

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
First Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2015

Meeting Date: September 16, 2014
Meeting No.: 43

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)

Charles Swanson

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)

Alan Cherepon

Chris Moore

Michael Hare

Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)

AgriLife Extension

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

TCEQ

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

Interested Parties

Dave O'Rourke

Affiliation

CH2M Hill

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. September 16, 2014 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. June 10, 2014 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, September 2014
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, September 9, 2014
5. TWON Well Read – issue 3 e-letter, September 9, 2014
6. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity, June 9 – September 15, 2014
7. 2014 Abandoned Water Well Cost-Share Plugging Program Survey Results
8. Request a Resource page + helpful sustainability resources email, August 19, 2014
9. News from the TCEQ – Take Care of Texas produces rainwater collection video email, September 11, 2014
10. Drought 2014 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of September 9, 2014; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook August – November 2014; Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of September 10, 2014; excerpt from the TCEQ List of Texas PWSs Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages as of September 3, 2014
11. 2014 – 2015 Water-related Conferences in Texas, September 2014

Examples of Texas aquifer materials were on display on the handout table. A photo of TGPC handouts at the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) 2014 Texas Groundwater Summit was also passed around the meeting table.

MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

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://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees-POE-POE.php>, under “Additional Resources”) was reviewed:

- AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events
 - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (68 samples)
 - Three planned through October 2014
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None scheduled at this time
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
 - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (128 estimated attendees)
 - Two planned through September 2014

TWON Training Activities

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON schedule of completed, confirmed, obligated, and suggested water well screening events and workshops. There have been over 4,553 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011. The TWON Well Read – issue 3 e-letter (dated September 9, 2014) was also shared with POE Subcommittee members. In addition, Diane Boellstorff noted that Anish Jantrania (AgriLife Extension) had recently been hired and would be involved with the TWON program in the future.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) provided the Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity for June 9, 2014 – September 15, 2014. The average website visit duration and the average pages per visit were very similar to those presented at the last meeting. Spikes of activity on the TGPC website were observed after the last two TGPC meeting GovDelivery email notices.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 9:00 AM CST, in TCEQ's Building B, Conference Room 201A.

4. PRESENTATION

Dave O'Rourke (CH2M Hill) gave the POE Subcommittee a very informative presentation on Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) in Texas. Concepts (supply and demand, typical applications, and technical operations issues); regulatory, legal and water rights issues; and current Texas ASR projects were reviewed. The POE Subcommittee may develop a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) on ASR in the future.

5. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition

Review Actions Discussed for Each Topic at Last Meeting

Regarding the various actions discussed at the last meeting that could be taken to promote the four topics in the current *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan* ("Plan",

http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf):

- Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that an email survey of 14 non-TAGD Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) was conducted August 25 – September 5, 2014, and an email survey of 84 TAGD GCDs was conducted September 2 – 12, 2014, resulting in updated information on two existing abandoned water well cost-share plugging programs and new information on seven additional programs. The TGPC online map of GCDs with abandoned water well cost-share plugging programs (at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/WaterWells.php#Aband>) will be revised accordingly.
- Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) had attended the August 2014 Industry Council on the Environment (<http://ice-texas.org/>) membership meeting and made a brief announcement about the TGPC, the POE Subcommittee, the *Plan*, and the need for more abandoned water well training (identification, reporting, etc.). Additional information may be shared between the TGPC and ICE in the future.
- Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) had spoken with the owner of *Preparation of a Drinking Water Survey Report* (TCEQ publication RG-428, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/rg/rg-428.html>) and additional information about abandoned water well identification and reporting may be included in a future update.
- Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported that:
 - Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension) continues to work toward identification of candidates for water well closure (i.e., plugging) demonstrations;
 - They may develop a TWON fact sheet about identifying abandoned water wells;
 - They may create their own YouTube videos;

- Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) is sharing their TWON information through Twitter; and,
- TWON outreach will be pursued with the USDA NRCS State Water Quality Specialist.
- Charles Swanson (AgriLife Extension) reported that a new version of the WaterMyYard (<http://watermyyard.org/>) program had been released this past summer and they were working with several partners (e.g., homeowners in Irving, the North Texas Municipal Water District, and the Brazos County AgriLife Extension Office) to quantify the program’s water savings. Two fact sheets about evapotranspiration (ET) may also be developed later this year.

Popular Press Articles

TWON Fact Sheets

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) did not have any additional information to report on this topic.

What is the Texas Groundwater Classification System ? FAQ

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas update

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported that Ron Kaiser (Texas A&M University) will complete the update of *Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas* (AgriLife Extension publication B-6120, available at <http://www.agrilifebookstore.org/Default.asp>) by December 1, 2014. The POE Subcommittee may provide feedback on the update via email.

6. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Due to a question that came up at a recent water well screening event, Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) asked about the procedures used to dissolve a GCD and this information was provided after the meeting.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) shared an email received by the TGPC concerning several educational resource links, as well as a Take Care of Texas email about a rainwater collection video.

The current “2014 – 2015 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout (found at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees-POE-POE.php> under the “Additional Resources” heading) and current drought maps were also distributed to POE Subcommittee members.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:26 PM CDST.