

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2009

Meeting Date: March 10, 2009
Meeting No.: 21

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Bruce Lesikar (Co-Chair)	Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Abiy Berehe	TCEQ
Cary Betz	TCEQ
Al Cherepon	TCEQ
Linda Ruiz McCall	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Donna Long	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Mel Davis	TSSWCB
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. March 10, 2009 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. December 2, 2008 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. TGPC POE Subcommittee Outreach Events – Status Report
4. Draft *Drinking Water Problems: Benzene* Fact Sheet
5. Draft revision of TAES publication L-5413, *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells*
6. Kathy McCormack’s feedback on the draft revision of TAES publication L-5413, *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells*
7. Draft revision of TCEQ publication RG-347, *Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells*
8. Draft *What Did TCEQ’s Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)
9. Draft *What is the State Water Plan ?* FAQ
10. Kathy McCormack’s feedback on the Draft *What is the State Water Plan ?* FAQ
11. 2009 Water-related Conferences in Texas

MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 10, 2009

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 1:33 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 – TAES Water Well Screening Events, TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures, TGPC Booth

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed 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”):

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
 - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (128 samples)
 - Four planned through May 2009
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - One since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (14 attendees)
 - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
 - Four since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (89 attendees)
 - Two planned through May 2009

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 2:00 PM, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 2210.

4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE FACT SHEETS AND POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES

Drinking Water Problems: Benzene

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this draft Fact Sheet. Publication is expected by June 1, 2009.

Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) presented the current state of the *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (TAES publication L-5413) revision. Bruce Lesikar, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), and David Gunn (TDLR) will complete the draft revision, updating and synchronizing it with its sister TCEQ publication (RG-347), and present it at the next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting.

Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the current state of the *Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (TCEQ publication RG-347) revision. Bruce Lesikar (TAES), Kathy McCormack, and David Gunn (TDLR) will complete the draft revision, updating and synchronizing it with its sister TAES publication (L-5413), and present it at the next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting.

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

Mel Davis (TSSWCB) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

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 ?* FAQs were not discussed at the meeting.

What is the State Water Plan ?

David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

Al Cherepon (TCEQ) suggested that the TGPC POE Subcommittee develop an FAQ titled *What is the Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report ?*

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) announced that they are working on a high school water education program and have a contract in place for developing an on-line application for teachers regarding stewardship and water contamination. Linda Ruiz McCall requested information regarding online links to appropriate resources. Donna Long (TSSWCB) suggested investigating the public outreach materials being generated in the Gilleland Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project (<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/69-gillelandcreekbacteria.html>), Al Cherepon (TCEQ) suggested checking with the Texas Clean Rivers Program (<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html>), and Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) offered to provide contact information for TCEQ and LCRA staff doing public outreach related to water quality.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) referred the POE Subcommittee to the handout regarding 2009 Water-related Conferences in Texas (available on the TGPC POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm>, under "Additional Resources").

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:48 PM CDST.