

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

Meeting Date: November 9, 2006
Meeting No.: 10

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
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Mel Davis	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Steve Box	Environmental Stewardship

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. November 9, 2006 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. September 19, 2006 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Final Draft of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan
4. *The Impact of By-Laws and Public Education Programs on Reducing the Cosmetic / Non-Essential, Residential Use of Pesticides: A Best Practices Review* (<http://www.c2p2online.com/documents/PesticidesBestPracticeReview-FINAL040324.pdf>), The Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention (<http://www.c2p2online.com/index.php3?session=>) and CULLBRIDGE™ Marketing and Communications (<http://www.cullbridge.com/>), 2004.
5. 2006 – 2007 Water-related Conferences in Texas

MEETING RECORD OF NOVEMBER 9, 2006

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 10:03 AM CST. POE Subcommittee members and visitors were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

2. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PLAN

Discuss and Finalize Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the updates in the final draft of the *Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan* from the previous version. Issue A (Urban Landowner Pesticide Application and Groundwater) was discussed at length and slightly revised. Mel Davis (TSSWCB) then proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all POE Subcommittee members voted to approve the final draft of the *Plan*, as amended (based on discussion of Issue A during the meeting), and recommended that it be submitted to the Committee for consideration at their next meeting. TCEQ staff were also given permission to make any additional grammatical changes that may be needed.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding opportunities to support work on some of the Issues in the *Plan* may become available in the early spring of 2007. Potential team members who could work on specific Issues in the *Plan* will be identified at the next POE Subcommittee meeting. The TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee may also be able to assist with Issue A.

Identify and Discuss Potential Projects for Fiscal Year 2007

Steve Musick (TCEQ) reported that a contract amendment with Monty Dozier (TCE) has been approved for Fiscal Year 2007 for domestic water well owner outreach, including water well screening events in various parts of the state. Another amendment to this contract is being considered regarding Fact Sheets on drinking water (i.e., hydrocarbons), On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF; i.e., homeowner maintenance and graywater usage), and water well capping (vs. plugging). David Gunn (TDLR) offered to participate in the development and review of the latter Fact Sheet.

3. STATUS REPORTS

TGPC Display and Booth – Recent and Upcoming Events

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

- Clean River and Nonpoint Source Programs State-wide Stakeholder Meetings on October 11 – 12, 2006
 - 20 estimated visitors

- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Annual Meeting on October 23 – 25, 2006
 - 350 visitors
- EPA Land Revitalization Summit on October 30 – November 1, 2006
 - 20 estimated visitors
- Bell County Water Symposium on November 8, 2006
 - 52 visitors

The POE Subcommittee discussed whether to support a TGPC display or booth at several upcoming events:

- 2006 Texas Plant Protection Association (TPPA) Annual Conference on December 5 – 6, 2006
- Texas Agricultural Aviation Association (TAAA) 2007 Annual Convention and Exhibition on January 10 – 12, 2007
- Texas Ag Industries Association (TAIA) 2007 Annual Meeting on January 16 – 18, 2007
- Texas Ground Water Association (TGWA) Convention and Trade Show on January 23 – 26, 2007

The POE Subcommittee agreed that additional educational handouts related to pesticides and groundwater would be very helpful for the above audiences.

FY2006 – FY2007 Drinking Water Fact Sheets

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that TCEQ feedback on the Spanish version of the Radionuclides Fact Sheet has been forwarded to the TCE Spanish publications translation specialist.

Abandoned Water Well Closure – Outreach Activities and Effectiveness

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that Monty Dozier (TCE) would be testing their new down-hole camera during the following week.

Open Meetings and Open Records Training of Subcommittee Members

Subcommittee members were again reminded of the need to complete their Open Meetings training.

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.

Members 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 members who become active after January 1, 2006 have 90 days from their first meeting to complete the training.

4. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2007, 9:00 AM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 564. Starting in 2007, POE Subcommittee meetings will occur on a quarterly basis (vs. the bi-monthly meetings that occurred in 2006).

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) referred everyone to the list of 2006 – 2007 Water-related Conferences in Texas.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Box (Environmental Stewardship) wanted to encourage the POE Subcommittee in its mission of public outreach regarding groundwater, its relationship to surface water, and the importance of groundwater to the future of the state. He remarked that the current focus of the *Plan* was on landowners, but that there are others that should also be part of the *Plan's* audience (e.g., pesticide users). For the TGPC display and booth, Steve Box thought that it might be useful to have a broader theme, such as, "Why are these issues important?" He also suggested having a looping video (e.g., does EPA have any short videos on groundwater?) or a looping PowerPoint presentation running at the booth.

7. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:52 AM CST.