

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Fourth Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2011

Meeting Date: June 8, 2011
Meeting No.: 30

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)
Kristine Uhlman
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)

Lauren Bilbe
Fred Duffy
Linda Ruiz McCall
Peter Pope
Michael Hare
Mel Davis

Jana Baker
Loren Warrick
David Van Dresar
David Gunn

Ned Meister

Affiliation

Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)
TAES
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
(TCEQ)
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)
TSSWCB
TSSWCB
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
(TDLR)
Texas Farm Bureau (TFB)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. June 8, 2011 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. March 8, 2011 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, June 2011
4. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics, June 1, 2010 through June 1, 2011
5. *What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) update
6. *What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities ?* FAQ update
7. Draft Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality FAQs: *What is an Injection Well ?, How Are Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ?, What Are the Construction Standards for Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells ?, How Are Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ?, What Are the Permitting Processes for a Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?, How Are Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They Are Not Leaking ?*
8. U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of May 31, 2011
9. 2011 Water-related Conferences in Texas, June 2011
10. TCEQ 2011 Public Drinking Water Conference flyer
11. 14th World Lake Conference – Lakes, Rivers, Groundwater and Coastal Areas: Understanding Linkages, Second Announcement
12. Laminated TWDB Groundwater bookmarks
13. *Pull Up Your Water Well Report – Online !*, TCEQ publication GI-416 (April 2011), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-416.html>

MEETING RECORD OF JUNE 8, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:38 PM CDST. TGPC POE Subcommittee members were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

2. STATUS REPORTS

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – TAES Water Well Screening Events, TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures, TGPC Booth

The Outreach Events Status Report (available on the TGPC POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm>, under “Additional Resources”) was reviewed:

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
 - Nine since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (504 samples)
 - Four planned through October 2011
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
 - One since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (389 estimated attendees)
 - Two planned through August 2011

The TGPC sponsored several “National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 6 – 12, 2011” posters for TGPC member agencies and in the Austin area with 1,337 estimated attendees at the Texas Capitol Annex, Austin Nature Science Center, and Austin Cave Festival. Photos of the TGPC Booth at the May 2011 TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair and Conference were passed around the table.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Although it was not on the agenda, the Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics for June 1, 2010 through June 1, 2011 was provided to the POE Subcommittee for review after the meeting. For the last year, the seven monitored TGPC webpages averaged 45 unique visitors per day, with website visitation peaking after the quarterly GovDelivery emails announcing each TGPC meeting.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at 1:30 PM CDST, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Publications

TAES Reprints

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reported that *Questions about Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas* (TAES B-6120) was reprinted within the limits of the TCEQ/TAES POE contract.

Popular Press Articles

Regional Water Planning Groups

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the *What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ?* FAQ update and one correction for a website reference was suggested. Peter Pope (RRC) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the FAQ update with the changes discussed at the meeting.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the *What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities ?* FAQ update and various suggestions for improvement were made. David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the FAQ update with the changes discussed at the meeting.

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality

There was extensive discussion of the first two draft FAQs related to Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality:

- *What is an Injection Well ?*
- *How Are Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ?*
- *What Are the Construction Standards for Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells ?*
- *How Are Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ?*
- *What Are the Permitting Processes for a Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?*
- *How Are Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They Are Not Leaking ?*

Peter Pope (RRC) agreed to work with Fred Duffy (TCEQ) and bring revised FAQs to the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

What are the Statewide Water Well Databases ?

This FAQ was not discussed at the meeting.

TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy

One topic related to the *TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy* (“*Implementation Strategy*”, http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan_Impl_Strat03Oct2007.pdf) was discussed.

TGPC FAQs Announcement to TAES

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reported that emails had been sent in early June 2011 to selected TAES county agents across the state which introduced the TGPC and announced the availability of its groundwater-related FAQs. A follow-up survey is planned for later this year to evaluate usage of the FAQs.

Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module

The draft Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module was not discussed at the meeting.

Other Revised and New Specific Activities

No additional Specific Activities related to the *Implementation Strategy* were discussed.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The current Drought Monitor map for Texas was provided to the POE Subcommittee. Ninety seven percent of the state was affected by one of the five drought categories, and 50% of the state was experiencing the worst (D4 – Exceptional) drought conditions.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) invited POE Subcommittee members to staff a shift in the TGPC booth at the TCEQ Public Drinking Water (PDW) Conference on August 9 – 10, 2011. Mel Davis (TSSWCB) requested that information regarding the TCEQ PDW Conference be forwarded to the Texas Rural Water Association (TRWA).

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) introduced Kristine Uhlman (TAES) to the POE Subcommittee as the new Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program specialist. Jana Baker (TSSWCB), taking over as the TWON project manager for Loren Warrick (TSSWCB), was also introduced. Funding and support for TWON is provided through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source (NPS) grant from the TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), with additional support from the TGPC. TWON is a collaboration of the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI), TAES Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, TAES Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, and TAGD.

The current “2011 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout was available for POE Subcommittee members.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:38 PM CDST.