

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Second Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2005

Meeting Date: April 8, 2005
Meeting No.: 04

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 2210

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| MEETING ATTENDANCE | 2 |
| MEETING HANDOUTS | 2 |
| MEETING RECORD OF April 8, 2005 | |
| 1. Call to Order and Introductions | 3 |
| 2. Review of Minutes from the December 16 Meeting | 3 |
| 3. Report on Tasks from the December Meeting | 3 |
| a. Abandoned Well Closure Fact Sheet | 3 |
| b. On-Site Wastewater Fact Sheet | 3 |
| c. Well-Plugging Closure Events | 3 |
| d. Fact Sheets on Radionuclides, Arsenic, etc. | 4 |
| e. Priority Groundwater Management Area Fact Sheet | 4 |
| 4. Fact Sheet Format | 4 |
| 5. Update on Options for Additional Outreach Activities | 6 |
| 6. Public Comment | 6 |
| 7. Announcements and Adjournment | 7 |

MEETING ATTENDANCE

| <u>PO&E of TGPC Members</u> | <u>Affiliation</u> | <u>Program</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Bruce Lesikar (Chair) | TCE | Water Supply |
| Jennifer Delk (Co-Chair) | TCEQ | |
| Michael Hare | TDA | |
| Lee Parham | TDLR | |
| <u>Agency Staff</u> | | |
| Joe Strouse | TCEQ | OSSF |
| Monty Dozier | TCE | |
| Janie Hopkins | TWDB | |
| Mel Davis | TSSWCB | |
| <u>Interested Parties</u> | | |
| Chris Ramser | Clearwater Underground Water District | |
| Lynne Fahlquist | USGS | |
| Mel Davis | TSSWCB | |

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Minutes from the December 16, 2004 meeting of the Subcommittee
2. Arsenic Fact Sheet - Michael Hare
3. Arsenic Fact Sheet - TWDB
4. Nitrates/Nitrites Fact Sheet - Michael Hare
5. Perchlorate Fact Sheet - Michael Hare
6. TCE Extension Folder with Water Fact Sheets
7. Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells
8. On-site wastewater treatment systems: Selecting and Permitting (English and Spanish)
9. On-site wastewater treatment systems: Constructed wetland media
10. On-site wastewater treatment systems: Liquid Chlorination
11. On-site wastewater treatment systems: Graywater
12. Nitrates/Nitrites Fact Sheet -TCE
13. Arsenic Fact Sheet - TCE
14. Radionuclides Fact Sheet - TCE
15. Perchlorate Fact Sheet - TCE
16. Priority Groundwater Management Area Fact Sheet
17. Additional Fact Sheets from other states

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bruce Lesikar started the meeting at approximately 1:40 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE December 16, 2004 MEETING

No comments on minutes from previous meeting.

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING

Abandoned Well Closure Fact Sheet- Update

Jennifer Delk reported that the *Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* had been completed and published through TCEQ in February. The report is available in electronic format through the TCEQ publications Web site. Jennifer noted that as long as you use the link to the document on the TCEQ agency communications Web site, you will always have the most current version of the document. When updates are made the document will keep the same publication number.

The Subcommittee reported that they were in the process of adding links to the document to their agency's Web sites.

On-site Wastewater Fact Sheets

Bruce Lesikar reported that the Selecting and Permitting fact sheet has been completed and is at the printer. The fact sheet is currently available in electronic format in both English and Spanish. The Graywater fact sheet is still in draft form. He wants to add some more information on the history component and more on the regulations. The Operations and Maintenance fact sheet regarding maintenance contracts is still being revised. He had hoped to finish it this week but was unable to.

Bruce said that he would like to start the review process on the on-site fact sheets by the end of April. The report will be sent through A&M and TCEQ OSSF for review in addition to the subcommittee members.

Lynne Fahlquist asked if there was a plan for where all of the electronic publications should reside. Jennifer Delk replied that the documents were going to reside on the Web site of the agency that had them published. Jennifer said that she will place links to all of these publications on the TGPC Web site on a separate publications page of things that TGPC had input on.

Well Plugging Closure Events - Monty Dozier, TCE

Well plugging demonstrations occurred in the following counties:

- Erath County - 20 people in attendance
- Robertson County - 20
- Fayette and Bastrop Counties (April 7, 2005) - 80 people
- Bell County (January 2005) - 50 people

There will be three plugging events next quarter. Robinson County and Nacadoches County in June and the Lipan-Kickapoo GCD (Concho, Tom Green, and Runnels) in July.

Producer meetings were held on water quality protection and watershed protection management. 15-20 minutes of the presentation were dedicated to well plugging. There were six events with 650 people in attendance.

Fact Sheets on Radionuclides, Arsenic, etc.

- Bruce Lesikar said that Michael Hare started on the toxicology aspect of the fact sheets and TCE added more information on treatment. He also mentioned that TWDB had also developed a fact sheet on arsenic.
- Janie Hopkins said that TWDB created a fact sheet as a vehicle for releasing a map on Arsenic occurrences in Texas.
- Michael Hare said that he is still working on toxicology for Radionuclides. He said that he should be finished in the next week.

Priority Groundwater Management Area Fact Sheet

Bruce Lesikar said that the first draft of the Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) Fact Sheet is now available. Some of the maps are missing but will be provided by TWDB. The document will be sent out to the subcommittee and the planning group that met on February 15 for review. The goal is to have a final draft ready and printed by the end of the summer.

FACT SHEET FORMAT

- Bruce Lesikar said that there are several items to address on the fact sheets. 1) Are we including the right information? 2) What do we want to do as far as format?
- The subcommittee agreed that including maps in the factsheets would make them more personal.
- Bruce Lesikar asked if want to use maps from Texas Tech University on Perchlorate?
- Lynne Fahlquist said that the USGS had put out a national map on arsenic. The USGS had not sampled in the High Plains area or south Texas and when you looked at that map it looked like there wasn't any arsenic in Texas. There were gaps in the information. The map had to be revised as a result. Lynne

- suggested that if we did produce a map for perchlorate we either zoom in on the High Plains area or if you show the whole state you say that the High Plains is the only place where an extensive study was conducted.
- The Subcommittee decided that due to lack of statewide information, maps would not be included in the perchlorate fact sheet. The information gaps would be misleading.
 - Janie Hopkins said that TWDB would supply maps on Radionuclides and Nitrate. Some of the data from USGS will be used to fill in the gaps in TWDB's Radionuclide data.
 - Michael Hare commented that the format of the TWDB Arsenic fact sheet was a good representation of how the fact sheets should be formatted. He said that some things would have to be cut out of the new fact sheets because they had a lot of extra information.
 - Bruce Lesikar said that the point would be to include all of the necessary information. Why is it a concern? Health effects, and if you have it how do you remove it? Adding a map if available.
 - Michael Hare asked who the publications would be geared towards, radionuclides are rather complex.
 - Bruce Lesikar responded that the fact sheets were geared towards the general public. Mainly home owners, but he hopes that communities will pick up on them for use in educational programs about local water resources. The target audience is a person who has a well and they are interested in knowing what they can do. What is in there, what is the risk, what can they do about it? That information would need to be in the fact sheet.
 - Lee Parham asked how the fact sheets would be circulated.
 - Lynne Fahlquist said that USGS attaches fact sheets to private well reports for owners as an FYI. Most of the time she has to reach for fact sheets from EPA or other states. It will be nice to have something geared specifically at Texas.
 - Lee Parham said that it was important to attach contact information to the fact sheets.
 - Monty Dozier said that the TCE Bookstore has a question/expert referral list. All publications have one contact number and one email (the bookstore) and from there people are referred to the appropriate person (that way the list is always current).
 - Bruce said that the fact sheets need a home and should be part of a package like the on-site series. Monty Dozier has the water related fact sheet series started. "Water and the Earth's Resources." The series is available in English and Spanish and they are available on the TCE Bookstore Web site. Bruce asked if it would be ok if the fact sheets were published as part of this series.
 - The subcommittee agreed to add the fact sheets on Arsenic, Nitrates/Nitrites, Radionuclides, and Perchlorate to the "Water and the Earth's Resources" factsheet series published through TCE.
 - Bruce Lesikar said that he wanted feedback in the next few weeks. Comments would need to be sent back to Bruce. Both arsenic documents (TWDB + the

original) would need to be reviewed. Maps would need to be put together. He wanted to have a draft ready for the agent training to make them aware of what is coming. Bruce said that the training will be in west Texas on May 9th. The goal is to make the agents aware of what resources are available to them and what issues they should be prepared to discuss.

- Bruce Lesikar will be taking comments on the draft materials through April 27th. He will get draft materials ready to take to Agent training on May 9th.
- Lynne Fahlquist asked about adding additional topics like dissolved solids to the series. She also asked if there was something that talked about general water quality issues for the homeowner.
- Monty Dozier said that TCE was in the process of adding copper, storage tanks, stored water for emergencies, and fluoride. He also mentioned that TCE had another series in the works called "Water and Me," which is geared at school age children. "Solving Water Quality Problems in the Home" addresses water quality issues for the homeowner.

UPDATE ON OPTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Michael Hare spoke about the report by the USDA Pesticide Data Program. The report talks about what pesticides we incorporate into our diet. It looks at over 150 different pesticides used on crops in the U.S. Data can be used nationwide. Drinking water has been in the report for the last three years. The USDA is trying to balance data collection between urban and rural areas. The data is available on the Pesticide Data Program Web site at www.ams.usda.gov/science/pdp. The report is useful because it gives a snapshot of the nation. There are currently two sites under review in Texas.

Michael said that he has been summarizing the report since he started at TDA and can send out his summaries for the past years along with the current publication.

- Monty Dozier said that Texas A&M has a grant to work with small water suppliers. There will be a training session on July 28, 2005 at McKinney Roughs. The morning will be dedicated to bioterrorism and what a water supplier should be involved with. There will also be a classes on bacteria sampling, finding funding and capacity building. There will be another training session in the Houston area this fall. He mentioned that it would be a good opportunity to distribute the fact sheets. Michael Hare said that may be a place to use some of the data from the pesticide data program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments Received.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

- Lee Parham announced that he will be giving a training at TAGD headquarters on April 29th for the district managers as part of the MOU.
- Bruce Lesikar asked if TGPC would be participating in the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair May 2nd - 4th. Jennifer Delk said that there hadn't been an interest in participating at the December meeting.
- Lynne Fahlquist said that the Professional Geoscientists were proposing to set up a statewide meeting.
- Jennifer Delk announced that she was now managing the TGPC Web site. She said that if there was anything missing/broken or something that they would like to see on the site to let her know.

Bruce Lesikar ended the meeting at approximately 3:00pm