

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
First Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2016

Meeting Date: September 10, 2015
Meeting No.: 47

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Drew Gholson (Acting Co-Chair)	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
Meredith Earwood	AgriLife Extension
Charles Swanson	AgriLife Extension
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Chris Muller	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Chris Moore	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Emily Hall	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Ashley Wendt	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Sarah Schlessinger	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Linda Ruiz McCall	University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG)
Nikki Dictson	Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, September 10, 2015
2. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record, June 9, 2015
3. Outreach Events Status Report, September 2015
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, September 9, 2015
5. Google Analytics reports on TGPC website activity, June 5 – September 7, 2015
6. Draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* (TCEQ publication GI-088, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-088.html>) trifold brochure revision (markup and clean)
7. A. Cherepon feedback on draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* revision
8. A. Wendt feedback on draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* revision
9. Draft *What Do I Need to Know About Plugging An Abandoned Water Well ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) revision
10. Draft *Can I Convert an Abandoned Oil or Gas Well Into a Water Well ?* FAQ (markup and clean)
11. *Take Care of Texas News You Can Use* newsletter, September 2015
12. Community Water Fluoridation Facts flyer
13. TWON trifold brochure (AgriLife Extension publication EM-118)
14. *The Bureau Store* flyer
15. *Geology of Texas, 1992* UTBEG 8.5” x 11” map
16. 2015 Water-related Conferences in Texas, September 2015

MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:37 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://tgpc.state.tx.us/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/>, under the “Additional Resources” heading) was reviewed:

- AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - Four planned through October 2015
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closure Education
 - One since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (14 attendees)
 - None scheduled at this time
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
 - Three since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (156 estimated attendees)
 - Two planned through December 2015

Photos of the TGPC exhibit booth at the TCEQ Public Drinking Water (PDW) Conference on August 11 – 12, 2015, as well as a photo of TGPC handouts at the TAGD Groundwater Summit on August 25 – 27, 2015, were also 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. There have been over 5,350 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) provided the Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity for June 5 – September 7, 2015. The average website visit duration was the same (1.9 minutes), but the average pages/visit was again less than what was reported at the last meeting (2.0 vs 2.2 pages/visit). The GovDelivery emails regarding both the quarterly TGPC meeting and the publication of the *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2014* generated a spike in website activity. The TGPC website’s internal Search box was working again.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 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

Topic Updates

Two of the four topics in the current *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan* ("Plan", http://tgpc.state.tx.us/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf) were discussed at the meeting:

- Abandoned Water Wells – Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that initial internal discussions had taken place regarding a possible Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/legal/sep/>) for plugging abandoned water wells, and that TWON had been contacted about being a potential Third-Party Administrator for the SEP; and,
- Texas Evapotranspiration Networks – Charles Swanson (AgriLife Extension) reported that the TGPC's *What Are the Texas Evapotranspiration (ET) Networks ?* FAQ will need to be updated at the next POE Subcommittee meeting because the Texas High Plains ET Network (TxHPET) no longer exists.

Popular Press Articles

TWON Fact Sheets

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Final draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* (TCEQ Publication GI-088) Revision

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) and Ashley Wendt (TSSWCB) reviewed their feedback on the draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* trifold brochure revision, and several other POE Subcommittee members provided additional comments. Pending TGPC Chair edits, the final draft of the trifold brochure may be presented to the TGPC at the October 21, 2015 meeting, and after approval it will be submitted to TCEQ Agency Communication for publication.

Draft *What Do I Need to Know About Plugging An Abandoned Water Well ?* FAQ Revision

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the draft *What Do I Need to Know About Plugging An Abandoned Water Well ?* FAQ revision. Chris Moore (RRC) proposed, Chris Muller (TWDB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the FAQ revision with the changes discussed at the meeting. The FAQ revision will be posted on the TGPC FAQ webpage (<http://tgpc.state.tx.us/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>).

Draft *How Do I Convert an Abandoned Oil & Gas Well Into a Water Well ?* FAQ

Chris Moore (RRC) reviewed the draft *Can I Convert an Abandoned Oil or Gas Well Into a Water Well ?* FAQ. Ashley Wendt (TSSWCB) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the FAQ with no additional changes. The FAQ will be presented to the TGPC at the October 21, 2015 meeting, and after approval it will be posted on the TGPC FAQ webpage (<http://tgpc.state.tx.us/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>).

5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) noted the September 2015 edition of the *Take Care of Texas News You Can Use* newsletter in the meeting handouts. National Protect Your Groundwater Day (September 8, 2015) was highlighted with a link to the TGPC website.

Emily Hall (DSHS) reviewed the Community Water Fluoridation Facts flyer that was included in the meeting handouts.

Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension) referred POE Subcommittee members to the new TWON trifold brochure (AgriLife Extension publication EM-118) that was included in the meeting handouts.

Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) shared *The Bureau Store* flyer and *Geology of Texas, 1992* map with POE Subcommittee members and announced that their 11 popular one-page thematic maps are now available for free download on their website (<http://begstore.beg.utexas.edu/store/content/6-free-downloads>).

In addition to the list of 2015 Water-related Conferences in Texas that was included in the meeting handouts, the following events were also announced:

- Sarah Schlessinger (TAGD) – Hill Country Alliance Annual Leadership Summit on September 24, 2015 in Fredericksburg; Texas Aggregates and Concrete (TACA) Environmental and Sustainability Seminar on September 24 – 25, 2015 in San Antonio; and, Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) Fall Conference on October 14 – 16, 2015 in San Antonio;
- Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 State/Tribal Pesticide meeting in October 2015 (exact date and location TBD);
- Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) – Hill Country Alliance Rainwater Revival on November 7, 2015 in Dripping Springs; and,
- Charles Swanson (AgriLife Extension) – Agricultural Irrigation conferences in January and February 2016 in south Texas and Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) announced that the most recent issue of the *Texas Water Journal* had a commentary on the 84th Texas State Legislature with summaries of water-related legislative action.

Chris Moore (RRC) announced that they now have several social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram).

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

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