

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

Meeting Date: February 12, 2007  
 Meeting No.: 11

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
 Room: 3202A

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Subcommittee Members

### Affiliation

Bruce Lesikar (Chair)	Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE)
Monty Dozier	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
Mel Davis	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Dee Lurry	United States Geological Survey (USGS)
Denise Gentsch	Syngenta

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. February 12, 2007 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. November 9, 2006 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, November 13, 2006
4. TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan – Proposed Implementation Strategy
5. Draft Best Management Practices to Prevent Pesticide Contamination of Water Resources
6. Draft Capping of Water Wells for Future Use
7. Draft On Site Wastewater Treatment System Operation and Maintenance
8. Cronkite to Narrate “Texas: The State of Springs” Documentary Feb. 15
9. Time for Your Water Well Checkup, National Groundwater Awareness Week 2007
10. Aquatic Non-Scents – Repercussions of water pollutants that mute smell, *Science News*, Vol. 171, No. 4, Jan. 27, 2007, p. 59.
11. 2007 Water-related Conferences in Texas

## MEETING RECORD OF FEBRUARY 12, 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 10:13 AM 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

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed a proposed implementation strategy. Bruce Lesikar (TCE) suggested that there may be some beneficial interaction between Issue I (Education for Domestic Water Well Owners: Quantity) and Issue B (New Rural Landowners and Groundwater Wells).

The Subcommittee decided to ask each champion to prepare a list of short-term (less than one year to complete) and long-term (1 – 5 years to complete) activities for their Issue to be reviewed at the next meeting. Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) will prepare the outline format for everyone to use.

Identify Potential Team Members to Work on Specific Issues

During the course of the discussion, several potential team members were suggested:

- Issue A – Urban Landowner Pesticide Application and Groundwater – Lynne Fahlquist (USGS), Michael Hare (TDA), Al Cherepon (TCEQ)
- Issue D – Groundwater Conservation Districts (*Local GCD Symposiums*) – Chris Ramser (Clearwater UWCD), Donny Dipple (Texas Ag Industries Association)
- Issue E – Access to TGPC Agencies’/Organizations’ Groundwater Program Information and General Groundwater Information – Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Bruce Lesikar (TCE)
- Issue F – Tex\*A\*SYST – Monty Dozier (TCE), Mel Davis (TSSWCB)
- Issue G – On-Site Wastewater Treatment/Disposal Systems Education – Bruce Lesikar
- Issue J – Groundwater and Oil & Gas Wells (*Plugging Abandoned Oil & Gas Wells*) and Groundwater and Oil & Gas Wells (*Converting Abandoned Oil & Gas Wells into Water Wells*) – TDLR, TAGD, RCT

### 3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS AN INTRODUCTORY EDUCATIONAL BROCHURE ON PESTICIDES AND GROUNDWATER FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Michael Hare (TDA) suggested that “Degradation” be added and defined under the heading “Pesticide properties that affect risk of contamination”.

Monty Dozier (TCE) indicated that TCE brochures regarding pesticides in the urban environment and agricultural best management practices are available.

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) also requested feedback on the draft “Capping of Water Wells for Future Use” and “On Site Wastewater Treatment System Operation and Maintenance” fact sheets. Bruce Lesikar left the meeting at approximately 11:30 AM CST.

#### 4. STATUS REPORTS

##### Fiscal Year 2007 Drinking Water and OSSF Fact Sheets

Steve Musick (TCEQ) reported that EPA funding had been secured in this fiscal year to support continuation of the water well screening outreach program, as well as to develop additional drinking water (e.g., hydrocarbon, Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE), Benzene Toluene Ethylbenzene Xylene (BTEX), etc.) and On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Fact Sheets. Steve Musick indicated that review and input on a water well capping Fact Sheet will be solicited from TDLR, the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD), and USGS.

##### TGPC Display and Booth – Recent and Upcoming Events

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

- Texas Plant Protection Association Annual Conference, December 5 – 6, 2006
  - 20 estimated visitors
- Texas Agricultural Aviation Association 2007 Annual Convention and Exhibition, January 10 – 12, 2007
  - 35 estimated visitors
- Texas Ground Water Association Convention and Trade Show, January 23 – 26, 2007
  - 45 estimated visitors

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

- Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) 2007 Spring Meeting, March 6 – 9, 2007
- Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST) 2007 Annual Convention, November 15 – 17, 2007
  - TDA has reserved two booths at this conference and will allow some TGPC material to be displayed

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that a TGPC booth has been reserved at the TCEQ 2007 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference, May 1 – 3, 2007.

Denise Gentsch (Syngenta) suggested that the TGPC prepare a “National Groundwater Awareness Week” display for the Texas Capitol building.

## 5. DISCUSS EFFECTIVENESS OF TGPC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

### Abandoned Water Well Closures

Steve Musick (TCEQ) requested that Monty Dozier (TCE) provide some information on the effectiveness of their water well outreach. Monty Dozier responded that a few slides on abandoned water wells are presented at the water well screening events, and post-presentation surveys indicated increased awareness of this issue, but no follow-up has yet been performed with those water well owners that had positive contaminant screening results.

### Drinking Water and OSSF Fact Sheets

Steve Musick (TCEQ) suggested that the amount of Fact Sheets that need to be reprinted may be an indication of the effectiveness of this outreach.

### TGPC Display and Booth

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) explained that the number of visitors to the TGPC booth is generally estimated as 10% of the registered conference attendees.

### TGPC Website

Steve Musick (TCEQ) reported that there are no plans to perform additional TGPC website activity statistics at this time.

Steve Musick (TCEQ) encouraged all Subcommittee members to continue thinking of ways to gauge the effectiveness of our educational outreach.

## 6. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2007, 1:00 PM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Al Cherepon announced the "Texas: The State of Springs" PBS documentary on February 15, 2007.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) announced that National Groundwater Awareness Week is March 11 – 17, 2007 and the TGPC website will have information on this subject.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) also referred everyone to a Science News article about herbicides in the environment and to the list of 2007 Water-related Conferences in Texas.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURN

Steve Musick (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00 PM CST.