

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Second Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2012

Meeting Date: December 1, 2011
Meeting No.: 32

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)
Guy Fipps
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)

Fred Duffy
Alan Cherepon
Peter Pope
Michael Hare
Mel Davis

Jana Lloyd
David Van Dresar
David Gunn

Ned Meister

Interested Parties

Lilli Johnson

Affiliation

Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)
TAES
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
(TCEQ)
TCEQ
TCEQ
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
(TSSWCB)
TSSWCB
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
(TDLR)
Texas Farm Bureau (TFB)

Affiliation

St. Edward's University

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. December 1, 2011 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. September 20, 2011 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, December 2011
4. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics, September 20, 2011 through November 27, 2011
5. Final draft Oil and Gas Disposal Wells and Water Quality Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):
 - *How Do the Underground Injection Control Regulations Protect Groundwater ?*
 - *Who Has Jurisdiction Over the Clean-up of Wastes from Oil and Gas Activities in Texas ?*
6. Final draft *What Are the Statewide Water Well Databases ?* FAQ
7. Handout package for TGPC FAQ Survey with TAES:
 - Groundwater FAQs for columns, newsletters, and websites (TAES email, June 14, 2011)
 - Groundwater FAQs for columns, newsletters, and websites (TAES email, October 31, 2011)
 - TGPC FAQ Survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZGZQ68F>)
 - Gentle Reminder – use of FAQs survey (TAES email, November 7, 2011)
 - Survey results for groundwater FAQs (TAES email, November 22, 2011)
 - TAES Counties Responding to TGPC FAQ Survey
 - TGPC FAQ Survey with TAES Summary
8. *The Dangers of an Abandoned Well* trifold brochure
9. Drought 2011 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of December 1, 2011; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook December 2011 – February 2012; Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of November 30, 2011
10. 2011 – 2012 Water-related Conferences in Texas, December 2011

MEETING RECORD OF DECEMBER 1, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Diane Boellstorff (TAES), Co-Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:34 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, and TGPC Booth

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”) was reviewed:

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
 - Five since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (228 samples)
 - Two planned through March 2012
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
 - Two since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (98 estimated attendees)
 - One planned through December 2011

TWON Activities

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reported that material for the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) Handbook is being finalized and reviewed internally before being delivered to TSSWCB by January 1, 2012. While the draft Handbook is being reviewed by TSSWCB, Kristine Uhlman (TAES) will develop PowerPoint presentations for the TWON training sessions (six hours each). The first TWON training sessions are tentatively scheduled for April 2012.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

The Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity for September 20, 2011 through November 27, 2011, including statistics on the website’s visitors, traffic sources, top content, depth of visit, and entrance keywords, was provided to the POE Subcommittee for review after the meeting. It was noted that the Water Wells webpage and search variations on “water wells” account for 50% of the TGPC website’s page views and top 25 keywords, respectively. Website visitation continues to peak after the quarterly GovDelivery emails announcing each TGPC meeting.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2012, at 1:30 PM CDST, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Popular Press Articles

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality

Peter Pope (RRC) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *How Do the Underground Injection Control Regulations Protect Groundwater ?* FAQ.

David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Peter Pope (RRC) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *Who Has Jurisdiction Over the Clean-up of Wastes from Oil and Gas Activities in Texas ?* FAQ with the minor changes discussed at the meeting.

What are the Statewide Water Well Databases ?

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *What Are the Statewide Water Well Databases ?* FAQ with the minor changes discussed at the meeting.

TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy

Three 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) were discussed.

TGPC FAQs Announcement to TAES

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reviewed the handout package related to the TGPC FAQ Survey with selected TAES county agents:

- The TGPC FAQs were announced to selected TAES county agents in a June 14, 2011 email;
- The selected TAES county agents were invited to participate in a survey about the TGPC FAQs (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZGZQ68F>) in a October 31, 2011 email and reminded about the survey in a November 7, 2011 email – 50 survey responses were subsequently received; and,
- Survey results were summarized and sent to the selected TAES county agents in a November 22, 2011 email.

TAES county agents indicated that they had received questions from the public which could be addressed by several existing TGPC FAQs:

- *Water in Texas – Who Owns It ?*;
- *Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?*;
- *What Are the Statewide Water Well Databases ?*;
- The series of FAQs on Oil and Gas; and,
- The two FAQs on Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs).

Two items suggested by TAES county agents in the survey were added to the TGPC website:

- Information on how to find licensed water well drillers and pump installers in Texas was added to the TGPC's Drilling a Well webpage (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/Drilling.htm>); and,
- A link to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Build Your Own Aquifer" interactive lesson was added to the TGPC's Classroom webpage (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/Classroom.htm>).

Topics for future FAQs based on feedback from the TAES survey include:

- Drilling water wells;
- Water quality testing of wells;
- Water conservation and drought;
- Additional information about GCDs (permits, metering, regulations, etc.); and,
- Irrigation using groundwater.

TGPC FAQs Announcement to TSSWCB

Mel Davis (TSSWCB) agreed to prepare for a similar announcement of TGPC FAQs and follow-up survey with Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) representatives in 2012.

Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module

David Gunn (TDLR) presented the final draft of the Abandoned Water Well Identification online training module and obtained feedback from the POE Subcommittee. When the module is posted on TDLR's website a link to it will be added to the TGPC website.

Other Revised and New Specific Activities

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

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Gunn (TDLR) reviewed *The Dangers of an Abandoned Well* trifold brochure and obtained feedback from the POE Subcommittee. A link to TDLR's Abandoned Water Well Resources webpage (<http://www.license.state.tx.us/well.htm>), which includes a link to this trifold brochure, has been added to the TGPC's Water Wells webpage (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/WaterWells.htm>).

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) referenced an article about NASA technology that allows groundwater mapping (<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/tx-drought.html>).

The December 1, 2011 Drought Monitor map for Texas, the December 1, 2011 Drought Outlook map for the U.S. through February 29, 2012, and the November 30, 2011 map of public water supply systems in Texas affected by the drought were reviewed:

- 100 % of the state was affected by one of the five drought categories;
- 53 % of the state was experiencing the worst (D4 – Exceptional) drought conditions;
- The drought is forecast to persist through February 2012; and,
- Of the 4,715 active community water systems in Texas, 1,004 (the highest on record) have been affected by drought (either voluntary or mandatory), and 693 of these use groundwater (either exclusively or partially).

Guy Fipps (TAES) announced that a flowmeter training program (including certification for flowmeter installation on irrigation wells) is scheduled for January 18, 2012 in Lubbock.

The current “2011 – 2012 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout was available for POE Subcommittee members.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. ADJOURN

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:24 PM CST.