

## AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

### TIME AND DATE:

10:30 AM, August 8, 2007

### LOCATION:

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

### PURPOSE OF MEETING:

The FY07 Fourth Quarter Meeting of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee.

### ATTENDEES:

#### AGENCIES

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality [TCEQ]  
Texas Department of Agriculture [TDA]  
Texas Water Development Board [TWDB]  
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board [TSSWCB]  
Texas Cooperative Extension [TCE]  
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts [TAGD]  
Texas Structural Pest Control Board [TSPCB]  
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station [TAES]

#### REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Musick	Chair, Member, TCEQ, Austin
Ambrose Charles	Member, TDA, Austin
Janie Hopkins	Member, TWDB, Austin
Richard Egg	Member, TSSWCB, Austin
Bruce Lesikar	Member, TCE, College Station
Barry Miller	Member, TAGD, Gonzales
C. Allan Jones	Member, TAES, College Station

#### AGENCY STAFF

Alan Cherepon	TCEQ, Austin
Joseph L. Peters	TCEQ, Austin
Richard Eyster	TDA, Austin
David Villarreal	TDA, Austin
Jeff Isler	TSPCB, Austin

#### INTERESTED PARTIES

Ed Baker	Syngenta Crop Protection, Mineola
George Caldwell	Texas Farm Bureau

## **MEETING SUMMARY:**

### **I. Opening Remarks**

The Chairman of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee, Mr. Steve Musick (TCEQ), called the meeting to order. All Subcommittee members were in attendance. Mr. Musick welcomed everyone to the meeting, the Subcommittee members introduced themselves and proceeded 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 the groundwater monitoring that the TWDB began in March. The TWDB samples included 195 wells in the Trinity aquifer, 100 wells in the Edwards-Trinity Plateau/Southern High Plains area, and 62 samples from the Pecos Valley and other aquifers. They should finish this cycle of sampling by late October. Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) added that TCEQ has analyzed 193 TWDB-collected samples for atrazine by immunoassay, and that 37 of these were also analyzed for metolachlor by immunoassay. In the Panhandle on-going monitoring, 40 samples were analyzed for atrazine by immunoassay (a subgroup of samples from these wells also received laboratory analyses). In the urban monitoring in Austin and San Antonio, 87 samples were analyzed for chlorpyrifos, 68 for atrazine, 76 for diazinon, 49 for pyrethroids, and 18 for Organo Phosphates/carbamates using primarily immunoassay or other kit methods. TCEQ staff still need to conduct a QA/QC review on these samples, and will provide a full report at the next meeting of the subcommittee.

**Education Task Force:** Bruce Lesikar (TCE), the Task Force Chair, provided a brief summary of activities in the past quarter. Dana Porter conducted homeowner training on domestic water quality in July. Dana Porter in Lubbock, and Leon New in Amarillo will be training county agricultural agents on 8/14/07 and 8/21/07, each in their respective cities. The training will include a pesticide and water quality component. Otherwise, Dr. Porter is in the planning cycle for 2008 training. Dr. Lesikar was requested by Mr. Musick to keep both the ACS and the Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee abreast of planning decisions. Forecasting these plans would be helpful in anticipating and planning activities, and could possibly enable timely input on education contract related issues.

The charge for the SMPTF was addressed under "Business Items" in the agenda, which is discussed below. None of the other attending task force chairs had anything new to report.

A minor change in the agenda order was made to accommodate the guest speaker. The presentation, originally scheduled under Item IVa, was given prior to "Business Items" in the agenda.

### **TCEQ Surface Water Quality Programs Overview**

Louanne Jones (TCEQ) provided a Power Point presentation and handout summarizing the TCEQ surface water quality management programs. The presentation was requested by Mr.

Musick as a result of EPA's requirement for greater collaboration between and the integration of surface water and groundwater quality as related to pesticides. The booklet utilized for the presentation, and compiled by Ms. Jones, is titled "Preserving & Improving Water Quality", TCEQ publication number G1-351, September 2006.

The major areas covered in the talk included:

- Watersheds and their subdivisions
- Water Quality Management and Stakeholders
- Programs (TMDL, 303d, Clean Rivers, Source Water Protection) and standards

The watershed approach to surface water quality divides and subdivides surface water by river and coastal basins, and their segments by stream and lake reaches. A third designation is for unclassified segments. These divisions are indicated by the first two and second two numbers, and a letter code, respectively. Watersheds are further assessed and protected through objectives based on scientific data, prioritization, the integration of solutions, and the contribution of a diverse partnership of stakeholders.

Water Quality Standards are comprised of two parts: Use and criteria. Details are found in Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 307. Use classifications indicate whether the water is safe for the following uses:

- Contact Recreation
- Public Water Supply
- Aquatic Life
- Fish Consumption
- General Use (such as groundwater recharge)

Most water bodies are designated suitable for all of these classes of use.

The criteria aspect of water quality standards utilizes monitoring data review and assessment at different intervals:

- Every 2 years the state attainments are assessed and monitoring plans are developed or adapted
- Every three years the water quality standards are revised and assessment methods adapted
- Every year the water programs are adapted to address changes in law/regulations, agencies and such

The process requires a significant amount of time for the EPA to review, resulting in TCEQ maintaining two lists (water quality inventory and the 303d List). One is a list of standards in review and awaiting EPA approval, and the other a list of anticipated changes, or actual work done by TCEQ.

The surface water quality programs use a variety of management mechanisms, such as water use permits for stream flow, drinking water protection regulations, coordination with groundwater protection programs, groundwater conservation districts, and monitoring and stream flow data review (quality assurance, data management, databases). The purpose of their activities includes

making assessments, identifying areas of concern, making TMDL decisions, evaluating receiving waters, and addressing grant reporting requirements.

The TMDL process was skipped over at this point in the presentation. Ms. Jones instead briefly covered the GIS materials available on the TCEQ website. Attention was brought to a website page called “Hydrography Maps and Data”, with links to the Atlas of Texas Surface Water. This link includes all shape files for watersheds and identifies the impaired water bodies in the state. There are presently some 75-80 still unclassified water bodies due to the difficulty in getting good GIS professionals to stay with the agency.

The surface water quality programs have five categories for water quality:

- Attainment (it meets all WQ use criteria)
- Only attaining for some uses
- Insufficient data set to assess
- Conditions met, no TMDL required
- Conditions not met, TMDL required

Those in category 5 are on the 303d List. If it is designated as category 5A, this indicates that it is in the process of receiving a TMDL or already has one. A 5B designation indicates that the standards are in need of revision or adjusting. A 5C designation indicates insufficient data to determine what to do, and is typically coordinated with the TSSWCB for the use of NPS data, and usually indicates the need for collecting additional data or some regulatory change.

If a TMDL is needed, it will require one of two types of restoration plans. The Implementation Plan (I-Plan) involves remediation or alternative measures. Alternatively, a Watershed Protection Plan (WWPP) may not require a full TMDL, and can either be remedial or preventive.

The presentation was followed by a brief Q&A session. When a water body is on the 303d List, how often is it reviewed? Two years, was the reply. Someone commented that there is concern it may take more data to get the water body off the 303d List than to get it on the list. One member asked if they could get multiple copies of the “Managing Surface Water Quality in Texas” booklet, and Ms. Jones answered in the affirmative. If a constituent is detected to be present above its MCL, in the treated water of a PWS plant, over 50% of the time, the segment becomes threatened (like Aquila). The Public Drinking Water program developed this assessment method. Further guidance on assessing water quality is available on the TCEQ Website, as indicated in the booklet.

### **III. Business Items**

#### **Pesticide Management Plan Task Force Charge – Review and Discussion**

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) prepared a revised draft charge for the PMPTF for the Subcommittee to review and discuss. He gave the Subcommittee a verbal summary, covering the main headings of the charge. Mr. Musick focused everyone on the schedule of projected completion dates relative to EPA grant requirements. EPA is requiring that the Pesticides of Interest (PIOs), as well as Pesticides of Concern (POCs), for groundwater and surface water, be identified by the

end of 2008. However, since the guidance from EPA is not very clear, this was the best effort for the charge that could presently be prepared. Mr. Musick also stated that David Villarreal (TDA) and Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) will be the designated co-chairs for the task force. He also indicated that the TSPCB should be removed from the list of members, since they will be merged into TDA in September.

Several questions were fielded. Dr. Jones (TAES) asked how we plan to manage activities of the TF in 2008, such as when and where meetings will be held. Mr. Musick replied that we will leave that up to the TF, due to the fuzzy guidance from EPA. We will need to address some items in our End-of-Year report to EPA for FY07, which typically doesn't get sent till late September or early October. The TF should have had a meeting and thus something to report by the time the next ACS meeting takes place. Mr. Musick asked the ACS to adopt the PMPTF charge with the minor revisions as noted earlier. Since there were no objections, the charge was adopted.

### **Pesticides of Interest Determination**

The Pesticides of Interest (POIs) and how they are to be selected were discussed in some detail at previous ACS meetings. This is also addressed in the PMPTF charge. However, there is still a need for addition discussion on this and to make a decision as to how many POIs Texas can adequately review in 2008. Mr. Cherepon provided a handout summarizing the primary sources and focus for POIs:

- The four USGS pesticides identified in the Pesticide Synthesis Report of 2006 (malathion, diazinon, chlorpyrifos, and AZM)
- The 2005 SFIREG List (TDA can delete the ones not registered in Texas, or even those not sold or used in any quantity)
- 303d List pesticides (which should be selected as POCs)
- Also, to review the pesticides which have been detected in waters in Texas, have high use, and characteristics such as high leachability and solubility

Mr. Musick voiced his appreciation for help from TDA in reducing this list to a manageable number of pesticides for 2008. Any remaining questions can be voiced at the October EPA Region 6 Pesticide meeting in Dallas. The PMPTF should have their meeting on this prior to October, and have the list and any questions prepared by then (nothing formal).

### **IV. Information Exchange - Status Update**

Ambrose Charles (TDA) provided a brief update on the propazine re-registration monitoring program, stating that the company is working with EPA on this, but there is nothing final as of yet.

The Barton Springs Pesticide Determinations update was also provided by TDA, summarizing that there are three phases; the atrazine determination has been completed, the carbamates determination is due at the end of August, and the others will come later.

The education and outreach update was provided by Mr. Cherepon. An upcoming meeting at the City of Austin is scheduled for 8/23/07 to address their pesticide reduction and education program, Grow Green. This is by invitation only, but several ACS members should be present. Also, the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference will be held 8/16-17/07, with TCEQ providing a booth for the TGPC, including some ACS materials on pesticides in Texas. There is also the 15<sup>th</sup> Nonpoint Source Workshop the week of 8/27/07 in Austin, which includes a track on pesticides in agricultural and urban settings. Mr. Cherepon is giving a talk on pesticide monitoring activities in Texas at this conference.

#### **V. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

#### **VI. Announcements**

The TWDB is holding a Groundwater 101 training event for Groundwater Conservation District staff, August 27-28.

Mr. Cherepon mentioned a diazinon (granular) cancellation order that appeared in the Federal Register.

Mr. Musick announced that this was his final meeting as Chair of the ACS, since he is retiring at the end of August. His experience and insights will be sorely missed.

With no further comments or announcements, the meeting was adjourned.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Recorded and transcribed by Alan Cherepon.

#### **Attachments**

Summary of TCEQ pesticide monitoring in 2007  
Revised PMP Task Force Charge  
POI handout

In their afternoon meeting, the decision was made by the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee that the FY07 fourth quarter meeting of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee will take place on 10/3/07 at 10:30 a.m., in TCEQ Building F, Conference Room 2210.