

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
RECORD OF MEETING  
Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2014

Meeting Date: March 5, 2014  
Meeting No.: 41

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
Room: 3202A

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

**MEETING HANDOUTS.....3**

**MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 5, 2014.....4**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS ..... 4

2. STATUS REPORTS ..... 4

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – AgriLife Extension Water Well  
Screening Events, Abandoned Water Well Closures, and TGPC Exhibit Booth ... 4

TWON Training Activities ..... 4

TGPC Website Activity Statistics ..... 4

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE ..... 4

4. PRESENTATION – SCREENING OF MODULE 1, AQUIFERS OF TEXAS,  
DRAFT EDUCATIONAL GROUNDWATER VIDEO ..... 5

5. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION..... 5

*TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition* ..... 5

Texas Groundwater Conservation Districts and Well Plugging Programs Web  
Map..... 5

Popular Press Articles ..... 5

TWON Fact Sheets..... 5

*What are the Different Terms Used to Describe Abandoned and Deteriorated  
Water Wells ?* FAQ ..... 5

*What is the Texas Groundwater Classification System ?* FAQ..... 6

*Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas* update ..... 6

6. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES..... 6

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... 6

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ..... 7

9. ADJOURN ..... 7

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)

Drew Gholson

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)

Alan Cherepon

Conrad Schaefer

Chris Muller

Cindy Ridgeway

Chris Moore

Michael Hare

Mel Davis

David Van Dresar

Linda Ruiz McCall

David Gunn

Nikki Dictson

### Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)

AgriLife Extension

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

TCEQ

TCEQ

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

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 Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. March 5, 2014 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. December 4, 2013 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, March 2014
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list
5. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity, December 3, 2013 – March 2, 2014
6. Preview of Educational Videos on Groundwater in Texas Evaluation Form
7. Draft Texas Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) and Well Plugging Programs map, 11Jul2013
8. TAGD Abandoned Water Well Plugging Program Survey, June 2013
9. Draft *What are the Different Terms Used to Describe Abandoned and Deteriorated Water Wells ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)
10. Well Owner Lessons, <http://wellowner.org/well-owner-lessons/>
11. Drought 2014 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of February 25, 2014; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook February – May 2014; Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of February 19, 2014
12. 2014 Water-related Conferences in Texas, March 2014

The TGPC Public Information Act Policy was also on display on the handout table.

## **MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 5, 2014**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), 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://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees-POE-POE.php>, under “Additional Resources”) was reviewed:

- AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events
  - One since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (26 samples)
  - Four planned through October 2014
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closures
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - None scheduled at this time
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
  - One since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (25 estimated attendees)
  - One planned through March 2014

#### **TWON Training Activities**

Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON schedule of completed, confirmed, obligated, and suggested water well screening events and workshops. There have been over 3,679 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011.

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported that post-TWON training surveys indicate that approximately half of the workshop attendees with abandoned water wells had subsequently plugged or capped them.

#### **TGPC Website Activity Statistics**

The Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC website for December 3, 2013 – March 2, 2014 was reviewed by the POE Subcommittee. The average website visit duration was 1.5 minutes, and the average pages per visit was 3.5.

### **3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE**

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 1:30 PM CDST, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

#### 4. PRESENTATION – SCREENING OF MODULE 1, AQUIFERS OF TEXAS, DRAFT EDUCATIONAL GROUNDWATER VIDEO

Cindy Ridgeway (TWDB) gave a brief presentation to the POE Subcommittee regarding their efforts to produce four educational groundwater-related videos:

- Aquifers in Texas
- How Do Aquifers Work
- Groundwater Budget Availability Models
- Using Groundwater Availability Models In Water Planning

Final drafts of the videos are due by April 2014, and they will then be made available to the public. The POE Subcommittee watched the first draft video and provided feedback.

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

*TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition*

Texas Groundwater Conservation Districts and Well Plugging Programs Web Map

Conrad Schaefer (TCEQ) reviewed a draft interactive, online map of GCDs in the state with cost-share programs for plugging abandoned water wells. The final version of the web map will be made available through the TGPC Water Wells webpage (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/WaterWells.php>). The POE Subcommittee provided feedback on the web map, and an updated version will be presented at the next meeting.

Popular Press Articles

TWON Fact Sheets

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) thanked POE Subcommittee members for their feedback on two draft TWON fact sheets: 1) *What to do if Coliform Bacteria are Present in a Well Water Sample*, and 2) *Managing Fertilizers to Protect Groundwater Quality*. Diane Boellstorff also indicated that a draft TWON fact sheet related to identifying an abandoned water well may be available for POE Subcommittee review before the next meeting.

*What are the Different Terms Used to Describe Abandoned and Deteriorated Water Wells ? FAQ*

David Van Dresar (TAGD) reviewed the draft *What are the Different Terms Used to Describe Abandoned and Deteriorated Water Wells ? FAQ*. David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, Chris Moore (RRC) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting. The FAQ will be presented to the TGPC at the April 23, 2014 meeting, and after approval it will be posted on the TGPC FAQ webpage (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/FAQs.php>).

## *What is the Texas Groundwater Classification System ? FAQ*

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

## *Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas update*

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported for Ron Kaiser (Texas A&M University) that the update of *Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas* (AgriLife Extension publication B-6120) is underway and should be complete by the end of April 2014.

## 6. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

The current drought maps were provided to the POE Subcommittee. As of February 25, 2014, 93 % of the state was in one of the five drought categories (up from 76 % at the last POE Subcommittee meeting), with most of the central and western half of the state forecast to have drought conditions through May 2014. As of February 19, 2014, of the 4,642 active community water systems in Texas, 1,136 were affected by drought (either voluntary or mandatory), and 755 of these use groundwater (either exclusively or partially).

Chris Muller (TWDB) reported that coastal rice growers are refurbishing unused wells in anticipation of not receiving sufficient Colorado River releases from the Highland Lakes. Nikki Dictson (TWRI) added that sixty 24-inch water wells would be drilled in one coastal county this year.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported on a recent *Texas Monthly* article (*Below the Surface*, <http://www.texasmonthly.com/story/how-rick-perry-can-solve-our-water-problem>) and offered to send the link to POE Subcommittee members after the meeting.

Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) suggested that the TGPC offer a webinar about its website.

David Van Dresar (TAGD) suggested that the 180-day list (i.e., TCEQ's "List of Texas PWSs Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages", <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/trot/droughtw.html>), which indicates that they could be out of water in 180 days or less) be included in future drought map packages.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that the National Ground Water Association (NGWA, <http://www.ngwa.org/Pages/default.aspx>) would be offering free webinars for water well owners (<http://wellowner.org/well-owner-lessons/>).

The current "2014 Water-related Conferences in Texas" handout (found at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees-POE-POE.php> under the "Additional Resources" heading) was distributed to POE Subcommittee members.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:35 PM CST.