

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
 OF THE
 TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
 RECORD OF MEETING
 Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2015

Meeting Date: February 3, 2015
 Meeting No.: 45

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
 Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)

Alan Cherepon

Chris Muller

Chris Moore

Michael Hare

Ashley Wendt

David Van Dresar

Linda Ruiz McCall

Nikki Dictson

Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
TCEQ

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
(TSSWCB)

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)

University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology
(UTBEG)

Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)

Interested Parties

Deborah Loesch

Affiliation

Industry Council on the Environment (ICE)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. February 3, 2015 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. November 12, 2014 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, February 2015
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, January 30, 2015
5. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity, November 12, 2014 – January 29, 2015
6. Final draft *Texas Well Owner Network* trifold brochure (AgriLife Extension publication, no number yet)
7. ICE trifold brochure
8. Draft *How Do I Convert an Abandoned Oil & Gas Well Into a Water Well ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)
9. Chris Moore (RRC) feedback on draft *How Do I Convert an Abandoned Oil & Gas Well Into a Water Well ?* FAQ
10. Application of Landowner to Condition an Abandoned Well for Fresh Water Production (RRC Form P-13)
11. Drought 2015 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of January 27, 2015; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, January – April 2015; Public Water Supply Systems (PWSs) Affected as of January 28, 2015; excerpt from the TCEQ List of Texas PWSs Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages as of January 30, 2015
12. Major and Minor Aquifers Material one-pager
13. 2015 Water-related Conferences in Texas, February 2015

The following items were also on display on the handout table:

1. Aquifer Materials poster and samples

MEETING RECORD OF FEBRUARY 3, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:41 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
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - Five planned through March 2015
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None scheduled at this time
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
 - Three since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (56 estimated attendees)
 - One planned through May 2015

A photo of TGPC handouts at the TCEQ Central Texas Environmental Summit on December 8, 2014 was also passed around the table.

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 4,910 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011. Diane Boellstorff also noted that they may work with Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) to offer some TWON educational outreach when water wells are plugged.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) then reviewed the aquifer material collection, poster, and handout with POE Subcommittee members.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) provided the Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity for November 12, 2014 – January 29, 2015. The average website visit duration was less (1.8 vs. 2.4 minutes) and the average pages per visit was less (3.7 vs. 4.0) than what was reported at the last meeting. As usual, a spike of activity on the TGPC website occurred after the last TGPC

meeting GovDelivery email notice. Desktop users accounted for 79 %, mobile users accounted for 14 %, and tablet users accounted for 7 % of the visits to the TGPC website. The top four browsers used to access the TGPC website were Chrome (34 %), Internet Explorer (32 %), Safari (19 %), and Firefox (12 %). Kathy McCormack also announced that the TGPC responsive design website launched on February 2, 2015.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at 1:30 PM CDST, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the warehouse inventory of printed AgriLife Extension publications used for TWON and TGPC outreach events. Since the status of the *Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas* (B-6120) update was unknown, the POE Subcommittee discussed using the reproduction allocation in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 TCEQ and AgriLife Extension POE Contract to print/reprint the following AgriLife Extension publications:

- *Texas Well Owner Network* trifold brochure (no number yet);
- *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (B-6238);
- *Hydraulic Fracturing and Your Private Water Well* (SC-012);
- *Shock Chlorination of Wells* (L-5441); and,
- *Well Owner's Guide to Water Supply* (B-6257).

TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition

Topic Updates

Regarding 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):

- Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported that she had contacted Kyle Wright (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Water Quality Specialist) to discuss training NRCS conservationists statewide regarding approaches for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-share for water well decommissioning (i.e., plugging) that have been utilized by Chris Janak (District Conservationist for the Hallettsville NRCS office). Kyle Wright plans to share a portion of Chris Janak's training materials with other conservationists during NRCS regional training events. Cost-share availability should increase the number of decommissioned water wells.
- Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the POE Subcommittee's interest in working with ICE (<http://ice-texas.org/>) members regarding the topic of abandoned water wells (e.g., the Phase 1 Site Assessment process and whether abandoned water well training (identification, reporting, etc.) is needed for those involved, as well as how we may be able to share our messages on this topic with other key groups, such as real estate agencies). Deborah Loesch (ICE) invited Kathy McCormack to attend the next ICE monthly meeting on February 19,

2015 and to contact Dorothy Gurka (ICE Administrator) regarding a TGPC presentation at a future ICE monthly meeting.

Popular Press Articles

TWON Fact Sheets

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Draft *How Do I Convert an Abandoned Oil & Gas Well Into a Water Well ?* FAQ

Chris Moore (RRC) reviewed the draft *How Do I Convert an Abandoned Oil & Gas Well Into a Water Well ?* FAQ with POE Subcommittee members. After discussion and feedback, the FAQ was put on hold until the 1QFY2016 POE Subcommittee meeting pending the results of current legislative action.

Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas update

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The current drought maps and “2015 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout (found at <http://tGPC.state.tx.us/tGPC-subcommittees/tGPC-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/> under the “Additional Resources” heading) were distributed to POE Subcommittee members.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:13 PM CST.