

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

Meeting Date: June 10, 2014
Meeting No.: 42

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)

Drew Gholson

Guy Fipps

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)

Alan Cherepon

Peggy Hunka

Chris Muller

Chris Moore

Aaron Wendt

David Van Dresar

Linda Ruiz McCall

David Gunn

Lynne Fahlquist

Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)

AgriLife Extension

AgriLife Extension

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

TCEQ

TCEQ

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

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)

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. June 10, 2014 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. March 5, 2014 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, June 2014
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, June 10, 2014
5. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity, March 3, 2014 – June 8, 2014
6. *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition*,
http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf
7. Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Water Supply Enhancement Program
8. Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts map
9. TDLR Water Well Drillers and Pump Installer Frequently Asked Questions – Abandoned or Deteriorated Wells (<http://www.tdlr.texas.gov/wwd/wwdfaq.htm#a1>), Abandoned Well Determination Criteria, and Abandoned Well Referral Form
10. TWON Well Read – issue 2 e-letter, June 3, 2014 and *Protect Your Water Well During Drought* (AgriLife Extension publication SC-014)
11. Drought 2014 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of June 3, 2014; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook May – August 2014; Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of June 4, 2014; excerpt from the TCEQ List of Texas PWSs Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages as of June 4, 2014
12. Draft agenda for TCEQ 2014 Public Drinking Water Conference
13. 2014 Water-related Conferences in Texas, June 2014

Photos of the TGPC National Groundwater Awareness Week poster at the William B. Travis Building and the Texas Capitol Ground Floor Rotunda, and photos of the TGPC exhibit booth at the TCEQ Take Care of Texas Day and the Environmental Trade Fair, were also passed around the table.

MEETING RECORD OF JUNE 10, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:36 PM CDST. 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
 - Four since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (181 samples)
 - Two planned through July 2014
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None scheduled at this time
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
 - Three since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (1,756 estimated attendees)
 - Two planned through September 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 4,175 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity for March 3, 2014 – June 8, 2014. The average website visit duration was 2.75 minutes (up from 1.5 minutes at the last meeting), and the average pages per visit was 4.22 (up from 3.58 at the last meeting). A spike of activity on the TGPC website was observed during National Groundwater Awareness Week.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2014, at 1:30 PM CDST, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition

The Subject Matter Experts for each topic in the current *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan* (http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf) discussed various actions that could help deliver their messages to their audiences.

Abandoned Water Wells:

- Set up an abandoned water well closure demonstration with Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (GCD);
- Make abandoned water well training (identification, reporting, etc.) available through notices to purchasers and to environmental consultants and commercial real estate and law firms;
- Work with the Industry Council on the Environment (<http://ice-texas.org/>);
- Ask Dana Porter (AgriLife Extension) for contacts within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Services Administration (FSA); and,
- Contact Charles Porter (St. Edward's University, charlp@stedwards.edu, 512-627-3793) who is a professor, author, and expert on water rights and real estate.

TSSWCB Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP):

- Review public comments on the draft State Water Supply Enhancement Plan that are due by July 7, 2014;
- Revise the TSSWCB WSEP webpage (<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/brushcontrol/>);
- Increase public outreach during 2014 (TSSWCB's 75th Anniversary year);
- Work with the Water Conservation Advisory Council to complete the second draft of the Brush Control Best Management Practice (BMP) revision (<http://www.savetexaswater.org/bmp/AgBMPindex.htm>); and,
- Work with GCDs to share information regarding the 70 % cost-share opportunities.

Texas Well Owner Network:

- Develop additional fact sheets, as needed;
- Work with AgriLife Communications to develop YouTube videos;
- Continue exploring social media opportunities for outreach; and,
- Talk with Lynne Fahlquist (USGS) and the USDA NRCS State Conservation Agronomist (Willie Durham, william.durham@tx.usda.gov, 254-742-9885) about increasing TWON outreach.

Texas Evapotranspiration (ET) Networks:

- Review archived Amarillo and California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS, http://www.cd.water.ca.gov/land_wateruse/cimis.cfm) success story information and summarize in a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) or fact sheet;
- Summarize WaterMyYard (<http://watermyyard.org/>) verification data from a dozen homeowners by the end of 2014;

- Contact golf course associations for success stories from those using ET data for irrigation;
- Work with GCDs and Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs); and,
- Work with the National Weather Service (NWS) Lubbock office on “ET Forecasts”.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) showed the draft TGPC responsive design test website to POE Subcommittee members. The TGPC website should be more user-friendly for mobiles by the end of August 2014.

Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the second issue (June 3, 2014) TWON Well-Read e-letter and its referenced *Protect Your Water Well During Drought* fact sheet (AgriLife Extension publication SC-014).

David Gunn (TDLR) left at 3:00 PM CDST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

Texas Groundwater Conservation Districts and Well Plugging Programs Web Map

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the interactive, online map of GCDs in the state with cost-share programs for plugging abandoned water wells which is posted the TGPC Water Wells webpage (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/WaterWells.php>). TCEQ and TAGD should repeat their surveys of GCDs and update the map with any new information by the end of 2014. David Van Dresar (TAGD) has already provided a summary of the well closure grant program at Post Oak Savannah GCD.

Popular Press Articles

TWON Fact Sheets

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) indicated that TWON may develop a fact sheet about how to identify abandoned water wells in the field, and some existing information on the TDLR Water Well Drillers and Pump Installers webpages will be very helpful in that effort.

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

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

The current drought maps and “180-day list” (i.e., Public Water Supply systems that could be out of water in 180 days or less) were provided to the POE Subcommittee. As of June 3, 2014, 91 % of the state was in one of the five drought categories (about the same as at the last POE Subcommittee meeting), with most of the central and western half of the state

still forecast to have drought conditions through August 2014. As of June 4, 2014, of the 4,641 active community water systems in Texas, 1,171 were affected by drought (either voluntary or mandatory), and 781 of these use groundwater (either exclusively or partially).

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, along with a draft agenda for the TCEQ 2014 Public Drinking Water Conference on August 5 – 6, 2014.

Linda Ruiz-McCall (UTBEG) announced that the Joint Interim Committee on Water Desalination would be meeting on June 16, 2014 in Austin, on June 23, 2014 in Corpus Christi, and on June 30, 2014 in Wichita Falls.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:45 PM CDST.