

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
 OF THE  
 TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
 RECORD OF MEETING  
 First Quarter, Fiscal Year 2008

Meeting Date: September 26, 2007  
 Meeting No.: 14

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
 Room: 2210

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Subcommittee Members

### Affiliation

Bruce Lesikar (Chair)	Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE)
Kathy McCormack	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Al Cherepon	TCEQ
Cary Betz	TCEQ
Linda Ruiz McCall	Texas Water Development Board TWDB
Mel Davis	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. September 26, 2007 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. July 11, 2007 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee, Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, Final Draft Implementation Strategy, September 26, 2007
4. Drinking Water Problems: MTBE draft fact sheet
5. Drinking Water Problems: Benzene draft fact sheet
6. TGPC POE Subcommittee Outreach Events – Status Report
7. Capping of Water Wells for Future Use (TCE publication L-5490, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2466>)
8. On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems: Understanding and Maintaining your Septic System (TCE publication L-5491, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2481>)
9. TGPC Website Activity Statistics
10. 2007 – 2008 Water-related Conferences in Texas

## MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 26, 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 1:15 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

Discuss and Approve Draft Implementation Strategy

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the changes to the Implementation Strategy since the last meeting:

- Issue C (Abandoned Water Well Closure) – Bruce Lesikar (TCE) added details for Specific Activity 2, 3, 4, and 5 (pages 6 – 7).
- Issue D (Groundwater Conservation Districts, *Training for GCD Personnel* and *School-based Educational Programs*):
  - Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) renamed the second sub-section to *Training for GCD Personnel* (page 9);
  - Kathy McCormack added Specific Activity 2 to *Training for GCD Personnel* based on a suggestion by Linda McCall (TWDB) (page 9); and,
  - Linda McCall renamed the third sub-section to *School-based Educational Programs* and edited the Current Status and Specific Activity 1, 2, and 3 based on suggestions from Steve Musick and Bruce Lesikar (pages 10 – 11).
- Issue G (On-Site Wastewater Treatment/Disposal Systems Education) – Bruce Lesikar added the Current Status and added Specific Activity 3 (page 17).
- Steve Musick and Mary Ambrose have retired from TCEQ so their names were removed from the document.

Mel Davis (TSSWCB) proposed that the POE Subcommittee approve the Implementation Strategy, as amended (based on several editorial suggestions during the meeting), and recommended that it be submitted to the TGPC for consideration at their next meeting. Linda Ruiz McCall seconded the proposal, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the proposal. This working document will be subject to continued refinement as the members make progress on various Specific Activities.

Identify Potential Team Members to Work on Specific Implementation Strategy Issues

Because there are several references to newsletter, popular press, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) articles in the Implementation Strategy, Bruce Lesikar (TCE) suggested that some POE Subcommittee members draft a few of these articles to be reviewed at the next POE Subcommittee meeting. Initial articles may cover:

- Abandoned water well closure;

- Water Wells – Quality;
  - Water Wells – Quantity; and,
  - Wastewater.
3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT EDUCATIONAL TRIFOLD BROCHURES, FACT SHEETS, AND POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES

Drinking Water Problems: MTBE

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported for Monty Dozier (TCE) that comments from the POE Subcommittee were incorporated into the MTBE and Benzene draft documents and they have been submitted to TCE's publication process. Abiy Berehe (TCEQ) also generated maps of MTBE and Benzene contamination sites in Texas based on data in the 2006 *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report* (TCEQ publication SFR-056/06, [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/sfr/056\\_06\\_index.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/sfr/056_06_index.html)), and those maps have been forwarded to Monty Dozier for inclusion in the documents. Final markup versions of the documents will be circulated to POE Subcommittee members for review, any edits or corrections made as applicable, and then the final steps of the publication process will be completed.

Drinking Water Problems: Benzene

See the Drinking Water Problems: MTBE section, above.

4. STATUS REPORTS

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – TCE Water Well Screening Events, TCE Abandoned Water Well Closures, TGPC Booth

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) and Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported on recent and upcoming outreach events related to:

- TCE Water Well Screening Events
  - Six since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (726 samples)
  - Three planned through January 2008
- TCE Abandoned Water Well Closures
  - One since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (20 attendees)
  - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
  - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (79 attendees)
  - One planned through December 2007

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) suggested that the Outreach Event – Status Report file be posted on the TGPC website ([http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/WellScreening\\_Closure\\_TGPCboothEvents26Sep2007.pdf](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/WellScreening_Closure_TGPCboothEvents26Sep2007.pdf)).

## Drinking Water and On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Fact Sheets – Capping of Water Wells for Future Use, On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems: Understanding and Maintaining Your Septic System

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that the following Drinking Water and On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Fact Sheets have been published:

- TCE publication L-5490, *Capping of Water Wells for Future Use* (<http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2466>); and,
- TCE publication L-5491, *On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems: Understanding and Maintaining your Septic System* (<http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2481>).

Reprinting of *Protecting the Environment Using Integrated Weed Management in Lawns* (TCE publication L-5324)

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that this document will be reprinted.

## Reprinting of Various Drinking Water and OSSF Fact Sheets

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that one of the six TGPC-supported Drinking Water or OSSF Fact Sheets (Arsenic (L-5467), Radionuclides (B-6192), Nitrates (B-6184), Perchlorate (L-5468), Graywater (B-6176), or Evaluating Service Contracts (B-6171)), whichever has the lowest quantity, will be reprinted.

Publication of Best Management Practices to Prevent Pesticide Contamination of Water Resources Trifold Brochure

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) reported that this draft document has been submitted to TCE's publication process. Final markup versions of the documents will be circulated to POE Subcommittee members for review, any edits or corrections made as applicable, and then the final steps of the publication process will be completed.

## 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 Booth

There was no additional discussion of this agenda item.

## TGPC Website

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented a preliminary review of TGPC website activity since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting. A website activity statistics option was included in the Fiscal Year 2008 website hosting contract, and additional review of the data (e.g., number of unique visitors, page views, and file downloads) is needed in order to better understand the TGPC website's outreach effectiveness.

## 6. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2007, 10:00 AM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) announced that the 2008 Texas On-site Wastewater Treatment Research Council (TOWTRC) Annual Conference will be in Waco, Texas on March 4 – 5, 2008 (<http://www.towtrc.state.tx.us/index.php>).

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) referred the POE Subcommittee to the handout regarding 2007 – 2008 Water-related Conferences in Texas.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## 9. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TCE) adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:01 PM CST.