

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Second Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2010

Meeting Date: January 6, 2010
Meeting No.: 24

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 2210

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING ATTENDANCE2

MEETING HANDOUTS.....2

MEETING RECORD OF JANUARY 6, 20104

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS 4

2. STATUS REPORTS 4

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – TCEQ Schedule of Upcoming
Collections of Agricultural Waste Pesticides, TAES Water Well Screening Events,
TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures, TGPC Booth..... 4

TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy ... 4

Impact of TGPC Support Letter for *Major Rivers* School-based Water Education
Program 4

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE 5

4. PRESENTATION – GROUNDWATER TO THE GULF SUMMER INSTITUTE5

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

Publications 5

Plugging Abandoned Water Wells5

Popular Press Articles 6

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality6

In Situ Uranium Mining and Groundwater Quality6

Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?.....6

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS 6

7. PUBLIC COMMENT 7

8. ADJOURN 7

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Bruce Lesikar (Co-Chair)

Diane Boellstorff

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)

Alan Cherepon

Linda Ruiz McCall

Michael Hare

Mel Davis

Donna Long

Ned Meister

Affiliation

Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)

TAES

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
(TCEQ)

TCEQ

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
(TSSWCB)

TSSWCB

Texas Farm Bureau (TFB)

Agency Staff

David Murry

Affiliation

TCEQ

Program

Radioactive Materials Division

Interested Parties

Marty Wise

Cappy Smith

Robin Gary

City of Austin (COA)

COA

Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation
District (BSEACD)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. January 6, 2010 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. September 30, 2009 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, January 2010
4. Groundwater to the Gulf: Summer Institute for Central Texas Educators flyer
5. Draft revision of *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (TAES L-5413),
https://agrilifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=1514
6. Draft *In Situ* Uranium Mining and Groundwater Quality Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
 - *How Is Uranium Mined in Texas ?*
 - *What Is the Quality of Groundwater Within the Uranium-Mineralized Zone ?*
 - *Once In Situ Uranium Mining Is Complete at a Site, Is the Mine Operator Required to Clean Up the Affected Groundwater ?*
 - *How Much Groundwater Is Required for an In Situ Mining Operation ?*
 - *Is the Uranium Recovered from Mining Ready to Be Used ?*
 - *How Has In-Situ Uranium Mining Changed Since It Was First Applied ?*
 - L. Savage's (RRC) feedback on *How Is Uranium Mined in Texas ?*
 - L. Savage's (RRC) feedback on *What Is the Quality of Groundwater Within the Uranium-Mineralized Zone ?*
 - L. Savage's (RRC) feedback on *Once In Situ Uranium Mining Is Complete at a Site, Is the Mine Operator Required to Clean Up the Affected Groundwater ?*

- L. Savage's (RRC) feedback on *How Much Groundwater Is Required for an In Situ Mining Operation ?*
 - L. Savage's (RRC) feedback on *Is the Uranium Recovered from Mining Ready to Be Used ?*
 - L. Savage's (RRC) feedback on *How Has In-Situ Uranium Mining Changed Since It Was First Applied ?*
7. 2010 Water-related Conferences in Texas, January 2010
 8. The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve trifold brochure
 9. Water Quality Protection Lands trifold brochure

MEETING RECORD OF JANUARY 6, 2010

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 – TCEQ Schedule of Upcoming Collections of Agricultural Waste Pesticides, TAES Water Well Screening Events, TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures, TGPC Booth

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) noted that funding for TCEQ's collection of agricultural waste pesticides won't be available again until September 2010. Later this year, the schedule of TCEQ's agricultural waste pesticides collections for September – December 2010 will be available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/schedule.html>.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the Outreach Events Status Report (available on the POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm>, under "Additional Resources"):

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
 - Five since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (221 samples)
 - Eight planned through September 2010
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
 - Four since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (709 estimated attendees)
 - Three planned through May 2010

Photos of the TGPC outreach event at the River Systems Institute – Land, Water, People 2009 Conference on November 18, 2009 were passed around the table.

TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy

The status report on the *TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy* was not discussed at the meeting.

Impact of TGPC Support Letter for *Major Rivers* School-based Water Education Program

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) reported that the target date for this year's orders is March 1, 2010, and she has already received calls from several Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) that would be new supporters of the *Major Rivers* school-based water education program (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/edu/MajorRivers/index.asp>). The full impact of the TGPC Support Letter will be reported at the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at 1:30 PM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

4. PRESENTATION – GROUNDWATER TO THE GULF SUMMER INSTITUTE

Robin Gary (BSEACD) gave a short presentation on the Groundwater to the Gulf (G2G) Summer Institute (<http://www.keeptaustinbeautiful.org/GroundwatertoGulf>). Subsequent discussion focused on how the TGPC and/or POE Subcommittee might be able to support this activity, such as providing:

- A keynote speaker;
- Specific classroom support after the event; and,
- A binder with examples of the maps and fact sheets distributed from the TGPC Booth along with a one-page list of the URLs where this material can be found online.

It was noted that educational resources are available to teachers across the state through:

- Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs, <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcds>);
- Texas AgriLife Extension Service County Offices (<http://county-tx.tamu.edu/>);
- Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs, <http://www.texasgroundwater.org/> and <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/permitting/watersupply/groundwater/gcd/gcdccontactlist.pdf>);
- Education Committees in Texas Geological Societies (the POE Subcommittee has a complete list of contact information); and,
- State agency regional offices (e.g., TCEQ, RRC, and TSSWCB).

After this year's G2G kickoff meeting, Robin Gary (BSEACD) will notify the POE Subcommittee of any specific needs they may have for the event.

5. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Publications

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that the updated *Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* publication (TCEQ RG-347, http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-347.html) is being edited by TCEQ's Agency Communications department and the publication target date is January 31, 2010.

Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

Ned Meister (TFB) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the draft revision of the *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* brochure (TAES L-5413, http://agriflifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=1514) with the changes discussed at the meeting. Publication is expected by May 1, 2010.

Popular Press Articles

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality

The *How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ?*, *What are the Construction Standards for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?*, and *What is the Permitting Process for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?* Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) were not discussed at the meeting.

In Situ Uranium Mining and Groundwater Quality

Mel Davis (TSSWCB) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *How Is Uranium Mined in Texas ?* FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

Mel Davis (TSSWCB) proposed, Ned Meister (TFB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *What Is the Quality of Groundwater Within the Uranium-Mineralized Zone ?* FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) proposed, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *Once In Situ Uranium Mining Is Complete at a Site, Is the Mine Operator Required to Clean Up the Affected Groundwater ?* FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

Michael Hare (TDA) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *How Much Groundwater Is Required for an In Situ Mining Operation ?* FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *Is the Uranium Recovered from Mining Ready to Be Used ?* FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) proposed, Ned Meister (TFB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *How Has In-Situ Uranium Mining Changed Since It Was First Applied ?* FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?

The *Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?* FAQ was not discussed at the meeting.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements, but the current “2010 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout was available for POE Subcommittee members.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:04 PM CST.