

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
 OF THE
 TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
 RECORD OF MEETING
 Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2013

Meeting Date: March 6, 2013
 Meeting No.: 37

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
 Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)

Guy Fipps

Drew Gholson

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)

Alan Cherepon

Chris Muller

Peter Pope

Michael Hare

Jana Lloyd

David Van Dresar

David Gunn

Jay Bragg

Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)

AgriLife Extension

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)

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

Texas Farm Bureau (TFB)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. March 6, 2013 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. December 4, 2012 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, March 2013
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, 3/4/2013
5. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) fact sheet
(<http://twon.tamu.edu/media/308900/twon.4.2012.pdf>)
6. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity, January 8 – February 28, 2013
7. Executive Summary of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources: Progress Report*, December 2012 (<http://www.epa.gov/hfstudy/pdfs/hf-progress-report-exec-summary20121214.pdf>).
8. Technical Stakeholder Engagement for EPA’s Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources, November 9, 2012
9. Technical Workshop Series: Call for Nominations, US EPA Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources, February 2013
10. Handout with links to *Summary of Technical Roundtables on EPA’s Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources*, November 14 – 16, 2012 (<http://www.epa.gov/hfstudy/pdfs/summary-of-technical-roundtables.pdf>) and *Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources – Progress Report*, EPA 601/R-12/011, December 2012 (<http://www.epa.gov/hfstudy/pdfs/hf-report20121214.pdf>)
11. Draft TGPC Groundwater Education Outreach Plan, March 6, 2013
12. Drought 2013 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of February 26, 2013; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook February– May 2013; Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of February 27, 2013
13. 2013 Water-related Conferences in Texas, March 2013

TGPC refrigerator magnets were also available on the handout table.

MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 6, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the TGPC 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 – AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events and Abandoned Water Well Closures and the 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
 - Three since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (264 samples)
 - Two planned through April 2013
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None scheduled at this time, but planning is underway for two well plugging demonstrations in central Texas (see below)
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
 - Three since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (110 estimated attendees)
 - Four planned through August 2013

Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension) reported that Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) may be able to provide some funds for plugging an abandoned water well. In addition, they had candidate wells in Milam (a 4-inch diameter drilled well) and Burleson (a large-diameter hand-dug well) Counties that may be appropriate for a well plugging demonstration.

Photos of the TGPC exhibit booth at the Central Texas Environmental Summit on January 14, 2013 were passed around the table.

TWON Training Activities

Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON schedule of completed, confirmed, obligated, and suggested water well screening events and workshops. Over 2,270 samples have been processed at these events since April 2011.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

The Google Analytics activity report on the redesigned TGPC website for January 8 – February 28, 2013 was provided to the POE Subcommittee. Compared to the last report for September 17 – November 29, 2012, average website visit duration increased from 1.30 to 2.95 minutes and average pages per visit increased from 1.43 to 3.14.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 1:30 PM CST, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Publications

AgriLife Extension Reprints

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) had conducted an inventory of the AgriLife Extension Bookstore and found that there were sufficient quantities of the publications that are distributed from the TGPC exhibit booth. In addition, plans are underway regarding an update of *Questions about Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas* (B-6120) after this Legislative session, with printing to be completed by the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 or in the beginning of FY 2015. The POE Subcommittee discussed using the reproduction allocation in the FY 2013 TCEQ and AgriLife Extension POE Contract to reprint one of Guy Fipps' (AgriLife Extension) irrigation publications (e.g., *Irrigation of Forage Crops*, B-6150).

Popular Press Articles

TWON Fact Sheets

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported that the POE Subcommittee would be asked to review draft versions of several new TWON Fact Sheets and provide feedback via email prior to the next meeting.

5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Peter Pope (RRC) reported that the U.S. EPA had released a progress report on its *Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources* (<http://www.epa.gov/hfstudy/>) and he reviewed four related handouts with the POE Subcommittee. The scope of the research includes five phases in the full lifespan of water used during hydraulic fracturing, and RRC has provided data to, and collected data with, the U.S. EPA for this study. There will be a public discussion with the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) in March 2013 that may be a webinar, and several technical workshops are also scheduled. A final draft report is expected to be released for public comment and peer review in 2014.

6. TGPC POE GROUNDWATER EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PLAN UPDATE

The following Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and Champions provided their initial input for the draft *TGPC Groundwater Education Outreach Plan*:

- Abandoned Water Wells – David Gunn (TDLR) and David Van Dresar (TAGD);
- Texas Well Owner Network – Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension); and,
- Texas Evapotranspiration Networks – Guy Fipps (AgriLife Extension).

The Water Supply Enhancement Program SME and Champion, Mel Davis (TSSWCB), was not able to provide his initial input prior to the meeting. An update of the draft *Plan* will be reviewed at the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

TGPC-sponsored National Groundwater Awareness Week (March 10 – 16, 2013) posters were on display in the front of the room, and they were distributed to POE Subcommittee members after the meeting to bring back to their respective agencies.

The current drought maps were reviewed by the POE Subcommittee. These maps had not changed significantly since the last meeting, and the continued forecast was for development, persistence, or intensification of drought conditions across most of the state through May 2013.

The current “2013 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout (found at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees-POE-POE.php> under the “Additional Resources” heading) was also available for POE Subcommittee members.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:41 PM CST.