

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

Meeting Date: September 20, 2011  
Meeting No.: 31

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
Room: 3202A

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)  
Guy Fipps  
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)  
  
Fred Duffy  
Alan Cherepon  
L. Scott Underwood  
Chris Muller  
Peter Pope  
Mel Davis  
  
Jana Baker  
David Van Dresar  
David Gunn

### Affiliation

Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)  
TAES  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
(TCEQ)  
TCEQ  
TCEQ  
TCEQ  
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)  
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)  
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board  
(TSSWCB)  
TSSWCB  
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)  
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
(TDLR)

### Interested Parties

Kelsey Berger

### Affiliation

Fairway Energy Partners

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. September 20, 2011 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. June 8, 2011 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, September 2011
4. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics, June 1, 2010 through September 1, 2011
5. Final draft Oil and Gas Disposal Wells and Water Quality Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):
  - What is an Injection Well ?
  - How Are Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Wells Regulated ?
  - How Are Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ?
  - What Are the Construction Standards for Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Wells ?
  - What Are the Permitting Processes for a Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Well ?
  - How Are Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They Are Not Leaking ?
  - How Do the UIC Regulations Protect Groundwater ?
6. Groundwater FAQs for columns, newsletters, and websites (TAES email, June 14, 2011)
7. Facts about Fracking ...and Your Drinking Water Well (<http://twon.tamu.edu/publications>)
8. Water Quality and Fracking, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority brochure
9. Drought 2011 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of September 15, 2011; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook September – December 2011
10. 2011 Water-related Conferences in Texas, September 2011

## **MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2011**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:36 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

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”) was reviewed:

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
  - One since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (141 samples)
  - Five planned through October 2011
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
  - None since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting
  - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
  - Three since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (140 estimated attendees)
  - Two planned through December 2011

Photos of the TGPC Booth at the August 2011 TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference were passed around the table.

#### TGPC Website Activity Statistics

The Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity for June 1, 2010 through September 1, 2011, including statistics on the website’s visitors, traffic sources, top content, depth of visit, and entrance keywords, was provided to the POE Subcommittee for review after the meeting. Website visitation continues to peak after the quarterly GovDelivery emails announcing each TGPC meeting.

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

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 1:30 PM CDST, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

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

##### Popular Press Articles

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

David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved six Oil and Gas Disposal Wells and Water Quality FAQs with the minor changes discussed at the meeting:

- What is an Injection Well ?
- How Are Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Wells Regulated ?
- How Are Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ?
- What Are the Construction Standards for Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Wells ?
- What Are the Permitting Processes for a Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Well ?
- How Are Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They Are Not Leaking ?

An FAQ titled “How Do the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Regulations Protect Groundwater ?” will be updated and brought to the next POE Subcommittee meeting. An FAQ titled “Who Has Jurisdiction Over the Clean-up of Class II Oil and Gas Disposal Well Contamination ?” may be drafted and brought to the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

What are the Statewide Water Well Databases ?

This FAQ was not discussed at the meeting.

##### 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\\_Stra\\_t03Oct2007.pdf](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan_Impl_Stra_t03Oct2007.pdf)) was discussed.

##### TGPC FAQs Announcement to TAES

Diane Boellstorff (TAES) reviewed one of the emails that had been sent in early June 2011 to selected TAES county agents across the state; these emails introduced the TGPC and announced the availability of its groundwater-related FAQs. Working with Chris Muller (TWDB), a follow-up survey is tentatively planned for November 2011 in order to evaluate TAES usage of the FAQs.

##### TGPC FAQs Announcement to TSSWCB

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) and Mel Davis (TSSWCB) briefly discussed the idea of making a similar email announcement about the availability of TGPC FAQs to selected Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) representatives after the Texas SWCD Directors Annual Meeting in October 2011.

## Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module

David Gunn (TDLR) agreed to present the latest draft of the Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module at the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

### Other Revised and New Specific Activities

Although no additional Specific Activities related to the *Implementation Strategy* were discussed, two recent popular press publications regarding fracking were provided to POE Subcommittee members for review after the meeting:

- *Facts about Fracking ...and Your Drinking Water Well* from the Texas Well Owners Network (<http://twon.tamu.edu/publications>); and,
- *Water Quality and Fracking* from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The September 15, 2011 Drought Monitor map for Texas, and the September 15, 2011 Drought Outlook map for the U.S. through December 31, 2011, were passed around the table. One hundred percent of the state was affected by one of the five drought categories, 88 % of the state was experiencing the worst (D4 – Exceptional) drought conditions, and the drought is forecast to persist through the end of the year.

David Van Dresar (TAGD) provided a summary of the most recent Drought Preparedness Council meeting (<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/CouncilsCommittees/droughtCouncil/stateDroughtPrepCouncil.htm>). The current and forecast weather conditions in Texas are dire – high temperature and low precipitation records are being made across the state, surface reservoirs and aquifer levels are reaching critically low levels, and with a return and forecasted strengthening of the La Niña climate phenomenon, the Texas drought is expected to persist through at least the summer of 2012.

Guy Fipps (TAES) announced that he was developing a flowmeter training program with the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1. Anyone interested in participating in this pilot program within the next few months should contact him.

The current “2011 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout was available for POE Subcommittee members.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelsey Berger (Fairway Energy Partners) asked whether RRC rules regarding fracking and groundwater use are regulated through Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs). David Van Dresar (TAGD) replied that GCDs now may require natural gas drilling operators to disclose this exempt groundwater use so that it can be included in Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) values. All GCDs submitted the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for their aquifers, including exempt use estimates, to TWDB on September 1, 2011. Kelsey Berger also asked whether fracking is considered exploration

(exempt) or production (non-exempt), and David Van Dresar replied that this is determined by each individual GCD.

## 7. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:41 PM CDST.