

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
 OF THE
 TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
 RECORD OF MEETING
 Fourth Quarter, Fiscal Year 2007

Meeting Date: July 11, 2007
 Meeting No.: 13

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
 Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Affiliation

Bruce Lesikar (Chair)	Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Steve Musick	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Mary Ambrose	TCEQ
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ
Al Cherepon	TCEQ
Radu Boghici	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Linda Ruiz McCall	TWDB
Mel Davis	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Leslie Savage	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. July 11, 2007 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. April 5, 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, July 11, 2007
4. North-Central Texas Update PGMA Study for the Trinity Aquifer popular press article
5. Central Texas Update PGMA Study for the Trinity Aquifer popular press article
6. Funding available through Galveston Bay Education and Outreach Grant Program notice
7. 2007 STORET/WQX Users Conference notice
8. EPA Releases Nonpoint Source Outreach Toolbox notice
9. 2007 Water-related Conferences in Texas

MEETING RECORD OF JULY 11, 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 1:12 PM CST. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

2. GROUNDWATER EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PLAN – DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

View TWDB/LCRA Major Rivers (and Groundwater) Water Education Curriculum Video

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) gave an presentation on the *Major Rivers* curriculum for 4th and 5th grade students, and the POE Subcommittee watched the nine-minute introductory video that is part of the teaching package. The *Major Rivers* program provides information on the entire hydrologic cycle, including groundwater. Linda Ruiz McCall also provided information on TWDB's *Raising Your Water IQ* (for middle school students) and *Water IQ – Know Your Water* (for high school students and adults) educational outreach programs. Additional information on all three programs can be found at <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/education.asp>.

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) then demonstrated how a table-top aquifer model could be used in outreach activities and the POE Subcommittee discussed whether this might be appropriate for the TGPC booth. Steve Musick (TCEQ) suggested that if a video could be created of the model in action, the video could be shown at the TGPC booth.

Discuss and Approve Draft Implementation Strategy

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) pointed out the changes to the Implementation Strategy from the last POE Subcommittee meeting:

- Pages 6 – 7 (Issue C, Abandoned Water Well Closure), the addition of Specific Activities 2 – 5; and,
- Page 10 (Issue D, Groundwater Conservation Districts, *Major Rivers Program*), the addition of Specific Activity 3, a link to the TWDB's online evaluation form in Specific Activity 4, and several other minor wording changes.

Steve Musick (TCEQ) suggested that *Raising Your Water IQ* and *Water IQ – Know Your Water* be added to Issue D.

The Implementation Strategy will be edited further and presented to the POE Subcommittee again at the next meeting.

Identify Potential Team Members to Work on Specific Implementation Strategy Issues

This agenda item was not discussed.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT EDUCATIONAL TRIFOLD BROCHURES, FACT SHEETS, AND POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES

Capping of Water Wells for Future Use

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that the term “abandoned well” was removed from this Fact Sheet since abandoned wells can not be capped. Bruce Lesikar will provide the editor’s final proof of this Fact Sheet to Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) to forward to the POE Subcommittee for comments. Final comments will be due by the end of July 2007.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Operation and Maintenance

Bruce Lesikar will also provide the editor’s final proof of this Fact Sheet to Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) to forward to the POE Subcommittee for comments. Final comments will be due by the end of July 2007.

Drinking Water Problems: MTBE

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that this Fact Sheet is being revised.

Drinking Water Problems: Benzene

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that this Fact Sheet is also being revised.

North-Central Texas Update PGMA Study for the Trinity Aquifer

This article was published in the Texas Ground Water Association (TGWA) newsletter (1st Quarter 2007, <http://www.tgwa.org/downloads/newsletter/Fountainhead-Q1-2007.pdf>). It was provided to the POE Subcommittee as an example popular press article, and Steve Musick (TCEQ) pointed out that this kind of article would need to be date stamped before posting it on the TGPC website.

Central Texas Update PGMA Study for the Trinity Aquifer

This example popular press article has been submitted for publication in the TGWA newsletter in Fall 2007.

4. STATUS REPORTS

Fiscal Year 2007 Drinking Water and On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Fact Sheets

This topic was addressed in section 3, above.

Fiscal Year 2007 TCE Water Well Screening Events

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that Monty Dozier (TCE) and John Smith (TCE) had collected a number of water well samples after the recent flooding in Marble Falls, Texas.

Fiscal Year 2007 TCE Abandoned Water Well Closures

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that an abandoned, hand-dug water well closure demonstration had taken place on June 12, 2007 in Bell County in association with the Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District – it had very good media coverage due to the 20-year anniversary of the “Baby Jessica” incident (18-month-old Jessica McClure fell into a Midland, Texas well on October 14, 1987, and rescuers worked for 58 hours to free her from an 8-inch-wide pipe). Another abandoned water well closure demonstration may be coordinated in Bell County in October 2007.

Fiscal Year 2008 Planned TCE Water Well Screening Events, TCE Abandoned Water Well Closures, Reprints, and Publications

Mary Ambrose (TCEQ) suggested that a video be developed for water well capping.

TGPC Display and Booth – Recent and Upcoming Events

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

- TCEQ 2007 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference on May 1 – 3, 2007
 - 176 estimated visitors

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) also indicated that the TGPC booth is scheduled for two upcoming events:

- TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference, August 14 – 15, 2007; and,
- 15th National NPS Monitoring Workshop, August 26 – 30, 2007.

5. DISCUSS EFFECTIVENESS OF TGPC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Drinking Water and OSSF Fact Sheets

There was no additional discussion of this agenda item.

TCE Water Well Screening Events

There was no additional discussion of this agenda item.

TCE Abandoned Water Well Closures

There was no additional discussion of this agenda item.

TGPC Display and Booth

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that a free-standing, nine-pocket (8.5" x 11") display rack had been purchased and would be used for nine of the Texas maps currently placed on the table.

TGPC Website

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that the website hosting contract had been approved for Fiscal Year 2008 and that it included four quarters of website activity statistics data.

6. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, 2007; however, due to the schedule conflict of several members, it was subsequently rescheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2007, 1:00 PM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 2210.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) referred the POE Subcommittee to several handouts regarding:

- Funding available through Galveston Bay Education and Outreach Grant Program (application deadline is September 6, 2007);
- The free 2007 STORET/WQX Users Conference on November 27 – 29, 2007 in Austin, Texas;
- EPA's release of a Nonpoint Source Outreach Toolbox, a comprehensive set of web-based resources designed to assist communities across the U.S. conduct locally effective watershed education and outreach activities; and,
- 2007 Water-related Conferences in Texas.

Steve Musick (TCEQ) reported that TCEQ is entering its Nonpoint Source (NPS) grant cycle and that interested individuals should watch the TCEQ website for further announcements.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:19 PM CST.