

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

Meeting Date: March 8, 2011
Meeting No.: 29

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)	Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)
Guy Fipps	TAES
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Cary Betz	TCEQ
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Fred Duffy	TCEQ
Ben Knape	TCEQ
L. Scott Underwood	TCEQ
Linda Ruiz McCall	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Holly Vierk	TWDB
Peter Pope	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Mel Davis	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
David Van Dresar	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Ned Meister	Texas Farm Bureau (TFB)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. March 8, 2011 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. December 1, 2010 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, March 2011
4. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics, June 1, 2010 through March 1, 2011
5. *What Did the TCEQ Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) update
6. Draft Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality FAQs: *What is an Underground Injection Well ? , How Are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ? , How Are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ? , What Are the Construction Standards for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ? , What Are the Permitting Processes for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ? , How Are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They Are Not Leaking ?*
7. F. Duffy and A. Cherepon feedback on the Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality draft FAQs
8. TDA *Shoot the Bull* Radio Program script for March 1, 2011
9. Final draft fact sheet regarding the TGPC and its FAQs for TAES county offices
10. EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Education Grant Funding announcement
11. 2011 Water-related Conferences in Texas, March 2011
12. TWDB Water IQ: Know Your WaterSM folder

MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 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 1:31 PM CST. 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
 - None since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting
 - Eight planned through October 2011
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
 - Three since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (86 estimated attendees)
 - Two planned through August 2011

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

The Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics for June 1, 2010 through March 1, 2011 was provided to the POE Subcommittee. The seven monitored TGPC webpages continued to average 42 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 Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at 1:30 PM CDST, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

4. PRESENTATION

Water IQ

Holly Vierk (TWDB) reviewed their Water IQ: Know Your WaterSM statewide public awareness water conservation program including its website (<http://www.wateriq.org/apps/wateriq/default.aspx>), promotional material and literature, public service announcements, and municipal examples.

5. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Publications

TAES Reprints

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reported that *Questions about Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas* (TAES B-6120) is running low in the TAES Bookstore and suggested that additional copies be reprinted. David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved reprinting this TAES publication within the limits of the TCEQ/TAES POE contract.

Popular Press Articles

What Did the TCEQ Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater ?
update

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) reviewed the *What Did the TCEQ Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater ?* FAQ update and various suggestions for improvement were made. Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the FAQ update with the changes discussed at the meeting.

David Gunn (TDLR) left at 2:25 PM CST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

Regional Water Planning Groups

Plans for updating the *What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ?* and *What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities ?* FAQs were briefly discussed. Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) noted that their Regional Water Planning webpage (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/wrpi/rwp/rwp.asp>) has a number of FAQs on this subject, and that it might be helpful to provide a link to this webpage from the TGPC FAQs webpage. Linda Ruiz McCall agreed to work with Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) and bring draft updates for these two FAQs to the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality

The POE Subcommittee provided extensive feedback on the latest drafts of the Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality FAQs:

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

Peter Pope (RRC) agreed to work with Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) and 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

Various topics 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_Stra_t03Oct2007.pdf) were discussed.

Additional TGPC Content for the TDA *Shoot the Bull* Radio Program

The script and 90-second recording of a TDA “Shoot the Bull” radio program were reviewed. The episode referred to National Groundwater Awareness Week (March 6 – 12, 2011) and aired on March 1, 2011. The “Shoot the Bull” radio program has a weekly adult audience of over 50,000 and is available on approximately a dozen radio stations in the Texas State Network (TSN, <http://www.tsnradio.com/>).

TGPC FAQs Announcement to TAES

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reviewed the final draft of a fact sheet about the TGPC and its FAQs. The fact sheet will be emailed to TAES county offices after the meeting, and a follow-up survey is planned for later this year.

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.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) invited POE Subcommittee members to staff a shift in the TGPC booth at the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair & Conference on May 3 – 4, 2011.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) announced that the Texas Water Foundation will host Water Conservation Day at the State Capitol on April 27, 2011.

An announcement regarding the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Applications for Environmental Education Grant Funding and the current “2010 – 2011 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout were available for POE Subcommittee members.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:31 PM CST.