

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2008

Meeting Date: April 17, 2008
Meeting No.: 17

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 2210

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Affiliation

Bruce Lesikar (Co-Chair)	Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Cary Betz	TCEQ
Linda Ruiz McCall	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Leslie Savage	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Lee Parham	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Denise Gentsch	Syngenta

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. April 17, 2008 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. February 21, 2008 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Final Draft Fact Sheet – Drinking Water Problems: Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE)
4. Draft Fact Sheet – Drinking Water Problems: Benzene
5. Final Draft Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) – How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Urban Areas ?
6. Draft FAQ – How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ?
7. Draft FAQ – Water in Texas – Who Owns It ?
8. Draft FAQ – What is a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?
9. Draft FAQ – What is a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) ?
10. Draft FAQ – What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) ?
11. Draft FAQ – What is a Groundwater Management Area (GMA) ?
12. TGPC POE Subcommittee Outreach Events – Status Report
13. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Website Activity Statistics Report
14. Fiscal Year 2009 TGPC Website hosting quote
15. 2008 Water-related Conferences in Texas
16. 2008 TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair and Conference flyer
17. TGPC refrigerator magnet

MEETING RECORD OF APRIL 17, 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 10:06 AM CST. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

2. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT EDUCATIONAL TRIFOLD BROCHURES, FACT SHEETS, AND POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES AND APPROVE FINAL DRAFTS

Drinking Water Problems: Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE)

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this final draft Fact Sheet and provided feedback to the author, Bruce Lesikar (TAES). In order to meet the publication schedule and TCEQ/TAES POE Contract deadline of August 31, 2008, any additional feedback on the Fact Sheet was requested by April 22, 2008, with POE Subcommittee final approval of the document to follow via email.

Drinking Water Problems: Benzene

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft Fact Sheet and provided initial feedback to the author, Bruce Lesikar (TAES), who agreed to edit it further and present it again at the next meeting. TCEQ also agreed to provide clarification on the map displaying Texas groundwater contamination containing benzene (i.e., TCEQ cases vs. RRC cases).

How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Urban Areas ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this final draft FAQ and provided extensive feedback to the author, Al Cherepon (TCEQ). The document may be divided into two separate FAQs addressing different questions. An updated version (or versions) will be discussed at the next meeting.

How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ and provided feedback to the author, Leslie Savage (RRC), who agreed to edit it further and present it again at the next meeting.

Water in Texas – Who Owns It ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ and provided mostly grammatical feedback to the author, Bruce Lesikar (TAES). Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) proposed, Lee Parham (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved this FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting.

What is a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ, which is the text on the back of the GCD map distributed from the TGPC booth, and provided extensive feedback. The document may be divided into two separate FAQs addressing different questions. Leslie Savage (RRC) will verify the accuracy of the wording related to water wells exempt from GCD permits and provide this information to Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) via email, and an updated version (or versions) will be presented at the next meeting.

What is a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ, which is the text on the back of the PGMA map distributed from the TGPC booth. Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) and Bruce Lesikar (TAES) will provide feedback to Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) via email, and an updated version will be presented at the next meeting.

What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ, which is the text on the back of the RWPG map distributed from the TGPC booth, and provided extensive feedback. The document may be divided into several separate FAQs addressing different questions. Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) and Leslie Savage (RRC) will provide feedback and information to Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) via email, and an updated version (or versions) will be presented at the next meeting.

What is a Groundwater Management Area (GMA) ?

The POE Subcommittee reviewed this draft FAQ, which is the text on the back of the GMA map distributed from the TGPC booth, and provided initial feedback. It will be discussed again at the next meeting.

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
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - Four planned through May 2008
- TCE Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - One planned through June 2008
- TGPC Booth
 - Three since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (1,251 attendees)
 - Two planned through August 2008

Reprinting of *Protecting the Environment Using Integrated Weed Management in Lawns* (TAES publication L-5324)

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) reported that this is complete – the publication has been reprinted.

Reprinting of Various Drinking Water and OSSF Fact Sheets

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) reported that this is complete – the three TAES publications approved by the POE Subcommittee at the last meeting have been reprinted within the TCEQ/TAES POE Contract funding limitations:

- Drinking Water Problems: Nitrate, B-6184, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2181>
- Understanding and Maintaining Your Septic System, L-5491, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2481>
- Graywater, B-6176, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2180>

Publication of Best Management Practices to Prevent Pesticide Contamination of Water Resources Trifold Brochure

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) had no update on this document from the last meeting.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics Report

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed TGPC website activity the week before, during, and after National Groundwater Awareness Week (March 9 – 15, 2008), but there did not seem to be an increase in TGPC website unique visitors or page views due to the week-long display of the 18 TGPC-sponsored posters in the lobbies of 12 agencies/organizations, the Texas Capitol Annex, the Austin Nature and Science Center, and the Barton Springs Splash! Into the Edwards Aquifer Exhibit.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) also reviewed the Fiscal Year 2009 TGPC Website hosting quote, including optional costs for the website statistics package, website development consultation, the addition of a search engine, and a potential redesign of the entire website. Kathy McCormack reported that only the base cost for hosting the TGPC website would be contracted in Fiscal Year 2009 – the website statistics package was an interesting experiment in Fiscal Year 2009, but neither the TGPC POE Subcommittee nor the TGPC have changed their behavior in response to the data, and the cost for adding a search engine was too high.

4. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at 10:00 AM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 2210.

5. 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”). Kathy McCormack again requested staffing support for the TGPC booth at the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair & Conference on April 29 – May 1, 2008, reminding the POE Subcommittee that TGPC members staffing a shift in the TGPC booth will be able to attend a conference presentation of their choice at no charge, and that complimentary parking garage passes would be available this year.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) announced that the *Major Rivers* curriculum has recently been revised (e.g., the definition of recharge has been added, the scientific discussion of the water cycle and watersheds has been improved, the DVD video now has captions for the hearing impaired and subtitles in Spanish, all student materials are now available in both English and Spanish, etc.) and they are taking annual orders until May 15, 2008.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) also reported that TWDB will have a booth at the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST) 2008 Annual Convention in Fort Worth on November 6 – 8, 2008 and that TGPC material and staff would be welcome at the booth.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:56 AM CST.