

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION (POE) SUBCOMMITTEE
 OF THE
 TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE (TGPC)
 RECORD OF MEETING
 Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2007

Meeting Date: April 5, 2007
 Meeting No.: 12

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
 Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Bruce Lesikar (Chair)	Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Steve Musick	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ
Al Cherepon	TCEQ
Radu Boghici	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Mel Davis	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Registration (TDLR)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. April 5, 2007 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. February 12, 2007 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee, Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, Draft Implementation Strategy, April 5, 2007
4. Draft Best Management Practices to Prevent Pesticide Contamination of Water Resources
5. Protecting the Environment Using Integrated Weed Management in Lawns (TCE publication L-5324, <http://tcebookstore.org/tmppdfs/18302763-L5324.pdf>)
6. Draft Capping of Water Wells for Future Use and feedback from Mel Davis (TSSWCB), Barry Miller (Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts), Clifford Byrd (TCEQ), David Gunn (TDLR), Radu Boghici (TWDB), and Kathy McCormack (TCEQ)
7. Draft On Site Wastewater Treatment System Operation and Maintenance and feedback from Joe Peters (TCEQ), Jack Northey (TCEQ), Alicia Lee (TCEQ), Tom Weber (TCEQ), Mary Ambrose (TCEQ), and Kathy McCormack (TCEQ)
8. 2007 Water-related Conferences in Texas

MEETING RECORD OF APRIL 5, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bruce Lesikar (TCE), Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:08 PM CST. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

2. GROUNDWATER EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PLAN

Discuss Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Draft Implementation Strategy

Although feedback on the *Draft Implementation Strategy* was due on March 29, 2007, some input was received just before the meeting, so the attendees had not had a chance to review the updated version of the *Strategy* prior to the meeting. In addition, Issue D (Groundwater Conservation Districts) and Issue J (Groundwater and Oil & Gas Wells) had not yet been completed. It was agreed that Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) would obtain input for Issues D and J from their respective champions by the end of April 2007, and then email the updated *Strategy* to the Subcommittee in May 2007 for review and feedback prior to the next meeting.

Steve Musick (TCEQ) pointed out the TCE has already addressed some aspects of public outreach related to abandoned water wells (Issue C) through their contract with TCEQ by working with the POE Subcommittee to produce a well plugging document (1) and by performing well plugging demonstrations across the state. However, Steve Musick asked if there were any additional specific activities that TCE could suggest to include in Issue C, particularly related to broadcast media. Bruce Lesikar (TCE) suggested a popular press article on abandoned water wells and the TDLR Abandoned Well Determination Criteria checklist and Plugging Report form (2, 3); this could then be converted into a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) format and posted on the TGPC website. Steve Musick suggested that this be added as a Specific Activity to Issue C.

David Gunn reminded the members that slide presentations regarding how to identify abandoned water wells, and what to do about them, were given in the past and could be offered again, posted on-line, and/or converted into a video. This could also be added as a Specific Activity to Issue C. David Gunn volunteered to check TDLR's website for any abandoned water well FAQ items. After the meeting, it was found that the TDLR website already has a list of 12 FAQs (4) related to abandoned water wells.

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) indicated that he would distribute graywater and abandoned water well popular press articles to the POE Subcommittee for review and feedback. Similarly, Steve Musick (TCEQ) offered to provide a popular press article on Priority Groundwater Management Areas (PGMAs) to the POE Subcommittee for review and feedback.

David Gunn (TDLR) also suggested re-issuing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TCEQ, TDLR, and Groundwater Conservations Districts (GCDs) (5) with reference to TDLR's new webpage where abandoned water wells can be reported on-line (6).

(1) http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/files/rg-347.pdf_4006151.pdf

(2)

<http://www.license.state.tx.us/wwd/Abandoned%20Well%20Determination%20Checklist.pdf>

(3) <http://www.license.state.tx.us/wwd/wwd004.pdf>

(4) <http://www.license.state.tx.us/wwd/wwdfaq.htm#adw>

(5)

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/legal/rules/hist_rules/Complete.04s/04059007/04059007_ado_clean.pdf

(6) <http://www.license.state.tx.us/abwells/default.aspx>

Identify Potential Team Members to Work on Specific Issues

This agenda item was not discussed.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT EDUCATIONAL BROCHURES AND FACT SHEETS

Pesticides and Groundwater

Michael Hare (TDA) again suggested that "Degradation" be added and defined in the draft Pesticides and Groundwater brochure under the heading "Pesticide properties that affect risk of contamination". The POE Subcommittee agreed with this suggestion. The POE Subcommittee then agreed that the draft brochure was ready to begin the TCE publication process.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) provided the POE Subcommittee with a copy of a TCE publication entitled, "Protecting the Environment Using Integrated Weed Management in Lawns" (L-5324). The POE Subcommittee agreed that this would be appropriate to distribute from the TGPC booth, and after the meeting Michael Hare (TDA) confirmed that the information it contained was still accurate.

The City of Austin's current Grow Green Weed & Feed campaign (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/downloads/weedandfeed.pdf>) was also mentioned and briefly discussed.

Capping of Water Wells for Future Use

Feedback on the draft Fact Sheet was due April 3, 2007. Steve Musick (TCEQ) requested final feedback on the draft Fact Sheet as soon as possible so that TCE's end-of-fiscal-year contract deadline could be met. David Gunn (TDLR) offered to provide

language to include in the document that would clearly differentiate between a well that can be capped for future use and one that is abandoned and therefore must be plugged and reported. Bruce Lesikar (TCE) agreed to incorporate the comments received to-date and redistribute the draft Fact Sheet, asking for final comments by the end of April 2007, so that it could be submitted to TCE's internal editorial process by mid-May 2007.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Operation and Maintenance

Feedback on the draft Fact Sheet was due April 3, 2007. Steve Musick (TCEQ) requested final feedback on the draft Fact Sheet as soon as possible so that TCE's end-of-fiscal-year contract deadline could be met. Steve Musick agreed to contact Mary Ambrose (TCEQ) and obtain her feedback on the document. Bruce Lesikar (TCE) agreed to incorporate Mary Ambrose's comments, and the comments received to-date, and redistribute the draft Fact Sheet, asking for final comments by the end of April 2007, so that it could be submitted to TCE's internal editorial process by mid-May 2007.

4. STATUS REPORTS

Fiscal Year 2007 Drinking Water and OSSF Fact Sheets

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) indicated that he had no report from Monty Dozier (TCE) on the draft Drinking Water Fact Sheet about Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE), and that the draft On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Fact Sheet about System Operation and Maintenance is under review.

TGPC Display and Booth – Recent and Upcoming Events

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported on recent TGPC displays and booths:

- “National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 11 – 17, 2007” poster for the Texas Capitol building, March 14, 2007
 - 100 estimated visitors

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) also requested TGPC staffing assistance with the TGPC booth at the TCEQ 2007 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference on May 1 – 3, 2007. Each exhibitor booth comes with one complimentary badge which will allow anyone from a TGPC member agency the opportunity to attend some of the conference presentations at no cost.

5. DISCUSS EFFECTIVENESS OF TGPC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Abandoned Water Well Closures

There was no additional discussion of this agenda item.

Drinking Water and OSSF Fact Sheets

Steve Musick (TCEQ) asked about the number of Fact Sheets that have been reprinted. Bruce Lesikar (TCE) agreed to obtain some related information from TCE's online bookstore website statistics (<http://tcewebstats.tamu.edu/>). Those without a password can click on "View Reported Stats" and obtain information on the number of webpages viewed and the number of unique visitors for broad categories of TCE publications (e.g., Onsite Wastewater Treatment). Those with a password can obtain the number of downloads for individual publications; for example, for January – April, 2007:

- B-6171, On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems: Homeowner's Guide to Evaluating Service Contracts, was downloaded 204 times; and,
- B-6176, On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems: Graywater, was downloaded 120 times.

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) is researching the number of hard copy reprints for the above two TGPC-sponsored OSSF Fact Sheets and for the eight TGPC-sponsored Drinking Water Fact Sheets (listed below), both under the TCEQ/TCE contract and its amendments, and any that TCE has reprinted using their own funds.

- Arsenic – English, L-5467; Spanish, L-5467S
- Perchlorate – English, L-5468; Spanish, L-5468S
- Nitrate – English, B-6184; Spanish, B-6184S
- Radionuclides – English, B-6192; Spanish, B-6192S

TGPC Display and Booth

There was no additional discussion of this agenda item.

TGPC Website

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that Mary Ambrose (TCEQ) intends to purchase the Quarterly Website Statistics package from the TGPC's web host (The Wilkins Group, Inc.) in Fiscal Year 2008. Kathy McCormack also indicated that TCEQ's Groundwater Team was working on a TCEQ webpage that would address questions from the public related to private water wells.

6. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 11, 2007, 1:00 PM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) announced that Bell County has a water well plugging event planned for June 12, 2007.

Steve Musick (TCEQ) announced that the next TGPC meeting was scheduled for April 18, 2007.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:40 PM CST.