

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Second Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2006

Meeting Date: January 31, 2006
Meeting No.: 05

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg E
Room: 254S

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING ATTENDANCE	2
MEETING HANDOUTS.....	2
MEETING RECORD OF JANUARY 31, 2006.....	3
1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS	3
2. DRINKING WATER FACT SHEETS STATUS – PLANNED OUTREACH.....	3
3. GROUNDWATER PROTECTION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION	4
4. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PLAN – DEVELOPMENT	5
5. ABANDONED WELL CLOSURE OUTREACH – MEASURE OF SUCCESS ...	5
6. ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	6
7. ADJOURN.....	7

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Affiliation

Bruce Lesikar (Chair)	Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE)
Radu Boghici	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Dawn Heitman	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Chris Ramser	Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD), Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Steve Musick	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Mary Ambrose	TCEQ
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ

Agency Staff

Affiliation

Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
John Williams	TCEQ

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. January 31, 2006 Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Charge
3. Excel Charts with Number of Well Plugging Reports by Year (2001 – 2005)
 - a. Nacogdoches County
 - b. Bell County
 - c. Fayette County
 - d. Gonzales County

MEETING RECORD OF JANUARY 31, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bruce Lesikar called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 AM. New Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee members and agency staff were introduced.

2. DRINKING WATER FACT SHEETS STATUS – PLANNED OUTREACH

A review of the Texas Cooperative Extension's Drinking Water Fact Sheets, their outreach efforts (e.g., fact sheets, presentation, well screening events, and well closure demonstrations) that are planned for this year, and how this outreach will implement the TGPC's Public Outreach and Education portion of the Groundwater Protection Strategy (http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf, p. 77) were discussed. Details:

- Groundwater quality awareness for private well owners:
 - Two fact sheets, one for arsenic and another for perchlorate, were developed by the Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) and are available on-line in English at <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2186> and <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2188>, respectively. Spanish versions in hard copy have been published, but on-line Spanish versions still need to be added to the TCE on-line bookstore.
 - Two additional fact sheets, one for radionuclides and another for nitrates, are available in hard copy and will be available on-line soon (target date is approximately March 1, 2006).
 - A drinking water standards terminology fact sheet should be available at the TCE on-line bookstore soon (target date is approximately March 1, 2006).
 - Links to these TCE fact sheets, or the publications themselves, need to be added to the TGPC website (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us>).
- TCE continued to coordinate a water well screening program across the state and established a youth educational program called "Water and Me" (<http://waterandme.tamu.edu>). An evolving water well screening schedule for the remainder of the year includes:
 - April 12, Brownfield (Terry County)
 - April 13, Lamesa (Dawson County)
 - May 2, 3, and 4
 - One day in Rock Springs (?) or Bracketville (?) (Edwards and Kenny Counties)
 - One day in Leakey (?) (Real County)
 - One day in Junction (?) (Kimball County)
 - May 16 and 17, Comanche (Comanche County)
 - October 3, 4, and 5, Laredo (Webb, Jim Hogg, and Duval Counties)Additional events will be scheduled later this year. Contact Monty Dozier (monty.dozier@tx.usda.gov, 979-845-2761) for more information.

- The Subcommittee revised its “Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells” document (available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-347_468722.pdf) and TCE performed several well closure demonstrations across the state.
- TCE published four fact sheets related to On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems:
 - Selecting and Permitting (<http://tcebookstore.org/tmppdfs/9483051-1017.pdf>).
 - Homeowner’s Guide to Evaluating Service Contracts (<http://tcebookstore.org/tmppdfs/9483051-2107.pdf>).
 - Soil Particle Analysis Procedure (<http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2082>).
 - Graywater (<http://tcebookstore.org/tmppdfs/9483051-2180.pdf>).
- TCE developed drinking water curriculum materials (a PowerPoint presentation and guidance document) for their county agents. When the final Acrobat and PowerPoint versions are available (target date is approximately 20Mar2006), a link to them will be added to the TGPC website.
- Future TCE Drinking Water Fact Sheets may address fuel constituents (e.g., MTBE and BTEX).

Radu Boghici indicated that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is working with several Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) to sample wells within these GCDs. This program may be expanded in the future as funding becomes available.

The possibility of giving a presentation (e.g., on drinking water contaminants, plugging abandoned water wells, the TGPC, on-site wastewater treatment systems, etc.) at one of the quarterly Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD, <http://www.texasgroundwater.org/>) meetings, to the Texas Rural Water association (TRWA, <http://www.trwa.org/>), and/or to the Texas Ground Water Association (TGWA, <http://www.tgwa.org/>) was briefly discussed. Additional planning is required.

3. GROUNDWATER PROTECTION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Bruce Lesikar remarked on TCE’s Urban Rancher program. Reviewing a variety of topics, this program also addresses general water quality issues in the growing suburban fringe of metropolitan areas. The Urban Rancher program is currently only available in Comal, Harris, Brazoria, and Waller Counties.

Bruce Lesikar referenced a new publication, “Residential Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: An Operation and Maintenance Service Provider Program” (SP-252), available at the TCE on-line bookstore (<http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2269>). TCEQ has obtained a copy – contact Kathy McCormack (kmccorma@tceq.state.tx.us, 512-239-3975) if you would like to review it.

An on-line TCE publication related to UV disinfection used in on-site wastewater treatment systems should be available later this year.

The need for another Graywater Fact Sheet related to homeowner health and safety issues was discussed. The first TCE Graywater Fact Sheet, "On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems: Graywater" (<http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2180>), reviewed system design issues.

There was a discussion of the approximately 2,000 On-site Sewage Facility (OSSF) operator and maintenance licensees in the state that need to be trained by September 1, 2006. Outlines for the mandatory maintenance provider training and homeowner training can be found at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/compliance_support/regulatory/ossf/trainingoutline.html. After the maintenance provider class has been satisfactorily completed, the maintenance provider would then take manufacturer-specific training. Approved training providers for the Basic Maintenance Provider course are still unknown at this time.

An agenda item for the next Subcommittee meeting will be to review the accomplishments that will be documented in the next Legislative Report.

4. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PLAN – DEVELOPMENT

Bruce Lesikar reported that there will be an abandoned well closure demonstration in Bell County on April 19, 2006. The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (UWCD) has also announced a cost sharing program for plugging abandoned water wells in Bell County (http://www.clearwaterdistrict.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1).

There will be a TGPC booth at the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair on May 9 – 11, 2006. Material is being revised and prepared for display and dissemination at the Trade Fair.

TCE has a pending contract with TCEQ to perform five groundwater-related educational events by the end of fiscal year 2006. Additional agency/organization representation on the Subcommittee would facilitate reaching as many areas of the community as possible. The Subcommittee's main goal for the remainder of the year is the development of a formal Educational Outreach Plan with action items, responsible parties, and target dates that can be delivered to the TGPC and other outside groups in order to request funding.

5. ABANDONED WELL CLOSURE OUTREACH – MEASURE OF SUCCESS

In an effort to measure the success of the Subcommittee's abandoned well closure outreach, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) provided data on Well Plugging Reports from four counties prior to the Subcommittee meeting. During the meeting, TCE provided the dates of their well closure demonstrations in those four counties. However, since most of these demonstrations were in 2005, TDLR may not have entered all of this data into their system yet, so additional review will be required.

The Subcommittee agreed to work with the Clearwater UWCD and the Bell County Agriculture Agent on their April 19, 2006 abandoned well closure demonstration in order to discuss any follow-up with attendees.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee's Legal Advisor also attended this meeting, and he shared some background information and opinions on teleconferencing and videoconferencing options for future Subcommittee meetings. Unfortunately, these options are not available to us at this time. Additional discussion of this topic will continue.

Free training regarding Open Meetings and Open Records is available at the Texas Attorney General's website (<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/>), and TGPC members and Subcommittee members are required to take this training. Copies of the Certificate of Course Completion will be kept on file by the Committee and should be sent to Cary Betz, TCEQ, Mail Code 147, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

Below is a list of some water-related conferences and education events in Texas for the remainder of the year:

- Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council Conference, Mar 6 – 8, Waco, http://www.towtrc.state.tx.us/conferences/TOWTRCBro06NEW_1.pdf
- Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Trade Show, Mar 26 – 29, San Antonio, http://www.texascattleraisers.org/06%20Con_TS.TSCRA.htm
- TAWWA/WEAT Texas Water 2006, Apr 4 – 7, Austin, www.texas-water.com/pages/131574/index.htm
- NGWA 2006 Ground Water Summit, Apr 23 – 26, San Antonio, <https://info.ngwa.org/servicecenter/Meetings/MeetingDetail.cfm?meetingid=633&feecatuid=2009&datecatuid=1031>
- Texas Association of RC&D Areas 2006 Annual Convention, Apr 30 – May 3, Wichita Falls, http://www.texasrcd.org/RCD_2006convention_details.htm
- TNRIIS Texas GIS Forum, May 1 – 5, Austin, <http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/Forum2006/index.html>
- AWWA GIS and Water Resources IV, May 8 – 10, Houston, www.awra.org/meetings/Houston2006/index.html
- TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair and Conference, May 9 – 11, Austin, <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/events/etfc/etf.html>
- Environmental Defense Annual Water Conference, May 12, Austin, details forthcoming at <http://www.texaswatermatters.org/>
- AWWA 2006 Annual Conference & Exhibition, Jun 11 – 15, San Antonio, www.awwa.org/ace06/
- National Environmental Health Association Conference & Exhibition, Jun 25 – 28, San Antonio, <http://www.neha.org/AEC/2006/index.html>
- Sanitation World 2006, Aug 16 – 19, Grapevine, <http://www.sanitationworld.com/>
- Irrigation Association Annual International Irrigation Show, Nov 5 – 7, San Antonio, link error – details forthcoming

- Texas State Envirothon Contest, Mar 25 – 27, Longview,
<http://www.texasenvirothon.org/>
- State Wildlife Alliance for Youth State Contest, May 9, TSSWCB Region V,
<http://www.texasffa.org/Default.aspx?tabid=9549>

7. ADJOURN

The next Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2006.

Bruce Lesikar adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:25 PM.