

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Second Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2009

Meeting Date: December 2, 2008
Meeting No.: 20

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Bruce Lesikar (Co-Chair)	Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Al Cherepon	TCEQ
Shanker Tangirala	TCEQ
Linda Ruiz McCall	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Leslie Savage	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Donna Long	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Mel Davis	TSSWCB
David Van Dresar	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Ned Meister	Texas Farm Bureau (TFB)
Denise Gentsch	Syngenta

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. December 2, 2008 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. September 11, 2008 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. TGPC POE Subcommittee Outreach Events – Status Report
4. Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (UWCD) Press Release – District Announces Well Plugging Demonstration
5. Links to the TGPC Website on TGPC Member Agency Websites – Third Survey Results
6. TAES publication L-5500 (September 2008), *Keep Pesticides Out of Texas Water Supplies*
7. TAES publication L-5502 (August 2008), *Drinking Water Problems: MTBE*
8. Draft *Drinking Water Problems: Benzene* Fact Sheet
9. Kathy McCormack's feedback on the Draft *Drinking Water Problems: Benzene* Fact Sheet
10. Draft *What Did TCEQ's Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)
11. Al Cherepon's feedback on the Draft *What Did TCEQ's Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater ?* FAQ
12. 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 is the Permitting Process for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?, and How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They are not Leaking ?)

13. TCEQ's (Kathy McCormack, Al Cherepon, and David Murray) feedback on the Draft *Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality FAQs*
14. Draft *What is the State Water Plan ? FAQ*
15. Al Cherepon's feedback on the Draft *What is the State Water Plan ? FAQ*
16. Draft *What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) ? FAQ*
17. Draft *What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ? FAQ*
18. Draft *What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities ? FAQ*
19. Draft *What is the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) ? FAQ*
20. TAES publication L-5413 (January 2002), *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells*
21. December 2, 2008 memo from Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) regarding questions from Texas teachers on the topic of groundwater
22. TWDB Kids, K – 12 Educational Resources
23. 2008 – 2009 Water-related Conferences in Texas
24. TGPC refrigerator magnets

MEETING RECORD OF DECEMBER 2, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bruce Lesikar (TAES), Co-Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 PM CST. 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”):

- TCE Water Well Screening Events
 - Five since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (321 samples)
 - Two planned through January 2009
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - One planned through December 2008
- TGPC Booth
 - Four since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (642 attendees)
 - Three planned through January 2009

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) also referred POE Subcommittee members to the Clearwater UWCD Press Release regarding a well plugging demonstration in Temple, Texas on December 3, 2008. Bruce Lesikar (TAES) would be showing landowners the procedures they should follow in order to properly plug a large diameter hand-dug well.

Links to the TGPC Website on TGPC Member Agency Websites – Third Survey Results

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed a third survey of links to the TGPC website on TGPC member agency websites (see the TGPC POE Subcommittee *Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy*,

http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan_Impl_Strat03Oct2007.pdf, Issue E, Specific Activity 8). Changes from the last survey include:

- A link to the TGPC website was added, and found as the first website search result, on two additional TGPC member agency websites (TDA and RRC);
- The link to the TGPC website declined slightly in the search results on two of the TGPC member agency websites (TWDB and TSSWCB); and,
- A link to the TGPC website was still not found on one of the TGPC member agency websites (UTBEG); however, it was added by the UTBEG webmaster shortly after the meeting.

After starting with only four TGPC member agency websites (TCEQ, TWDB, TSSWCB, and TAR) that had a link to the TGPC website, all 10 now have a link, and it is the first (TCEQ, RRC, DSHS, TDA, and TAR) or second (TSSWCB and UTBEG) search result on seven of them. Two TGPC member agency websites (TAGD and TDLR) do not have search engines but they do have a link to the TGPC, and the TWDB website has a link to the TGPC and is working on improving their search engine results. This is the last time that this survey will be performed.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 1:30 PM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE FACT SHEETS AND POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES

Drinking Water Problems: Benzene

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) noted the two published TAES documents in the handout package which the POE Subcommittee worked on earlier in the year:

- L-5500 (September 2008), *Keep Pesticides Out of Texas Water Supplies*
- L-5502 (August 2008), *Drinking Water Problems: MTBE*

The POE Subcommittee then reviewed the draft *Drinking Water Problems: Benzene* Fact Sheet and provided extensive feedback to the author, Bruce Lesikar (TAES). Bruce Lesikar agreed to bring a revised draft to the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

What Did TCEQ's Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ and provided extensive feedback to the author, Al Cherepon (TCEQ). Al Cherepon agreed to meet separately with Denise Gentsch (Syngenta) and Michael Hare (TDA) and then bring a revised draft to the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality

Leslie Savage (RRC) reviewed the Draft *Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality* FAQs:

- *What is an Underground Injection Well ?* – David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.
- *How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ?* – Feedback was provided and Leslie Savage agreed to bring a revised draft to the next POE Subcommittee meeting.
- *How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ?* – Mel Davis (TSSWCB) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

- Leslie Savage agreed to add another FAQ regarding oil and gas waste disposal well contamination clean-up jurisdiction.
- *What are the Construction Standards for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?* – Feedback was provided and Leslie Savage agreed to bring a revised draft to the next POE Subcommittee meeting.
- *What is the Permitting Process for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?* – Feedback was provided and Leslie Savage agreed to bring a revised draft to the next POE Subcommittee meeting.
- *How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They are not Leaking ?* – Mel Davis (TSSWCB) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

What is the State Water Plan ?

The draft *What is the State Water Plan ?* FAQ was not discussed at the meeting.

What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) ?

David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this FAQ.

What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ?

Mel Davis (TSSWCB) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities ?

David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

What is the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) ?

David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) noted the old TAES document in the handout package which the POE Subcommittee should work on updating next year, L-5413 (January 2002), *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells*.

Al Cherepon (TCEQ) suggested that he work with TCEQ's Underground Injection Control (UIC) staff and Leslie Savage (RRC) in drafting an FAQ regarding in-situ uranium mining.

Ned Meister (TFB) offered to draft a list of general questions related to uranium mining based on his interaction with the public across the state.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) referred the POE Subcommittee to a memo documenting questions from Texas teachers that she has received at various outreach events regarding groundwater. These questions may provide the POE Subcommittee with ideas for additional FAQs (e.g., *How Do I Get My Water Well Tested ?*). Linda Ruiz McCall also noted a TWDB publication in the handout package, *TWDB Kids*, which summarizes their K – 12 educational resources and directs the public to <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/kids/> for more information.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) referred the POE Subcommittee to the handout regarding 2008 – 2009 Water-related Conferences in Texas (available on the TGPC POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm>, under “Additional Resources”). Leslie Savage (RRC) will inquire about opportunities to display TGPC material at the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) Conference on January 26 – 28, 2009.

TGPC refrigerator magnets were also available at the meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:48 PM CST.