subcommittee charge covers what the subcommittee should be doing over the next few years.
- He suggested that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the items on the charge.
- Mary Ambrose added that educational comments in the charge are the result of emphasis on education by the full committee in earlier years.
- She also gave a website for the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, namely www.tgpc.state.tx.us
- Bob Brach said we need to determine the order of items in the charge to address.
- Cheryl Maxwell asked if pesticide use and storage would be an issue with well water quality.
- Steve Musick said that the Agriculture Subcommittee has identified issues related to pesticide usage and we could talk about pesticide issues on the PO&E Subcommittee and we could refer some issues to the Agriculture Subcommittee if pesticide related.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Abandoned Well Closure

- Lee Parham said that we may have to modify investigative aspects regarding abandoned wells in the well closure guidance and he referred to the TDLR sunset bill §1901.255.
- Mary Ambrose sent a copy of the bill around the table.
- Lee Parham gave a chronology of the MOU related to investigation and enforcement of abandoned well closure.

- Mary Ambrose said that we are talking about well guides and outreach to groundwater districts.
- Lee Parham said that districts must enforce rules with respect to abandoned wells. At present the landowners guide needs revising. TCEQ has changed its name and other changes like this have occurred.
- TCEQ will coordinate the revision. Contact Lee Parham or Ric Jensen regarding this.
- Mary Ambrose said that the number of Groundwater Conservation Districts has changed. The map passed out (*prior to the beginning of this meeting*) by John Lich shows these changes.
- Lee Parham asked if there would be more plugging demonstrations.
- Bruce Lesikar said yes and that about 5 districts want demonstrations.
- TCE has applied for grants from CWAA to finance 319 proposals for P&A demonstrations.
- Mary Ambrose said that Bruce Lesikar was instrumental in getting educational video on plugging wells but we do not know how effective it was.
- Bruce Lesikar said that he does not know either.
- Bruce Lesikar asked if we publish a new well owners guide, do we need to take it through the TCEQ.
- Steve Musick said that we probably do not have to go through the TCEQ publication process.
- Mary Ambrose agreed that we probably do not.
- Steve Musick said that we could put it on our website. If Lee wants to send us revisions, he would do the rest.
- Lynne Fahlquist said that well construction may have a large impact on water quality.

Private Drinking Well Owner Quality Issues

- Mary Ambrose showed material from other sources about private well issues; the charge was to address radionuclides, arsenic, and nitrates.
- Lynne Fahlquist said perchlorate may be from natural sources like arsenic.
- Mary Ambrose said it would not hurt to develop a publication for perchlorate.
- Steve Musick said perchlorate is treatable but he was not sure how substantiated the protection standards were.
- Lynne Fahlquist said we do not know what the health based standard for rural wells will be with respect to perchlorate right now. People store pesticides near or in well houses.
- Bruce Lesikar said we need fact sheets to address contamination near wells.
- Mel Davis gave a list of publications available to the group.

OSSF Maintenance by Home Owner

- Mary Ambrose said we have a rapidly exploding suburban fringe with many who are not familiar with domestic wells and OSSF.
- Mel Davis cited examples of country county agent outreach on OSSF.
- Bob Brach asked if there was any idea of internet activity with respect to our TGPC website.
- He said most publications about septic tanks are 4 to 5 years old.
- He said new permitting rules may be a reason for them to be changed.
- He said that most people do not know if they are on a septic system and that perhaps some kind of notification should be sent with electric bills.
- Mary Ambrose asked what are some of the methods of distributing information.
- Bob Brach said to work with the electric company; put information brochures with bills.

- Michael Hare said that there may be good avenues to disseminate information like news stories on TV or radio.
- Bruce Lesikar said that fall is a good time to send public service announcements to something the owners can see.
- Bob Brach talked about certification of septic systems at the point of sale.
- He said that if grey water production is less than 400 gallons per day then the system does not need certification.
- He said that several videos are being created or are being mailed out.
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tex*a*syst groundwater quality protection program

- Mel Davis said that we might have to update tex*a*syst
- Mary Ambrose said some brochures are outdated and need replacing.
- Bruce Lesikar ranked priorities.
- Mary Ambrose said that Lee and Steve will work on landowners guide to abandoned wells (volunteered)
- Ric Jensen asked if there was a fact sheet on having water tested.
- Mel Davis said that Bruce Lesikar has a brochure on this.
- Mary Ambrose said that we had to come up with ways to get the attention of homeowners.
- Michael Hare asked if there is any evidence of health problems in areas where wetlands are in dirty conditions versus those in clean ones.
- Lynne Fahlquist said that she was not sure if the data is out there.
- The next meeting was set for 04 Aug 20004 as a teleconference.
- The meeting was adjourned at 04:00 pm.