

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

Meeting Date: September 11, 2008
Meeting No.: 19

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING ATTENDANCE2

MEETING HANDOUTS.....2

MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2008.....4

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS 4

2. REVIEW UPDATED PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
SECTION OF THE TGPC REPORT TO THE 81ST LEGISLATURE 4

3. STATUS REPORTS 4

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – TAES Water Well Screening Events,
TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures, TGPC Booth..... 4

TGPC Website Activity Statistics Report..... 4

Links to the TGPC Website on TGPC Member Agency Websites – Second Survey
Results..... 6

4. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE 6

5. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE FACT SHEETS AND POPULAR PRESS
ARTICLES..... 6

Drinking Water Problems: Benzene 6

How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Urban Areas ? 6

What Did TCEQ's Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater ?
..... 6

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality..... 7

What is a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ? 7

How Do You Form a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ? 7

What is a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) ?..... 7

What is the State Water Plan ?..... 7

What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) ? 7

What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups
(RWPGs) ? 8

What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ?..... 8

What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities
?..... 8

What is a Groundwater Management Area (GMA) ? 8

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS..... 8

7. PUBLIC COMMENT 9

8. ADJOURN 9

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)
Al Cherepon	TCEQ
Kelly Mills	TCEQ
Linda Ruiz McCall	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
David Villarreal	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Donna Long	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Ned Meister	Texas Farm Bureau
Denise Gentsch	Syngenta

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. September 11, 2008 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. June 11, 2008 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Updated POE Activities section of the TGPC Report to the 81st Legislature
4. TGPC POE Subcommittee Outreach Events – Status Report
5. TGPC Website Activity Statistics Report
6. Links to the TGPC Website on TGPC Member Agency Websites – Second Survey Results
7. Draft Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) – *How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Urban Areas ?*
8. Ned Meister’s feedback on the *How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Urban Areas ?* FAQ
9. Draft FAQ – *What Did TCEQ’s Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater ?*
10. Draft FAQ – *What is a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?*
11. Leslie Savage’s feedback on the *What is a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?* FAQ
12. Draft FAQ – *How Do You Form a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?*
13. Leslie Savage’s feedback on the *How Do You Form a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?* FAQ
14. Draft FAQ – *What is a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) ?*
15. Ned Meister’s feedback on the *What is a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) ?* FAQ
16. Draft FAQ – *What is the State Water Plan ?*
17. Draft FAQ – *What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) ?*
18. Draft FAQ – *What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) ?*
19. Draft FAQ – *What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ?*

20. Draft FAQ – *What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities ?*
21. Draft FAQ – *What is a Groundwater Management Area (GMA) ?*
22. Excerpt from TGPC POE Subcommittee *Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan* (http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan13Nov2006.pdf, Issue D, Section 5)
23. 2008 Water-related Conferences in Texas
24. TGPC refrigerator magnets

MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

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 10:04 AM CST. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

2. REVIEW UPDATED PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES SECTION OF THE TGPC REPORT TO THE 81ST LEGISLATURE

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the updated POE Activities section of the TGPC Report to the 81st Legislature. Bruce Lesikar (TAES) requested that a reference to public health be added to the On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) section of the material.

3. 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”):

- TCE Water Well Screening Events
 - Four since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (194 samples)
 - Six planned through November 2008
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - One planned through December 2008
- TGPC Booth
 - One since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (73 attendees)
 - Two planned through December 2008

TGPC Website Activity Statistics Report

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed TGPC website activity since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting:

Timeframe	Unique Visitors	Average Visitors/day	Page Views	File Downloads
11Jul2007 – 25Sep2007 76 days	5,233	69	9,078	262 .pdf files 7,226 times
26Sep2007 – 16Dec2007 82 days	5,367	65	12,583	290 .pdf files 5,631 times
17Dec2007 – 19Feb2008 64 days	3,980	62	10,433	427 .pdf files 4,249 times
20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008 56 days	5,007	89	11,827	422 .pdf files 5,561 times

17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008 52 days	4,575	88	11,096	458 .pdf files 6,136 times
09Jun2008 – 09Sep2008 92 days	7,438	81	21,477	378 .pdf files 11,834 times

During the most recent time period (09Jun2008 – 09Sep2008):

- Twelve days had over 100 Unique Visitors with a high of 231 Unique Visitors on June 12, 2008
- Nine days had over 300 Page Views with a high of 518 Page Views on June 12, 2008.
- The Top 5 pages viewed were:
 - Home Page
 - Water Wells
 - Meetings
 - Contamination
 - Members – TDLR
- The Top 5 .pdf files downloaded were:
 - TAES publication L-5342, On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems
 - Water Ownership FAQ
 - Seymour Aquifer Water Quality White Paper
 - Brackish Water and Desalination Reject Water Disposal White Paper
 - Well Capping FAQ
 - Note that the next six downloaded files were:
 - 16Jan2008 TGPC minutes
 - How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Agricultural Areas ? FAQ
 - What is the Relationship Between Water Levels in Wells and Groundwater Quantity ? FAQ
 - 18Jun2008 Work Session agenda
 - What is a Municipal Setting Designation ? FAQ
 - What Do I Need to Know About Plugging An Abandoned Water Well ? FAQ
- Google had the highest percentage of referrals to the TGPC website with 55 % and Yahoo referrals were 10 %.
- Top Google and Yahoo key phrases included:
 - texas department of licensing and regulation
 - 12100 park 35 circle austin texas; 12100 park 35 circle austin tx
 - texas groundwater protection committee
 - texas water well database
 - groundwater contamination; ground water contamination
 - water wells
 - texas railroad commission oil and gas
 - prevention of water pollution

The TGPC website activity statistics software package was investigated in Fiscal Year 2008 but not renewed in the Fiscal Year 2009 contract. If this type of information is considered useful, it could be explored again in the future.

Denise Gentsch (Syngenta) suggested that the Texas Legislature and the Ag Council be notified of the TGPC POE Subcommittee's efforts. Similarly, David Villarreal (TDA) suggested that the Toxic Substances Coordinating Committee (<http://www.tsc.state.tx.us/>) be notified of the TGPC POE Subcommittee's efforts.

Links to the TGPC Website on TGPC Member Agency Websites – Second Survey Results

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed a second survey of links to the TGPC website on TGPC member agency websites (see the TGPC POE Subcommittee *Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy*, http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan_Impl_Strat03Oct2007.pdf, Issue E, Specific Activity 8). Survey results varied:

- A link to the TGPC website was still not found on three of the TGPC member agency websites (RRC, TDA, and UTBEG);
- A link to the TGPC website was found on two of the TGPC member agency websites (TWDB and TSSWCB), but it was not the *first* website search result; and,
- A link to the TGPC website was found (if there was no website search engine), or it was found as the first website search result, on five TGPC member agency websites (TCEQ, DSHS, TAGD, TAR, and TDLR). This is an improvement from just one TGPC member agency website in the last survey.

Work continues with those TGPC member agency websites that did not have a link to the TGPC website or that needed to improve their TGPC link search results. This survey will be performed again before the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

4. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at 1:30 PM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

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

Drinking Water Problems: Benzene

The *Benzene* draft Fact Sheet was not discussed at the meeting.

How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Urban Areas ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ, along with Ned Meister's comments on it, and provided minor feedback to the author, Al Cherepon (TCEQ). David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, Donna Long (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

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

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ and provided extensive feedback to the author, Al Cherepon (TCEQ). Al Cherepon agreed to work with Denise Gentsch

(Syngenta) and David Villarreal (TDA) and to bring a revised draft to the next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting.

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality

The *Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality* draft 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 is the Permitting Process for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?, and How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They are not Leaking ?) were not discussed at the meeting.

What is a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ, along with Leslie Savage's comments on it, and provided minor feedback to the author, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ). Donna Long (TSSWCB) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

How Do You Form a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ, along with Leslie Savage's comments on it, and provided minor feedback to the author, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ). David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

What is a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ, along with Ned Meister's comments on it, and provided minor feedback to the author, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ). David Villarreal (TDA) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

What is the State Water Plan ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ and provided extensive feedback to the author, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ). Kathy McCormack agreed to work with Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) and to bring a revised draft to the next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting.

What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ and provided minor feedback to the author, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ). David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall

(TWDB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ and provided extensive feedback to the author, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ). Kathy McCormack agreed to work with Janie Hopkins (TWDB) and to bring a revised draft to the next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting.

What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ?

The *What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ?* draft FAQ was not discussed at the meeting.

What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities ?

The *What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities ?* draft FAQ was not discussed at the meeting.

What is a Groundwater Management Area (GMA) ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ and provided minor feedback to the author, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ). David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, David Villarreal (TDA) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this amended FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) referred the POE Subcommittee to the handout regarding 2008 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”). TGPC refrigerator magnets were also available at the meeting.

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) announced that the Texas Onsite Wastewater Association (TOWA) Fall Super Conference in Fort Worth on November 6 – 7, 2008 was cancelled.

Donna Long (TSSWCB) announced that:

- The TSSWCB Annual State Meeting in Galveston on September 28 – October 3, 2008 was cancelled due to Hurricane Ike. [The meeting was subsequently relocated to Bastrop, <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/media/20080924>].
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 18th Annual Quality Assurance Conference was scheduled for October 20 – 24, 2008 in Dallas (<http://www.epa.gov/region6/6pd/qa/index08.htm>).
- Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution success stories could be sent to Loren Henley (lhenley@tsswcb.state.tx.us, 254-773-2250, ext. 248) for TSSWCB’s annual report on Managing NPS Pollution in Texas (<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/managementprogram>).

- The Texas Watershed Steward program (<http://tw.s.tamu.edu/>) provides Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for teachers, planners, scientists, engineers, pesticide license holders, and floodplain managers.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) announced that:

- The Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST) 2008 was scheduled for November 6 – 8, 2008 in Fort Worth (<http://www.statweb.org/CASTFW/>). As it had done at last year's CAST, TWDB invited the TGPC to share its booth at this year's conference.
- TWDB would be providing resources for middle school education (Raising Your Water IQ) on their website (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/edu/RaisingYourWaterIQ/index.asp>).
- TWDB had posted new water conservation brochures on their website (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/pubs.asp>).
- TWDB is completing a high school water education program with links to Texas-specific information. A core group of teachers will be developing this web-based program in October 2008 with a publication target date of 2010.

Al Cherepon (TCEQ) announced that there would be a U.S. EPA Region 6 pesticide meeting in Dallas on October 28 – 29, 2008.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:17 AM CST.