

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

Meeting Date: February 21, 2008  
Meeting No.: 16

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
Room: 2210

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Bruce Lesikar (Co-Chair)	Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Al Cherepon	TCEQ
Linda Ruiz McCall	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Radu Boghici	TWDB
Leslie Savage	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Mel Davis	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
David Van Dresar	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Lee Parham	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Ned Meister	Texas Farm Bureau (TFB)
Denise Gentsch	Syngenta

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. February 21, 2008 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. December 18, 2007 Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee, Subcommittee Charge, January 16, 2008
4. Draft Update of Poe-Related Sections of the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (Chapter VII and part of Chapter X)
5. Plugging Abandoned Water Wells (Final Draft)
6. Capping of Water Wells for Future Use (Final Draft)
7. Pesticides and Well Water Quality (Final Draft)
8. Water Levels in Wells and Groundwater Quantity (Final Draft)
9. Monitoring Groundwater Levels (Final Draft)
10. Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Systems (Final Draft)
11. Municipal Setting Designation (Final Draft)
12. Draft Water Ownership Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)
13. TAGD comments on draft Water Ownership FAQ
14. David Van Dresar feedback on draft Water Ownership FAQ
15. Ned Meister feedback on draft Water Ownership FAQ
16. TGPC POE Subcommittee draft *Best Management Practices to Prevent Pesticide Contamination of Water Resources* trifold brochure
17. TAES Publications draft *Best Management Practices to Prevent Pesticide Contamination of Water Resources* trifold brochure
18. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Website Activity Statistics Report
19. National Groundwater Awareness Week poster design handout
20. 2008 Water-related Conferences in Texas
21. *Water For Texas*, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, Winter 2008

## MEETING RECORD OF FEBRUARY 21, 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 10:00 AM CST. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

### 2. REVIEW UPDATED SUBCOMMITTEE CHARGE

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) reviewed the POE Subcommittee Charge that was updated and approved at the last TGPC meeting on January 16, 2008. This was provided as information only, but it also reinforces support of the POE Subcommittee's current activities. Bruce Lesikar noted the addition of an annual meeting between the TGPC POE and Groundwater Research Subcommittees and the TCEQ/TSSWCB Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution teams to the POE Subcommittee Charge, and he announced that this year's meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2008.

### 3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT UPDATE TO THE POE-RELATED SECTIONS OF THE *TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION STRATEGY*

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the draft update to the POE-related sections (Chapter VII and part of Chapter X) of the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* ("Strategy", TCEQ publication AS-188, [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf)). Mel Davis (TSSWCB) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the draft update with the minor changes discussed at the meeting. This feedback was subsequently submitted by the February 29, 2008 deadline to the TGPC.

### 4. 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)

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) reported that the draft Fact Sheet is at the TAES Agricultural Communications editor and should be ready for POE Subcommittee review within a month.

Drinking Water Problems: Benzene

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) reported that TAES faculty are reviewing and editing the draft Fact Sheet, and that it should be forwarded to the TAES Agricultural Communications editor within a month.

#### Plugging Abandoned Water Wells (Final Draft)

Lee Parham (TDLR) proposed, Mel Davis (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *What Do I Need to Know About Plugging an Abandoned Water Well ? Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)*.

#### Capping of Water Wells for Future Use (Final Draft)

David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Lee Parham (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *What Do I Need to Know About Capping a Water Well for Future Use ? FAQ* with the changes discussed at the meeting.

#### Pesticides and Well Water Quality (Final Draft)

Lee Parham (TDLR) proposed, Leslie Savage (RRC) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Agricultural Areas ? FAQ* with the extensive changes discussed at the meeting.

The POE Subcommittee requested that the changes made in the *How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Agricultural Areas ? FAQ* be duplicated in the *How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Urban Areas ? FAQ* and reviewed again at the next meeting.

#### Water Levels in Wells and Groundwater Quantity (Final Draft)

David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Lee Parham (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *What is the relationship between water levels in wells and groundwater quantity ? FAQ* with the changes discussed at the meeting.

#### Monitoring Groundwater Levels (Final Draft)

Mel Davis (TSSWCB) proposed, Leslie Savage (RRC) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *Why monitor groundwater levels ? FAQ* with the changes discussed at the meeting.

#### Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Systems (Final Draft)

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *What Do I Need to Know About the Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Systems ? FAQ*.

#### Municipal Setting Designation (Final Draft)

David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the *What is a Municipal Setting Designation ? FAQ*.

## Oil & Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality

The POE Subcommittee reviewed a draft FAQ titled *Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality*. The author, Leslie Savage (RRC), agreed to edit the draft FAQ further based on this feedback and present it again at the next meeting.

The POE Subcommittee also reviewed a draft FAQ titled *Water Ownership*. Written comments were provided by TAGD, David Van Dresar (TAGD), and Ned Meister (TFB). The author, Bruce Lesikar (TAES), agreed to edit the draft FAQ further based on this feedback and present it again at the next meeting.

Leslie Savage (RRC) suggested that these articles be formatted as FAQs rather than press releases. Denise Gentsch (Syngenta) also suggested that the TGPC could do an official press release regarding these FAQs once they are available.

All of the approved final draft FAQs were subsequently posted on the TGPC website (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/FAQs.htm>).

## 5. STATUS REPORTS

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – TAES Water Well Screening Events, TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures, TGPC Booth

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that the Outreach Events Status Report is available on the TGPC website (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm> under “Additional Resources”).

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

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) reported that this publication has been submitted to TAES Agricultural Communications and should be reprinted within two months.

Reprinting of Various Drinking Water and OSSF Fact Sheets

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) proposed, Leslie Savage (RRC) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the reprinting of the following TAES Fact Sheets within the TCEQ/TAES Public Outreach and Education 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) reported that the TAES Agricultural Communications editor requested some significant changes to the draft trifold brochure that the POE Subcommittee approved on April 5, 2007. The POE Subcommittee supported Bruce Lesikar's efforts to convince the TAES editor to include the brochure's original diagrams, definitions, and title in the final draft.

## TGPC Website Activity Statistics Report

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed TGPC website activity since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (December 17, 2007 – February 19, 2008; 64 days), and noted that the greatest number of unique visitors to the website occurred on the day that the GovDelivery TGPC meeting notice email was sent out (January 7, 2008). Metrics included:

- Number of unique visitors (3,980) and average visitors/day (62)
- Number of page views (10,433) and the Top 5 daughter pages viewed:
  - Meetings, Home page, Water Wells, Contamination, and Septic Systems
- Number of file downloads (427 .pdf files 4,249 times) and the Top 5 .pdf files downloaded:
  - TAES publication L-5342 (On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems), October 2007 TGPC Meeting Minutes, Seymour Aquifer Water Quality White Paper, January 2008 TGPC Agenda, Groundwater Awareness Week 2007
- Referring URLs (Google – 39 %, Yahoo – 10 %)
- The Top 5 Google key phrases:
  - groundwater and wells, texas groundwater, texas groundwater protection committee, leaching chambers, texas water well database
- The Top 5 Yahoo key phrases:
  - groundwater contamination, texas water wells, ground water contamination, texas railroad commission oil and gas, and texas water well search

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) also announced the TGPC's outreach efforts regarding 2008 National Groundwater Awareness Week via the website ([http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/GW\\_AwarenessWeek2008.pdf](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/GW_AwarenessWeek2008.pdf)) and posters. Last year's TGPC poster was edited and some were distributed to TGPC member representatives at the meeting for display at their agency location. This year, a sufficient number of posters were printed (18 posters at a cost of \$45 each) for display at each of the TGPC member agency locations, as well as USGS and TAES offices, the Texas Capitol building, the Austin Nature and Science Center, and the Barton Springs Splash! Into the Edwards Aquifer Exhibit.

## 6. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 10:00 AM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 2210.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the proposed artwork for 5,000 TGPC magnets (at a cost of \$0.11 each) that will be distributed from the TGPC booth.

Al Cherepon (TCEQ) suggested that the TGPC may want to consider some outreach efforts to the Texas Legislature, particularly the House Natural Resources Committee and its new Chairman.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) referred the POE Subcommittee to the handout regarding 2008 Water-related Conferences which is also available on the TGPC website (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm> under “Additional Resources”). Kathy McCormack specifically 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.

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) announced that there would be a national Alliance for Water Efficiency meeting on March 13, 2008 in San Antonio.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise Gentsch (Syngenta) expressed her appreciation to the POE Subcommittee for their recent efforts in generating the FAQs.

There was no additional public comment.

## 9. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:57 AM CST.