

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

Meeting Date: March 20, 2006
Meeting No.: 06

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 2210

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Affiliation

Bruce Lesikar (Chair)	Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE)
Radu Boghici	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Mel Davis	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
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Lynne Fahlquist	United States Geological Survey (USGS)
Ned Meister	Texas Farm Bureau

Agency Staff

Affiliation

Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
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MEETING HANDOUTS

1. March 20, 2006 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. January 31, 2006 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Draft Report to the 80th Legislature – TGPC POE Subcommittee Accomplishments List
4. Draft TGPC POE Subcommittee Educational Outreach Plan
5. TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair & Conference background information
6. TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair & Conference brochure
7. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee brochure (TCEQ publication GI-88), dated November 1994
8. Archived text file for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee brochure
9. Texas State Management Plan for the Prevention of Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater brochure (TCEQ publication GI-141), dated June 1995
10. Archived text file for Texas State Management Plan for the Prevention of Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater brochure
11. 2006 Conferences in Texas, dated March 2006

MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 20, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee members and agency staff were introduced.

2. REVIEW RECORD OF JANUARY 31, 2006 MEETING

There were no concerns with the previous meeting's record.

3. DRINKING WATER FACT SHEETS STATUS – PLANNED OUTREACH

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) discussed the status of TCE's Drinking Water Fact Sheets:

- On-line Spanish versions of the Arsenic and Perchlorate Fact Sheets still need to be added to the TCE on-line bookstore.
- The Radionuclides Fact Sheet is back from the editor and will be sent to Michael Hare (TDA) for approval
- The Nitrates Fact Sheet is not back from the editor yet. A Spanish version is planned once the English version is completed.

Mary Ambrose (TCEQ) requested that date/time/location information regarding TCE's water well screenings and well closure demonstrations be placed on the TGPC website.

4. *REPORT TO THE 80TH LEGISLATURE* – REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS LIST

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) suggested that the previous *Report* be reviewed for appropriate paragraphs that can be updated. The time period of interest for this *Report* is September 2004 through August 2006.

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that the On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Fact Sheet on Selecting and Permitting (TCE publication B-6077, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=1017>) is now also available in Spanish (TCE publication B-6077S, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=1045>). The remaining three On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Fact Sheets do not yet have Spanish versions:

- Homeowner's Guide to Evaluating Service Contracts (TCE publication B-6171, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2107>)
- Soil Particle Analysis Procedure (TCE publication B-6175, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2082>)
- Graywater (TCE publication B-6176, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2180>)

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) will check on the number of hits on TCE's website for the Drinking Water and On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Fact Sheets. At this time, hits on the TGPC website are not tracked.

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) suggested that the TCE Drinking Water and On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Fact Sheets be added to the TGPC website, but more information will be needed before this is done.

5. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PLAN – REVIEW DRAFT

Discussion focused on the Areas of Concern section of the draft Educational Outreach Plan.

Lynne Fahlquist (USGS) suggested that we explain why the recommended outreach activities are needed and why the specific audiences are important.

Steve Musick (TCEQ) requested that we get more information from the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) on their outreach to landowners under their jurisdiction.

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) commented that we may want to note the change in land use across the state (i.e., the shift from agricultural use to an urban/suburban fringe) and the large variety of chemicals now in use that can contaminate groundwater.

David Gunn (TDLR) reported that they will have a program on-line soon for reporting and checking the status of abandoned wells (<http://www.license.state.tx.us/abwells/default.aspx>). TDLR also has a checklist (<http://www.license.state.tx.us/wwd/Abandoned%20Well%20Determination%20Checklist.pdf>) for bringing wells into compliance so that they can be capped (vs. plugged). Bruce Lesikar (TCE) suggested that the Subcommittee might want to work on or review this checklist. Down hole cameras (\$700 – \$1,000) were discussed for their use in determining the integrity of a well. Steve Musick (TCEQ) suggested that the National Ground Water Association (NGWA, <http://www.ngwa.org/index.cfm>) may be a good resource in this checklist effort.

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) asked about additional areas of information that may be required from a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) perspective that should be included in this Plan (e.g., implementation of the TDLR/TCEQ/GCD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a list of GCD cost-sharing programs, educational needs, grants for down hole cameras, etc.).

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) suggested that the draft Plan be emailed to the POE Subcommittee for review and feedback by March 31, 2006.

6. TGPC BOOTH AT THE TCEQ ENVIRONMENTAL TRADE FAIR ON
MAY 9 – 11, 2006

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that the original TGPC brochure (TCEQ publication GI-88, dated November 1994) and the original Texas State Management Plan for the Prevention of Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater brochure (TCEQ publication GI-141, dated June 1995) were being updated, hopefully in time for the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) suggested that the Trade Fair information be emailed to the POE Subcommittee in order to obtain staffing support for the TGPC booth. Feedback was requested by March 31, 2006.

7. ABANDONED WELL CLOSURE OUTREACH – MEASURE OF SUCCESS
UPDATE

Outside of the POE Subcommittee meeting, Steve Musick (TCEQ) provided a response to a question raised at the January 31, 2006 POE Subcommittee meeting regarding well closure reporting under the TDLR/TCEQ/GCD MOU

(<http://www.license.state.tx.us/wwd/wwdrules.htm#761011>):

- Section (d) of the MOU addresses the responsibilities of participating GCDs;
 - Section (d) paragraph (3) provides that a GCD performing an investigation of an abandoned well complaint referred by TDLR shall notify the TDLR of the disposition of the case;
 - Section (d) paragraphs (4) and (5) provide that a GCD may coordinate and communicate any abandoned well complaint with TDLR.

8. OPEN MEETINGS AND OPEN RECORDS TRAINING – MEMBER STATUS
UPDATE

Mary Ambrose (TCEQ) requested that a reminder email be sent to the POE Subcommittee about its Open Government training requirements. Free training regarding Open Meetings and Open Records is available at the Texas Attorney General's website (<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/>). A free copy of the training videos on DVD can also be obtained by calling 1-800-252-8011. TGPC members and all of its Subcommittee members are required to take the Open Meetings training, only.

At the end of the Open Meetings video there is a verification code and instructions for obtaining the certificate of completion. Copies of the Certificate of Course Completion will be kept on file by the TGPC and should be sent to Cary Betz, TCEQ, Mail Code 147, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or emailed to Mary Ambrose, mambrose@tceq.state.tx.us.

Designated representatives serving on the POE Subcommittee as of January 1, 2006 have a full year, until January 1, 2007, to complete the required training. POE Subcommittee

representatives designated after January 1, 2006 have 90 days from their first meeting to complete the training.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual meeting of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Districts is scheduled for October 23 – 25, 2006 in Fort Worth, Texas.

TCE and CUWCD will be providing a well plugging demonstration in Bell County on April 19, 2006.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

11. ADJOURN

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 24, 2006.

Bruce Lesikar adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM.