

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
RECORD OF MEETING  
First Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2011

Meeting Date: September 15, 2010  
Meeting No.: 27

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)          |
| Diane Boellstorff           | TAES   |
| Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)  | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) |
| Alan Cherepon               | TCEQ   |
| L. Scott Underwood          | TCEQ   |
| Linda Ruiz McCall           | Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)             |
| Peter Pope                  | Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)               |
| David Van Dresar            | Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)   |
| Leo Wick                    | TAGD   |
| Karen Sears                 | Texas AgriLife Research (TAR)                    |

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. September 15, 2010 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. June 24, 2010 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, September 2010
4. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics, June 1, 2010 through September 9, 2010
5. Draft Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
6. Draft *Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?* FAQ
7. Minutes from TWDB Public Awareness and Outreach meeting on June 30, 2010
8. Brazos River Authority (BRA) *Water School* Groundwater FAQs webpage (<http://waterschool.brazos.org/category/Groundwater.aspx>)
9. TWDB Innovative Water Technologies General, Seawater, and Brackish FAQs (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/desal/faq.asp>, <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/desal/faqseawater.asp>, <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/desal/faqbrackish.asp>) and Contact Us webpages (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/contact/contact.aspx>)
10. Star-Telegram article regarding Abandoned Water Wells (<http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/09/05/2447041/old-or-abandoned-wells-are-key.html>)
11. Draft Abandoned Water Wells scripts for Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) “Shoot the Bull” Radio Program
12. TWDB Groundwater District Loan Program fact sheet (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/shells/GroundwaterDistrictLoan.pdf>)
13. Draft TAGD FAQ announcement follow-up survey ([https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TGPC\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TGPC_Survey))
14. Draft New Specific Activities for Issues E and F in 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](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan_Impl_Strat03Oct2007.pdf))
15. Issues H & I Suggestions for the *Implementation Strategy* and Draft Water Well Owner Survey

16. D. Boellstorff feedback on Issues H & I Draft Water Well Owner Survey
17. Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection Events Fiscal Year 2011 schedule
18. Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council (TOWTRC) Annual Conference flyer
19. 2010 Water-related Conferences in Texas, June 2010
20. Texas AgriLife Research Blackland Research & Extension Center information packet

## **MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2010**

### **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 1:34 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, 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 TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (124 samples total, 48 of which were outside of the TCEQ/TAES POE Contract)
  - Two planned through October 2010
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
  - One since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (34 attendees)
  - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
  - Two since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (99 estimated attendees)
  - One planned through December 2010

Photos of the July 2010 abandoned water well closure, the TGPC Booth at the August 2010 TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference, and the September 2010 water well screening event were passed around the table.

#### TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics for June 1, 2010 through September 9, 2010. The seven monitored TGPC webpages had an average of 41 unique visitors per day, and visitation peaked with the quarterly GovDelivery email announcing the next TGPC meeting (17% of the 3,266 subscribers clicked through the link in the email to the TGPC homepage). The majority of page views and keyword searches were on water well issues.

### **3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE**

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 1, 2010, at 1:30 PM, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 5108.

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

##### Publications

No publications were discussed at the meeting.

##### Popular Press Articles

Scott Underwood (TCEQ) suggested that an FAQ be developed regarding the Statewide Water Well Databases:

- TWDB Water Information, Integration, and Dissemination (WIID) System ([http://wiid.twdb.state.tx.us/index\\_explain.asp](http://wiid.twdb.state.tx.us/index_explain.asp));
- TCEQ Water Well Report Viewer (<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/gis/waterwellview.html>); and,
- TDLR State of Texas Well Report Submission and Retrieval System (<http://134.125.70.235/drillers-new/index.asp>).

##### Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality

Leslie Savage (RRC) had provided updates of several oil- and gas-related FAQs just prior to the meeting:

- *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 Are the Permitting Processes for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?*
- *How Are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They Are Not Leaking ?*

Previous discussion had also suggested an additional FAQ titled, “*Who Has Jurisdiction Over the Clean-up of Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Contamination ?*” Peter Pope (RRC) and other POE Subcommittee members requested more time to review these revised FAQs, and it was agreed that they would be discussed again at the next meeting.

##### Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) reviewed four new aquifer maps for the *Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?* FAQ. Minor wording and editorial changes were suggested. David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Diane Boellstorff (TAES) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

##### TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) provided the following material to POE Subcommittee members for reference:

- Minutes from TWDB Public Awareness and Outreach meeting on June 30, 2010;

- Brazos River Authority (BRA) *Water School* Groundwater FAQs webpage (<http://waterschool.brazos.org/category/Groundwater.aspx>);
- TWDB Innovative Water Technologies General, Seawater, and Brackish FAQs (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/desal/faq.asp>, <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/desal/faqseawater.asp>, <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/desal/faqbrackish.asp>) and Contact Us webpages (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/contact/contact.aspx>); and,
- A Star-Telegram article regarding Abandoned Water Wells (<http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/09/05/2447041/old-or-abandoned-wells-are-key.html>).

Various topics 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\\_Stra t03Oct2007.pdf](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan_Impl_Stra t03Oct2007.pdf)) were then discussed.

In April 2010, David Van Dresar (TAGD) sent an email survey to TAGD regarding their websites. Eight of the 36 Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) that responded did not have a website. Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) discussed their Groundwater District Loan Program (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/shells/GroundwaterDistrictLoan.pdf>), which may be applicable to website development, but these funds can only be used during the creation of a GCD. Karen Sears (TAR) has extensive experience in writing and submitting grant applications for the Blackland Research and Extension Center, and she offered to assist TAGD members in obtaining this type of funding. David Van Dresar indicated that he would present this opportunity at the next TAGD quarterly meeting.

#### TGPC Plugging Abandoned Water Wells Content for TDA “Shoot the Bull” Radio Program

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the evolution of a TDA “Shoot the Bull” radio program script regarding abandoned water wells based on the recently revised *Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (TCEQ RG-347, [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-347.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-347.html)) and *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (TAES L-5413, <https://agriflifebookstore.org/>). The POE Subcommittee then listened to the final version of the 90-second episode which aired on 16 radio stations in the Texas State Network (TSN, <http://www.tsnradio.com/>) on August 26, 2010. The “Shoot the Bull” radio program has a weekly adult audience of 56,000. Additional TGPC groundwater-related content for the “Shoot the Bull” radio program is planned, including the State Water Plan and National Groundwater Awareness Week.

#### Draft Groundwater Protection Survey

In May 2010, David Van Dresar (TAGD) sent an email to TAGD members announcing the availability of the TGPC FAQs (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/FAQs.htm>). Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) reviewed a draft follow-up survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZGZQ68F>) which was designed to obtain information about the use of this FAQ material in TAGD newsletters and websites. The POE Subcommittee provided feedback which will be incorporated into an updated version of

the survey. The survey will then be sent to TAGD and results will be available at the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

#### Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module

An update of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module was provided just before the meeting. However, there was not enough time to distribute and review it adequately, so it will be discussed at the POE Subcommittee meeting.

#### Other Revised and New Specific Activities

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) had drafted a Water Well Owner survey related to Issues H (Education for Domestic Water Well Owners: Quality) and I (Education for Domestic Water Well Owners: Quantity). The feedback that Diane Boellstorff (TAES) provided on this draft survey will be discussed at the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

#### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

An Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection Events Fiscal Year 2011 schedule, a Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council (TOWTRC) Annual Conference flyer, and the current "2010 Water-related Conferences in Texas" handout were available for TGPC POE Subcommittee members.

#### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### 7. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:07 PM CDST.