

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
RECORD OF MEETING  
Second Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2016

Meeting Date: December 2, 2015  
Meeting No.: 48

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
Room: 3202A

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
Guy Fipps	AgriLife Extension
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Chris Muller	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Chris Moore	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Aaron Wendt	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
David Van Dresar	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Linda Ruiz McCall	Bureau of Economic Geology of the University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG)

<u>Agency Staff</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Program</u>
Abiy Berehe	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Peggy Hunka	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Marcia Workman	TCEQ	Water Availability Division

<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Charles Porter	St. Edwards University

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, December 2, 2015
2. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record, September 10, 2015
3. Outreach Events Status Report, December 2015
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, November 30, 2015
5. Google Analytics reports on TGPC website activity, September 8 – November 30, 2015
6. *Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) Advisor* newsletter, October 2015, p. 1 – 4.
7. TSSWCB Water Supply Enhancement Program package (fact sheets, tables, maps, and report titles)
8. Final draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* (TCEQ publication GI-088, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-088.html>) trifold brochure revision
9. Draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* overview flyer
10. C. Moore feedback on draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* overview flyer
11. Draft *What is the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)
12. C. Moore feedback on draft *What is the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee ?* FAQ
13. Draft *What are the Texas Evapotranspiration (ET) Networks ?* FAQ
14. C. Moore feedback on draft *What are the Texas Evapotranspiration (ET) Networks ?* FAQ
15. 2015 – 2016 Water-related Conferences in Texas, December 2015

## MEETING RECORD OF DECEMBER 2, 2015

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:32 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 – AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events, Abandoned Water Well Closures, and TGPC Exhibit Booth

The current Outreach Events Status Report (available on the POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://tgpc.state.tx.us/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/>, under the “Additional Resources” heading) was reviewed:

- AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events
  - Four since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (336 samples)
  - Two planned through April 2016
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closure Education
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - None scheduled at this time
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
  - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (130 estimated attendees)
  - Four planned through March 2016

#### TWON Training Activities

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON schedule of completed, confirmed, obligated, and suggested water well screening events and workshops. There have been over 5,755 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011.

#### TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) provided the Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity for September 8 – November 30, 2015. The average pages/visit was the same (2.0 pages/visit), but the average website visit duration was slightly more than what was reported at the last meeting (2.1 vs 1.9 minutes). As usual, the GovDelivery email regarding the quarterly TGPC meeting generated a spike in website activity.

### 3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 9:30 AM CST, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

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

##### *TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition*

##### Topic Updates

Three of the four topics in the current *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan* (“Plan”),

[http://tgpc.state.tx.us/POE/TGPC\\_POE\\_GW\\_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf](http://tgpc.state.tx.us/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf)) were discussed at the meeting:

- Abandoned Water Wells – Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported that TWON had declined an invitation to be a Third-Party Administrator for a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/legal/sep/>) regarding the plugging of abandoned water wells, but TAGD was still considering the proposal. Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) shared the recent edition of the Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) *TREC Advisor* newsletter that had an article on plugging abandoned water wells (<http://www.trec.state.tx.us/newsandpublic/Publications/AdvisorIssues/Advisor20151022.pdf>, page 3) which was based on the TGPC FAQ.
- TWON – Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported that their latest e-letter had been sent out, their Manual (<http://twon.tamu.edu/media/358238/well-owners-guide-to-water-supply.pdf>) had received an American Society of Agronomy Extension Educational Materials Award for publications, the TWON team had received the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Superior Service Award – Team Category, and their new graduate student had recently established Facebook and Twitter accounts for the TWON program.
- TSSWCB Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP) – Aaron Wendt (TSSWCB) provided a number of fact sheets, tables, maps, and report titles related to their WSEP. Eleven out of 20 proposed Fiscal Year 2016 WSEP projects had been funded for a total of \$1,777,000. Across the state, five feasibility studies were in progress and 17 were proposed. Their annual report would be published in January 2016.

David Van Dresar (TAGD) left at approximately 2:15 PM CST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

##### Popular Press Articles

##### TWON Fact Sheets

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

##### Draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* Overview Flyer Revision

With the recent update of the TGPC trifold brochure, both the TGPC overview flyer and TGPC FAQ needed to be updated. Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* overview flyer revision, and Chris Moore (RRC) provided feedback, along with several other POE Subcommittee members.

Draft *What is the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) ? Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) Revision*

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) announced that 133 broken links in the 40 TGPC FAQs had been fixed and reviewed the draft *What is the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee ? FAQ revision*. Chris Moore (RRC) and several other POE Subcommittee members provided feedback on the draft FAQ.

Draft *What Are the Texas Evapotranspiration (ET) Networks ? FAQ Revision*

Guy Fipps (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the draft *What Are the Texas Evapotranspiration (ET) Networks ? FAQ revision*, and Chris Moore (RRC) provided feedback, along with several other POE Subcommittee members.

Chris Moore (RRC) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the above three popular press articles with the changes discussed at the meeting. The TGPC overview flyer revision will be posted on the TGPC's About TGPC webpage (<http://tgpc.state.tx.us/about-tgpc/>), and the FAQ revisions will be posted on the TGPC's FAQ webpage (<http://tgpc.state.tx.us/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>).

Draft *What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) ?, What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) ?, What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ?, and What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities ? FAQs Revisions*

Chris Muller (TWDB) indicated that several aspects of Regional Water Planning were currently in flux, and it would be better to wait until the next POE Subcommittee meeting to discuss these FAQ updates.

Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) left at approximately 3:04 PM CST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

## 5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that a number of groundwater-related “hot topics” would be discussed in upcoming TGPC Groundwater Issues Subcommittee meetings, and the POE Subcommittee may be asked to develop some outreach material in their support.

Charles Porter (St. Edwards University) was invited to share some of his thoughts on water rights, Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs), abandoned water wells, and the law pertaining to them. Dr. Porter was very supportive of public outreach and education in these areas, and had a number of suggestions, including the publication of an article in the *Tierra Grande, Journal of the Real Estate Center of Texas A&M University* (<https://www.recenter.tamu.edu/articles/tierra-grande/>).

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The list of 2015 – 2016 Water-related Conferences in Texas was available for POE Subcommittee members.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## 8. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:34 PM CST.