

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
RECORD OF MEETING  
Second Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2011

Meeting Date: December 1, 2010  
Meeting No.: 28

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
Room: 5108

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**MEETING ATTENDANCE .....2**

**MEETING HANDOUTS.....2**

**MEETING RECORD OF DECEMBER 1, 2010 .....3**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS ..... 3

2. STATUS REPORTS ..... 3

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – TAES Water Well Screening Events,  
TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures, TGPC Booth..... 3

TGPC Website Activity Statistics..... 3

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE ..... 3

4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION..... 3

Publications ..... 3

Popular Press Articles ..... 4

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality.....4

What are the Statewide Water Well Databases ? .....4

TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy ... 4

Additional TGPC Content for the TDA *Shoot the Bull* Radio Program .....4

TGPC FAQs Follow-up Survey .....4

Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module .....5

Other Revised and New Specific Activities .....5

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... 5

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ..... 6

7. ADJOURN ..... 6

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)	Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Cary Betz	TCEQ
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Linda Ruiz McCall	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Allen Berthold	Texas Water Research Institute (TWRI)
Jay Bragg	Texas Farm Bureau (TFB)
Ned Meister	TFB

### Interested Parties

Ruth A. Gunn

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. December 1, 2010 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. September 15, 2010 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, December 2010
4. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics, June 1, 2010 through November 23, 2010
5. Draft Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality FAQs: *What is an Underground Injection Well ?, How Are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ?, How Are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ?, What Are the Construction Standards for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?, What Are the Permitting Processes for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?, How Are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They Are Not Leaking ?*
6. A. Cherepon, D. Boellstorff, K. McCormack, and L. Ruiz McCall feedback on the Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality FAQs
7. D. Van Dresar October 1, 2010 email regarding Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) website development assistance information
8. D. Van Dresar emails (May 25, October 1, October 8, and October 28, 2010), online survey, and survey results regarding TGPC FAQs
9. Draft fact sheet regarding the TGPC and its FAQs for TAES county offices
10. A. Cherepon feedback regarding Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module
11. Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council (TOWTRC) Annual Conference flyer
12. 2010 Water-related Conferences in Texas, October 2010
13. *Water Issues in Texas: A Survey of Public Perceptions and Attitudes about Water* (TAES publication B-6219, <https://agrilifebookstore.org/>)

## MEETING RECORD OF DECEMBER 1, 2010

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40 PM CST. TGPC POE Subcommittee members were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

### 2. STATUS REPORTS

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

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the Outreach Events Status Report (available on the TGPC POE Subcommittee webpage,

<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm>, under “Additional Resources”):

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
  - Three since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (288 samples)
  - None planned through the upcoming quarter; 11 planned through 2011
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
  - None since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting
  - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
  - One since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (700 estimated attendees)
  - One planned through December 2010

#### TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics for June 1, 2010 through November 23, 2010. The seven monitored TGPC webpages had an average of 42 unique visitors per day, and website visitation peaked with the quarterly GovDelivery email announcing each TGPC meeting.

### 3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at 1:30 PM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

### 4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

#### Publications

No publications were discussed at the meeting.

## Popular Press Articles

### Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality

Peter Pope (Railroad Commission of Texas, RRC) had provided updates of the following Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality FAQs prior to the meeting:

- *What is an Underground Injection Well ?*
- *How Are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ?*
- *How Are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ?*
- *What Are the Construction Standards for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?*
- *What Are the Permitting Processes for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?*
- *How Are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They Are Not Leaking ?*

Since he was not able to attend, detailed feedback on these FAQs from Alan Cherepon (TCEQ), Diane Boellstorff (TAES), Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), and Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) was shared with Peter Pope (RRC) after the meeting.

What are the Statewide Water Well Databases ?

This FAQ was not discussed at the meeting.

### TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy

Various topics related to the *TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy* (“*Implementation Strategy*”, [http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC\\_POE\\_EduOutreachPlan\\_Impl\\_Strat03Oct2007.pdf](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan_Impl_Strat03Oct2007.pdf)) were discussed.

On October 1, 2010, David Van Dresar (TAGD) sent an email to TAGD members sharing Karen Sears’ (Texas AgriLife Research) contact information and offer to assist GCDs in obtaining grant funding for website development.

### Additional TGPC Content for the TDA *Shoot the Bull* Radio Program

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) indicated that the next TGPC-sponsored “Shoot the Bull” radio program script would be developed for National Groundwater Awareness Week in March 2011.

### TGPC FAQs Follow-up Survey

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the four 2010 emails sent to TAGD members by David Van Dresar (TAGD), the online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZGZQ68F>) set up by Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB), and the survey results from 21 GCDs summarized by Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) regarding TGPC FAQs. TGPC FAQs already exist for several topics of interest to TAGD’s audience (water ownership, monitor well levels, *in situ* uranium mining, and regional water planning), while FAQs are currently being developed for another area of their public’s

interest (oil and gas activities). The TAGD survey responses will guide development of future TGPC FAQs (e.g., well registration, testing, contaminants, and disinfection, and groundwater conservation) which can assist GCDs in their public outreach and education efforts. In addition, the POE Subcommittee plans to repeat this exercise in 2011 with TAES county offices (through Diane Boellstorff) and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices (through Mel Davis or Donna Long).

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reviewed a draft fact sheet regarding the TGPC and its FAQs that will be used with TAES county offices. POE Subcommittee members provided feedback which will be incorporated into the final draft.

#### Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module

David Gunn (TDLR) reviewed a draft Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module. POE Subcommittee members provided extensive feedback:

- The presentation has great photos;
- Use “water” before “wells” wherever appropriate;
- Each photo and screen shot should have embedded alternate text so that they are accessible online;
- Break up the presentation into several smaller segments;
- An online image library would be a great resource;
- Convert the presentation into an online video and/or webcast;
- Include the diagrams from the recent update of *Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (TCEQ publication RG-347, <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications/rg/rg-347.html>);
- Provide links to additional references;
- Add typical plugging costs;
- Consider a bulletized list of statistics on abandoned water wells in Texas and another on problems with abandoned water wells; and,
- Various editorial suggestions.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWBD) noted that they are developing videos on aquifers, and Diane Boellstorff (TAES) noted that they have a presentation on plugging abandoned water wells. David Gunn (TDLR) agreed to bring a revised draft to the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

#### Other Revised and New Specific Activities

No additional Specific Activities related to the *Implementation Strategy* were discussed.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reviewed *Water Issues in Texas: A Survey of Public Perceptions and Attitudes about Water* (TAES publication B-6219, <https://agrillifebookstore.org/>). This publication describes the results of a survey of Texas residents that evaluated their awareness of, attitudes about, and willingness to act on water issues. Respondents answered questions about water quality, the conditions that affect

local water quality, and the effectiveness of efforts to protect water quality. They also answered questions about water quantity and their interest in water issues. The complete survey (59 questions) is included. The results of this survey will be useful to citizens, local governments, state agencies, and policy makers in planning for the future.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) announced that the next Water Conservation Advisory Council (<http://www.savetexaswater.org/>) meeting was scheduled for January 18, 2011 in Austin.

A Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council (TOWTRC) Annual Conference flyer and the current “2010 – 2011 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout were available for TGPC POE Subcommittee members.

#### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### 7. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:32 PM CST.