

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

Meeting Date: September 19, 2006
Meeting No.: 09

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 564

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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)
Chris Ramser	Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (Clearwater UWCD), Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Steve Musick	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Dee Lurry	United States Geological Survey (USGS)
Radu Boghici	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Lauren Henley	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Ned Meister	Texas Farm Bureau
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Leslie Savage	Railroad Commission of Texas (RCT)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. September 19, 2006 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. July 13, 2006 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Draft TGPC POE Subcommittee Educational Outreach Plan
4. Public Comment on Draft TGPC POE Subcommittee Educational Outreach Plan, Issue J
5. *Drinking Water and MTBE: A Guide for Private Well Owners*
6. Report to the 80th Legislature – TGPC POE Subcommittee Accomplishments List
7. 2006 – 2007 Water-related Conferences in Texas
8. *Priority Groundwater Management Areas: Overview and Frequently Asked Questions*, TCE publication B-6191 (September 2006), <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2266>.

MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) called the meeting to order at approximately 10:08 AM. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee members and visitors were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

2. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PLAN

Review Draft Groundwater Educational Outreach Issues A – J

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the draft Plan. Progress has been made on all 10 Issues. During the meeting, each Issue was ranked low, medium, or high in terms of the relative amount of effort anticipated to complete that Issue. Final edits from the group leaders (underlined Issue champions listed below) are due by October 20, 2006. The Educational Outreach Plan will be presented to the Committee at their Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2007 meeting.

Issue A – Urban Landowner Pesticide Application and Groundwater
Lynn Fahlquist (USGS), Michael Hare (TDA), Al Cherepon (TCEQ)

Issue B – New Rural Landowners and Groundwater Wells
Lynne Fahlquist (USGS), Mary Ambrose (TCEQ), David Gunn (TDLR)

Issue C – Abandoned Water Well Closure
David Gunn (TDLR), TAGD representative

Issue D – Groundwater Conservation Districts
GCD Newsletters, Local GCD Symposiums, Major Rivers Program
Chris Ramser (Clearwater UWCD)

Issue E – Access to TGPC Agencies’/Organizations’ Groundwater Program Information and General Groundwater Information
Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Mary Ambrose (TCEQ)

Issue F – Tex*A*SYST
Steve Musick (TCEQ), Joe Peters (TCEQ), Monty Dozier (TCE)

Issue G – On-Site Wastewater Treatment/Disposal Systems Education
Bruce Lesikar (TCE)

Issue H – Education for Private Water Well Owners: Quality
Steve Musick (TCEQ), Al Cherepon (TCEQ), Kathy McCormack (TCEQ)

Issue I – Education for Private Water Well Owners: Quantity
Al Cherepon (TCEQ), Radu Boghici (TWDB)

Issue J – Groundwater and Oil & Gas Wells
Plugging Abandoned Oil & Gas Wells, Converting Abandoned Oil & Gas Wells into Water Wells, Water Wells Supporting Oil & Gas Wells
Leslie Savage (RCT)

During the discussion of Issue C, Monty Dozier (TCE) reported that they had received their hand-cranked, down-hole camera, with training scheduled for the end of October, 2006. David Gunn (TDLR) indicated that they have 8 mm or VHS tape footage from their down-hole camera and can share their Lessons Learned with TCE.

During the discussion of Issue E, Monty Dozier (TCE) suggested that the Subcommittee investigate the Southern Region Water Quality Planning Information System's FAQ webpages (<http://srwqis.tamu.edu/>, on the right hand side of the home page, under Hot Topics, click on Drinking Water FAQs) as good examples for potential TGPC FAQ webpages.

During the discussion of Issue J, Leslie Savage (RCT) indicated that she would provide URLs for the first two sub-topics to add as links on the TGPC website. Leslie Savage appreciated the four public comments received on this Issue from the Glasscock Groundwater Conservation District (GCD), Middle Trinity GCD, Mesa UWCD, and Hemphill County UWCD.

Discuss Status of Undeveloped Issues and Whether to Include Them in the Plan

There were no undeveloped Issues to discuss.

Identify and Discuss Potential Projects for Fiscal Year 2007

Steve Musick (TCEQ) distributed an example EPA brochure (<http://www.uwex.edu/farmandhome/wqpaap/pdf/mtbe.pdf>) on drinking water and the gasoline additive chemical methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE). Steve Musick is working with Monty Dozier (TCE) on a contract for a Drinking Water Fact Sheet on hydrocarbons (e.g., benzene, benzene toluene ethylbenzene xylene (BTEX), and MTBE) and for On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) Fact Sheets regarding homeowner maintenance and graywater usage.

Topics discussed for potential additional Fact Sheets included nutrients and suspected oil field contamination. The latter topic would cover all of the potential sources that a typical homeowner might encounter and may be incorporated into the hydrocarbon Fact Sheet. A link for the hydrocarbon Fact Sheet could also be provided on the RCT website.

3. REPORT TO THE 80TH LEGISLATURE

Finalize Subcommittee Accomplishments List

The Subcommittee approved their list of accomplishments (Drinking Water and OSSF Fact Sheets, water well screening and abandoned well closure events, exhibitor booths, and website) to be included in the *Activities of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee – Report to the 80th Legislature*.

4. STATUS REPORTS

TGPC Website Statistics

There were no new TGPC website statistics to discuss.

TGPC Display and Booth – Recent and Upcoming Events

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

- TCEQ Public Drinking Water (PDW) Conference on August 15 – 16, 2006
 - 197 estimated visitors
- Texas Water Monitoring Congress on September 13 – 15, 2006
 - 20 estimated visitors
- TCEQ Water Quality / Storm Water Seminar on September 14 – 15, 2006
 - 100 visitors
- Clean River and Nonpoint Source Programs State-wide Stakeholder Meetings on October 11 – 12, 2006
- EPA Land Revitalization Summit on October 30 – November 1, 2006.

FY2005 – FY2006 Drinking Water Fact Sheets

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that the Spanish version of the Radionuclides Fact Sheet is back from the editor and needs to be reviewed. Bruce Lesikar noted that they had received an American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) Blue Ribbon Award for an outstanding entry in the 2006 Educational Aids Competition, in the Publications – Fact Sheets category, for their Perchlorate Fact Sheet.

Abandoned Water Well Closure – Outreach Activities and Effectiveness

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that there may be some abandoned water well closure demonstrations in October 2006, and that this topic was discussed in the Urban Rancher program in Waller County in August 2006 with 15 – 20 participants.

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.

5. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2006, 10:00 AM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Ramser (Clearwater UWCD) announced that the Bell County Water Symposium is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2006 in Belton. The Clearwater UWCD website (<http://www.clearwaterdistrict.org/>) will list the final agenda.

Radu Boghici (TWDB) announced that there will be a series of public meetings on the draft State Water Plan (http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/State_Water_Plan/2007/Draft_2007SWP.htm) in September 2006. The TWDB will consider approval of the final State Water Plan at its meeting in Austin on November 14, 2006.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:43 AM.