

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
 OF THE  
 TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
 RECORD OF MEETING  
 Fourth Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2013

Meeting Date: June 12, 2013  
 Meeting No.: 38

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
 Room: 3202A

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)

Drew Gholson

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)

Alan Cherepon

Cary Betz

Chris Muller

Peter Pope

Chris Moore

Michael Hare

Mel Davis

Aaron Wendt

David Van Dresar

Nikki Dictson

### Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)

AgriLife Extension

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

TCEQ

TCEQ

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

RRC

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

TSSWCB

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)

Texas A&M Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)

## **MEETING HANDOUTS**

1. June 12, 2013 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. March 6, 2013 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, June 2013
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, 6/5/2013
5. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity, March 1 – June 9, 2013
6. Drought 2013 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of June 4, 2013; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook June – August 2013; Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of June 5, 2013
7. Draft TGPC Groundwater Education Outreach Plan, June 12, 2013
8. D. Gunn feedback on draft TGPC Groundwater Education Outreach Plan, June 12, 2013
9. TAGD Abandoned Water Well Plugging Program Survey, June 2013
10. Draft Texas Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) and Well Plugging Programs map, 12Jun2013
11. A. Wendt feedback on draft TGPC Groundwater Education Outreach Plan, June 12, 2013
12. Social Media 101 – Raising Stakeholder Awareness in an Information Age workshop flyer
13. TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference flyer
14. 2013 Water-related Conferences in Texas, June 2013

## MEETING RECORD OF JUNE 12, 2013

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:33 PM CST. 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 and Abandoned Water Well Closures and the 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 (244 samples)
  - Two planned through June 2013
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closures
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - None scheduled at this time, but planning is underway for two well plugging demonstrations in central Texas (see below)
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
  - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (1,945 estimated attendees)
  - Five planned through December 2013

Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension) reported that one of Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District's (GCD's) abandoned water wells was not a good candidate for a plugging demonstration. Post Oak Savannah GCD's other candidate well in Burleson County (a large-diameter hand-dug well), and an Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) well in Hays County, may be more appropriate for plugging demonstrations.

Photos of the TGPC exhibit booth at the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair on April 30 – May 1, 2013 were 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 2,665 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011.

#### TGPC Website Activity Statistics

The Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC website for March 1 – June 9, 2013 was reviewed by the POE Subcommittee. Compared to the last report (for January 8 – February 28, 2013) covering the debut of the redesigned website, average website visit duration decreased from 2.95 to 2.60 minutes (but this was still greater than the 1.30

minutes observed for the old website during September 17 – November 29, 2012), and average pages per visit continued to increase from 3.14 to 4.48 (compared to 1.43 pages per visit during September 17 – November 29, 2012).

The POE Subcommittee decided to reduce the 11-page Google Analytics activity report to just five pages for future meetings: Audience Overview, external Keywords, internal Keywords, Landing Pages, and most popular Pages.

### 3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at 1:30 PM CST, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

### 4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Popular Press Articles

TWON Fact Sheets

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported that the draft TWON *Hazardous Waste and Your Water Well* fact sheet should be available for POE Subcommittee review soon.

### 5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) noted that TDA had recently launched a new water awareness webpage called The Water Source (<http://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/TheWaterSource.aspx>) with resources for water, drought, wildfire prevention, and disaster response.

The current drought maps were reviewed by the POE Subcommittee. As of June 4, 2013, 95 % of the state was in one of the five drought categories (up from 89 % at the last meeting), but some or likely improvement in drought conditions was forecast in the eastern half of the state through August 2013. As of June 5, 2013, of the 4,665 active community water systems in Texas, 967 were affected by drought (either voluntary or mandatory), and 630 of these use groundwater (either exclusively or partially).

Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension) reported on a situation described at a recent TWON workshop regarding a private water well located five feet from the property line downhill from a new, large, commercial kennel next door – the well was less than the required 150 feet from a concentrated source of potential contamination. David Van Dresar (TAGD) suggested that the county health department could be contacted.

### 6. TGPC POE GROUNDWATER EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PLAN UPDATE

The following Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) provided additional input on the draft *TGPC Groundwater Education Outreach Plan* ("Plan"):

- Abandoned Water Wells – David Van Dresar (TAGD) and Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension);

- Texas Well Owner Network – Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) and Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension); and,
- Water Supply Enhancement Program – Aaron Wendt (TSSWCB).

The Texas Evapotranspiration Networks SME, Guy Fipps (AgriLife Extension), was not able to provide additional input prior to the meeting. A final draft of the *Plan* will be reviewed at the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The current “2013 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout (found at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees-POE-POE.php> under the “Additional Resources” heading) and flyers for a Social Media 101 workshop (July 18, 2013) and the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference (August 6 – 7, 2013) were distributed to POE Subcommittee members.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## 9. ADJOURN

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:20 PM CST.