

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
RECORD OF MEETING  
First Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2010

Meeting Date: September 30, 2009  
Meeting No.: 23

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
Room: 5108

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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)
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Linda Ruiz McCall	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Leslie Savage	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Donna Long	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
David Van Dresar	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

<u>Agency Staff</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Program</u>
Diane Boellstorff	TAES	
David Murry	TCEQ	Radioactive Materials Division
Scott Underwood	TCEQ	Water Supply Division

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. September 30, 2009 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. June 11, 2009 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, September 2009
4. TCEQ Schedule of Upcoming Collections of Agricultural Waste Pesticides, <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/schedule.html>
5. Draft *TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy* Status Report
6. *Major Rivers* student workbooks and home leaflets (in English and Spanish)
7. Draft Letter of TGPC Support for *Major Rivers* School-based Water Education Program
8. *Drinking Water Problems: Benzene* (TAES L-5513), [https://agrillifebookstore.org/publications\\_details.cfm?whichpublication=2587](https://agrillifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=2587)
9. Draft revision of *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)
10. Draft revision of *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (TAES L-5413), [https://agrillifebookstore.org/publications\\_details.cfm?whichpublication=1514](https://agrillifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=1514)
11. Draft In Situ Uranium Mining and Groundwater Quality Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - *How Is Uranium Mined in Texas ?*
  - *What Is the Quality of Groundwater Within the Uranium-Mineralized Zone ?*
  - *Once In Situ Uranium Mining Is Complete at a Site, Is the Mine Operator Required to Clean Up the Affected Groundwater ?*

- *Is the Uranium Recovered from Mining Ready to Be Used ?*
  - *How Has In-Situ Uranium Mining Changed Since It Was First Applied ?*
12. 2009 – 2010 Water-related Conferences in Texas, September 2009

## MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

### 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 1:35 PM CDT. 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 POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm>, under “Additional Resources”):

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
  - Five since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (260 samples)
  - Five planned through January 2010
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - One planned through December 2009
- TGPC Booth
  - Three since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (105 estimated attendees)
  - Four planned through December 2009

Photos of several outreach events were passed around the table:

- The Granbury water well screening event on June 1 – 3, 2009;
- The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District’s abandoned water well closure on June 4, 2009;
- The TGPC booth at TCEQ’s Public Drinking Water Conference on August 11 – 12, 2009; and,
- The TGPC booth at Austin Community College’s Water Awareness Fair on September 24, 2009.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) also distributed TCEQ’s schedule of upcoming agricultural waste pesticides collections (<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/schedule.html>).

TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) distributed a draft status report on the *TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy* for POE Subcommittee members to review after the meeting. It was requested that feedback be provided so that the status report could be reviewed and discussed in more detail at the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

### 3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, 2010, at 1:30 PM, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 2210.

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

#### Letter of TGPC Support for Major Rivers School-based Water Education Program

Linda Ruiz McCall (TWDB) presented a summary of the *Major Rivers* school-based water education program (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/edu/MajorRivers/index.asp>) and distributed *Major Rivers* student workbooks and home leaflets (in English and Spanish). Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented a draft letter of TGPC support for this program. Leslie Savage (RRC) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the TGPC support letter for the *Major Rivers* program. The letter will be presented to the TGPC for their consideration at their October 26, 2009 meeting – if approved, the letter will be mailed to 96 Groundwater Conservation Districts, 12 River Authorities, and 12 Geological Societies in Texas.

#### Publications

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) provided newly-published copies of *Drinking Water Problems: Benzene* (TAES L-5513, [https://agriflifebookstore.org/publications\\_details.cfm?whichpublication=2587](https://agriflifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=2587)) to the POE Subcommittee.

#### Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented a draft revision of the *Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* publication (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)) which had been prepared by David Gunn (TDLR), David Van Dresar (TAGD), Scott Underwood (TCEQ), and Kathy McCormack. Kathy McCormack proposed, Donna Long (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the amended publication with the changes discussed at the meeting. The revised publication will be presented to the TGPC for their consideration and approval at their October 26, 2009 meeting.

#### Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) distributed a draft revision of the *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* brochure (TAES L-5413, [http://agriflifebookstore.org/publications\\_details.cfm?whichpublication=1514](http://agriflifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=1514)) for POE Subcommittee members to review after the meeting. It was requested that feedback be provided so that the brochure could be reviewed and discussed in more detail at the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

## Popular Press Articles

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

The *How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ?*, *What are the Construction Standards for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?*, and *What is the Permitting Process for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?* Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) were not discussed at the meeting.

### Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?

The *Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?* FAQ was not discussed at the meeting.

### In Situ Uranium Mining and Groundwater Quality

The *How Is Uranium Mined in Texas ?*, *What Is the Quality of Groundwater Within the Uranium-Mineralized Zone ?*, *Once In Situ Uranium Mining Is Complete at a Site, Is the Mine Operator Required to Clean Up the Affected Groundwater ?*, *Is the Uranium Recovered from Mining Ready to Be Used ?*, and *How Has In-Situ Uranium Mining Changed Since It Was First Applied ?* FAQs were not discussed at the meeting.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements, but the current “2009 – 2010 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout was available for POE Subcommittee members.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

## 7. ADJOURN

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:00 PM CDT.