

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

TIME AND DATE:

10:30 AM, July 26, 2006

LOCATION:

TCEQ, Park 35, Building F, Room 2210, Austin, Texas

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

The FY06 Fourth Quarter Meeting of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee.

ATTENDEES:

AGENCIES

Texas Department of Agriculture [TDA]
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality [TCEQ]
Texas Water Development Board [TWDB]
Texas Cooperative Extension [TCE]
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board [TSSWCB]
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts [TAGD]

REPRESENTATIVES

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|----------------|------------------------------|
| Steve Musick | Chair, Member, TCEQ, Austin |
| Richard Eyster | Member, TDA, Austin |
| Janie Hopkins | Member, TWDB, Austin |
| Bruce Lesikar | Member, TCE, College Station |
| Richard Egg | Member, TSSWCB, Austin |
| Barry Miller | Member, TAGD, Gonzales |

AGENCY STAFF

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| Alan Cherepon | TCEQ, Austin |
| Joseph L. Peters | TCEQ, Austin |
| Lynne Fahlquist | USGS, Austin |

INTERESTED PARTIES

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| Ed Baker | Syngenta Crop Protection, Mineola |
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MEETING SUMMARY:

I. Opening Remarks

The Chairman of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee, Mr. Steve Musick (TCEQ), called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. He had the Subcommittee members introduce themselves. The only subcommittee member not present was Jeff Isler (TSPCB). Mr. Musick proceeded immediately to the Task Force Reports.

II Task Force Reports

Site Selection Task Force: Janie Hopkins (TWDB), the Task Force Chair, provided a brief summary of work the TWDB has performed in 2006, which includes roughly 250 samples collected in the Carrizo-Wilcox, Woodbine, Queen City-Sparta, some minor aquifers and the Seymour. The TWDB will also be sampling for a special study in the Gulf Coast aquifer. The TWDB will continue sampling and providing samples for the cooperative monitoring effort, through October. Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) provided a brief summary, as item III on the agenda, of TCEQ groundwater monitoring this year.

The Education Task Force Chair, Bruce Lesikar (TCE) briefly mentioned a few training events. Montey Dozier conducted training in June in several counties west of Ft. Worth, and will continue into October-November in other areas, to include homeowner well-related training.

The Chair asked the TDA if there was anything new to report on the Barton Spring Endangered Species Settlement Agreement with EPA and the Save Our Springs case, and asked if Ambrose Charles would report on this at the next meeting of the ACS. None of the other Task Forces had anything new to present, or the chair was absent.

III. Pesticide Monitoring Update

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) presented an overview of pesticide monitoring activities conducted during the 2006 fiscal year (see handout). Through early July, all four tasks of the FY06 Monitoring Plan have been addressed, except for under Task III, TCEQ did not sample at the Fayette Water Supply Corporation. On July 31, 2006, TCEQ is scheduled to conduct monitoring at the Bexar Metro Water District in San Antonio, which is also under Task III.

Cooperative Monitoring has totaled 257 well samples and 45 QC samples through early July. Task II, 24 well samples were collected and analyzed for pesticides. 28 atrazine, metolachlor immunoassay analyses were completed on the well and QC samples. This year, alachlor analysis was added. No alachlor was detected. 15 samples were taken to LCRA's laboratory for pesticide analysis, which included prometon analysis this year. There were no prometon detects. Another 28 samples were shipped to the TAES laboratory, for atrazine and metolachlor metabolite analyses. At the time of the meeting, results were pending. However, preliminary results from the laboratory indicate no parent or metabolite detects.

Two maps were provided showing which counties were sampled in the cooperative program, and which PWS systems were sampled in the Panhandle region by TCEQ. A table of analytical results from TCEQ sampling was also provided. Under Task III, Mr. Cherepon repeated that the BMWWD wells were scheduled to be sampled at the end of the month, and that TCEQ would not have enough time to organize to monitor the Fayette system. Task IV, the areas of high usage of alachlor and prometon were reviewed, and samples were analyzed from the areas in the Panhandle, with negative results for both pesticides. A more complete summary will be provided at the next ACS meeting.

Questions were entertained. Mr. Musick asked if TCEQ monitoring staff were current with analyzing TWDB sample analyses by immunoassay, whether the sample analysis by LCRA was completed, and if we are still waiting on the results from the TAES laboratory. Mr. Cherepon answered that yes, immunoassay analyses were current, the LCRA results were completed, and TCEQ is waiting on the TAES results. The preliminary results indicated there were no detects of the two metabolites and parent pesticides analyzed for, and that they could only analyze for two metabolites due to low recoveries on the other metabolites. The TAES detection or reporting limits were still not verified at this meeting date, and this may also be why there were no detects.

IV. Information Exchange

IPD Update

Joe Peters (TCEQ) provided a summary of updates made to the Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD). The report is scheduled for completion by August, 2006. The data included date from 1927 till November, 2004. Dr. Peters summarized a long list of numbers and information for the database, with this summary list attached as a handout. The Chair asked specific questions about the most recent TCEQ and USGS data now entered into the database. Dr. Peters said that the TCEQ data entry was current through 2004. Mr. Cherepon said the 2005 TCEQ sampling and cooperative analytical results have been entered into an Access database. However, these results still require having their sampling and well data entered, and a proper QA/QC assessment conducted. Another question arose regarding what USGS data has been entered. Since the USGS data does not have the project number field included in the IPD, such a determination would require additional time and effort to answer.

AAPCO/SFIREG/WQ Meetings

No summary of the recent AAPCO/SFIREG/WQ meetings was available. Meeting minutes are available on the Internet. The chair asked Richard Eyster (TDA) if he could check into this, and summarize any items of interest to the ACS for the next meeting.

Atrazine iRED Monitoring Summary

Ed Baker (Syngenta) provided a summary of the first three years of monitoring result averages for the seven surface water monitoring sites in Texas, under the atrazine iRED monitoring program. Sites were sampled weekly during application season; otherwise, sampling was

conducted monthly. These numbers are an average of 23 samples per year, except for Cooper Lake, which was an average of 22 samples

| Surface Water Body | 2004 Average (ppb) | 2005 Average (ppb) | 2006 Average (ppb) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aquila | 0.87 | 0.96 | 0.97 |
| Cooper | 1.4 | 1.68 | 0.5 |
| Corsicana | 1.7 | 1.18 | 0.5 |
| Ennis | 0.87 | 0.49 | 0.36 |
| Marlin | 0.87 | 1.62 | 0.22 |
| Midlothian | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.62 |
| Waxahachie | 0.24 | 0.19 | 0.51 |

The highest single reading was in Ennis, on 4/3/06, at 3.0 ppb. Following the summary, one comment was made, in reference to the EPA website highlighting the Aquila TMDL for atrazine as one of the success stories.

V. Public Comment

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

VI. Announcements

Mr. Cherepon and David Villarreal (TDA) will be attending the EPA Water Quality PREP class in Davis California the second week in August. They will bring back a summary of important issues addressed at this training for the next meeting. The Texas team will present the session on collaboration, and Mr. Cherepon will also be presenting the Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD) in an electronic slide show.

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) announced the Texas Water Monitoring Congress, 9/13-15/06, at the Pickle Research Center.

Ms. Hopkins also mentioned an article on atrazine, in layman's terms, in Harpers magazine.

Mr. Cherepon called attention to the TWDB's Aquifer Monitor Newsletter, by Robert Mace, which includes a list of upcoming groundwater-related conferences and meetings.

VII. Adjournment

Recorded and transcribed by Alan Cherepon.

Attachments

TCEQ Pesticide Monitoring Summary
IPD Update Summary

Addenda

In their afternoon meeting, the decision was made by the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee that the FY07 first quarter meeting of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee will take place on 10/18/06 at 10:30 a.m., in TCEQ Building F, Conference Room 2210. It should be noted that this date is a Wednesday, due to the difficulty in securing a conference room on a Thursday.