

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Fourth Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2012

Meeting Date: June 12, 2012
Meeting No.: 34

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)
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Peter Pope	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Mel Davis	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Jana Lloyd	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. June 12, 2012 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. March 1, 2012 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, June 2012
4. *Private Drinking Water Well Basics*, TAES publication SP-464, http://twon.tamu.edu/media/291840/private_water_well_basics.pdf
5. *Well Owner Drought Response*, TAES publication SP-465, http://twon.tamu.edu/media/291843/well_owner_drought_response.pdf
6. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics, March 1, 2012 through June 10, 2012
7. Draft updates of the following TGPC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):
 - *What is the Relationship Between Water Levels in Wells and Groundwater Quantity ?*
 - *Why Monitor Groundwater Levels ?* and Diane Boellstorff's (TAES) feedback
 - *Water in Texas – Who Owns It ?*
 - *What is a Municipal Setting Designation ?*
 - *What is the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) ?*
 - *What is the Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report ?*
 - *What is a Groundwater Management Area (GMA) ?*
 - *What is the State Water Plan ?*
 - *How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Urban Areas ?* and Diane Boellstorff's (TAES) and Michael Hare's (TDA) feedback
 - *How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Agricultural Areas ?* and Michael Hare's (TDA) feedback
8. Texas Groundwater Information (TSSWCB email, January 25, 2012)
9. Draft "Public Outreach and Education Activities" section of the draft *TGPC Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 83rd Legislature*

10. AgriLife Research: Groundwater nitrate concentrations increasing in Rolling Plains (TDA email, June 12, 2012)
11. Early Bird Discount Pricing Ending Soon for EPA's New Unified Guidance Course Coming to Austin (TDA email, June 12, 2012)
12. 2012 Water-related Conferences in Texas, June 2012
13. *Making a Rain Barrel*, TAES publication L-5518,
https://agrilifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=2809

MEETING RECORD OF JUNE 12, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Diane Boellstorff (TAES), Co-Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 PM CDST. 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, and TGPC Booth

The current 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
 - Six since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (339 samples)
 - Four planned through November 2012
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
 - Four since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (1,452 estimated attendees)
 - Three planned through December 2012

Photos of TGPC-sponsored National Groundwater Awareness Week (March 11 – 17, 2012) posters in the Texas Capitol and TCEQ’s Building F, as well as photos of the TGPC exhibit booth at the 2012 TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair, were passed around the table.

TWON Training Activities and Handbook

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reported that the final draft of the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) Handbook would be ready by the end of June 2012, and TWON training events will be scheduled shortly thereafter. Diane Boellstorff also noted the two new TWON publications in the handout package – *Private Drinking Water Well Basics* (TAES SP-464, http://twon.tamu.edu/media/291840/private_water_well_basics.pdf) and *Well Owner Drought Response* (TAES SP-465, http://twon.tamu.edu/media/291843/well_owner_drought_response.pdf).

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

The Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity for March 1, 2012 through June 10, 2012, including statistics on the website’s visitors, visit duration, page depth, traffic sources, entrance keywords, and landing pages was provided to the POE Subcommittee.

Website visitation over the last quarter peaked after the GovDelivery email announcing the TGPC April 18, 2012 meeting.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2012, at 1:30 PM CDST, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Publications

TAES Reprints

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reported that 6,500 copies of *Making a Rain Barrel* (TAES L-5518, https://agrilifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=2809) were reprinted using the reproduction allocation in the Fiscal Year 2012 TCEQ/TAES POE Contract, and that 5,898 copies of that order currently remained in the AgriLife Bookstore. This very popular rainwater harvesting publication is distributed at TAES water well screening events, and a copy was provided in the handout package.

Popular Press Articles

Review and Update of Existing TGPC Frequently Asked Questions

The POE Subcommittee approved the updates of eight TGPC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), some with minor changes discussed at the meeting:

- *What is the Relationship Between Water Levels in Wells and Groundwater Quantity ?* – Peter Pope (RRC) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded
- *Why Monitor Groundwater Levels ?* – David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded
- *Water in Texas – Who Owns It ?* – David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded
- *What is a Municipal Setting Designation ?* – David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded
- *What is the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) ?* – David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded
- *What is the Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report ?* – David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded
- *What is a Groundwater Management Area (GMA) ?* – Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) proposed, Michael Hare (TDA) seconded
- *What is the State Water Plan ?* – Peter Pope (RRC) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded

David Gunn (TDLR) and Diane Boellstorff (TAES) confirmed before the meeting, and David Van Dresar (TAGD) confirmed after the meeting, that the following FAQs were still valid and did not require any updates:

- *What Do I Need to Know About the Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Systems ?*
- *What Do I Need to Know About Capping A Water Well for Future Use ?*
- *What Do I Need to Know About Plugging An Abandoned Water Well ?*
- *What is a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?*
- *How Do You Form a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?*

After much discussion, Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) and Michael Hare (TDA) agreed to work with Ned Meister (TFB) and bring updates of two FAQs to the next meeting:

- *How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Urban Areas ?*
- *How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Agricultural Areas ?*

TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy

One topic 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_Strat03Oct2007.pdf) was discussed.

TGPC FAQs Follow-up Survey with TSSWCB

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that Chris Muller (Texas Water Development Board) had prepared the online follow-up FAQ survey to receive Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) responses. Mel Davis (TSSWCB) indicated that he would send out an email after the meeting and invite the 216 SWCDs in the state to participate in the survey.

NGWA Public Awareness Toolbox

The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Public Awareness Toolbox was not discussed at the meeting.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) noted the draft “Public Outreach and Education Activities” section of the draft *TGPC Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 83rd Legislature* that was in the handout package. Some of the reported numbers (i.e., TGPC booth events and visitors; TAES water well screening events, samples, and counties; and subscription service recipients) will be updated after the next POE Subcommittee meeting. In addition, the TGPC website is now 10 years old, and TCEQ has decided to pursue a website redesign and upgrade in Fiscal Year 2013.

Michael Hare (TDA) had provided some information prior to the meeting which was included in the handout package:

- A Texas AgriLife Research study showing increasing groundwater nitrate concentrations in the Rolling Plains; and,
- Early bird discount pricing for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s new Unified Guidance Course that will be taught in Austin, Texas on August 15 – 17, 2012.

The current “2012 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout (found at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm> under the “Additional Resources” heading) was also available for POE Subcommittee members.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. ADJOURN

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:27 PM CDST.