

**TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
GROUNDWATER ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING**

Fourth Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2015

Meeting Date: July 15, 2015
Meeting No. 2

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg. F
Room: 2210

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING ATTENDANCE	2
MEETING HANDOUTS	2
RECORD OF MEETING JULY 15, 2015	3
1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS	3
2. CLOSURE AND CONTINUATION ISSUES	3
3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE	4
4. DISCUSSION OF GROUNDWATER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM	4
5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER QUALITY ISSUES	5
6. DISCUSS GENERAL AGENDA CONTENT	5
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS	6
8. PUBLIC COMMENT	6
9. ADJOURN	6

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Deba Dutta
Adam Foster
T.J. Helton
Janie Hopkins
Linda McCall
Kelly Mills (Co-chair)
Chris Moore (Co-chair)
David Villarreal
Kevin Wagner

Affiliation

Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS)
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Texas State Soil Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research)

Agency Staff

Cary Betz (TGPC Chair)
Bill Carter
Al Cherepon
Scott Underwood

Affiliation Program

TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Quality Planning Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division

Interested Parties

Lynne Fahlquist

Affiliation

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Groundwater Issues Subcommittee Record of Meeting April 22, 2015
2. Groundwater Issues Subcommittee Agenda July 15, 2015

RECORD OF MEETING JULY 15, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kelly Mills (TCEQ), Co-chair of the Groundwater Issues Subcommittee (GWIS), called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. GWIS members introduced themselves. Linda McCall (UTBEG) arrived at 10:05 A.M. TAGD representative David Van Dresser could not attend the meeting.

2. CLOSURE AND CONTINUATION ISSUES

Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) reported that the GWIS would absorb three TGPC subcommittees: the Agricultural Chemicals, Data Management, and Groundwater Research Subcommittees. Mr. Mills opened the floor for discussion of the Agricultural Chemicals (AgChem) Subcommittee closure and continuation issues.

Al Cherepon (TCEQ) reported there have been no changes since the last GWIS meeting. Mr. Cherepon announced plans to collect groundwater samples this summer. Mr. Cherepon submitted the amended QAPP to the EPA. The TDSHS laboratory will provide analytical services if needed.

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) listed three AgChem Subcommittee functions: report results from cooperative sampling, targeted sampling, and review monitoring plans.

Al Cherepon (TCEQ) reported that the EPA approved the groundwater-monitoring plan. The TCEQ and TWDB cooperative monitoring will continue. Mr. Cherepon will continue to report EPA matters.

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that the AgChem Subcommittee created a task force to manage the EPA POINTS (Pesticides of Interest Tracking System) Program. The program started about five years ago. Mr. Villarreal credited Al Cherepon (TCEQ) for completing the POINTS Program before most States. After completion, the task force was quiet but the TGPC kept it intact on an as needed basis.

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) arrived at 10:12 A.M.

By consensus, Kelly Mills (TCEQ) closed the AgChem discussion.

Data Management Subcommittee

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) recounted that Janie Hopkins (TWDB) and Mike Chadwick (TCEQ) co-chaired the subcommittee. Mr. Mills opened the floor for discussion. Ms. Hopkins reported that there were no closure or continuation issues.

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) announced that the TWDB would release an interactive-mapping application on September 1, 2015. The application should be an improvement of the TWDB's Water Information Integration & Dissemination (WIID) system.

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) reported that each TGPC subcommittee assimilated into the GWIS would keep the same co-chairs. AgChem, Data Management, and Groundwater Research Issues will be GWIS agenda items. If a groundwater issue warrants assessment, the GWIS would activate a task force.

By consensus, Kelly Mills (TCEQ) closed the Data Management discussion.

Cary Betz (TCEQ) announced that the TGPC *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report-2014* is in publication and soon to be delivered.

Groundwater Research Subcommittee

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Mills recounted that Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) and Kevin Wagner (AgriLife Research) co-chaired the subcommittee. Dr. Wagner reported that there are no closure issues. Dr. Wagner suggested the GWIS become a venue for identifying needs and updates on relevant groundwater research by the University of Texas and Texas A&M.

Linda McCall (UTBEG) and Lynne Fahlquist (USGS) listed multiple (completed and ongoing) groundwater-research reports that are available on their respective agency's website.

By consensus, Kelly Mills (TCEQ) closed the Groundwater Research discussion.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

Al Cherepon (TCEQ) announced that the next GWIS meeting would be on October 21, 2015.

4. DISCUSSION OF GROUNDWATER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) gave a brief history of groundwater classification in Texas then opened the floor for discussion.

Chris Moore (RRC) noted the difficulty in developing a groundwater strategy without a legislative mandate for agencies to adopt a unified groundwater classification system.

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that Regions K and L Water Planning Groups have issues with groundwater classification, groundwater use, desalinization, and brackish water. Attorneys for Regions K and L are preparing to contest these issues. Mr. Villarreal proposed activating a GWIS Task Force to start addressing those issues. Kelly Mills (TCEQ) recalled that the TGPC had agreed to form a work group, composed of subcommittee members from the TCEQ, RRC, TAGD, and TWDB, to develop a groundwater classification system. Mr. Mills agreed that a GWIS Task Force should be set up.

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that a GWIS Task Force is not required to meet as a group and can conduct business by conference call or email.

T.J. Helton (TSSWCB) reported that the *Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Program* document contains a TGPC groundwater classification system approved by the EPA, TCEQ, and TSSWCB.

Cary Betz (TCEQ) recalled 20-25 years ago, that the TGPC developed a groundwater classification system for regulatory guidance on contaminated groundwater. That classification system was based on protective standards. This is the same TGPC classification system in the document referenced above by T.J. Helton (TSSWCB). Mr. Betz recounted that the *TGPC Report to the 84th Legislature*, and two bills during session, recommended clarifying legislative language to adopt a unified classification system for regulatory guidance on groundwater management issues in Texas.

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) asked Groundwater Classification Task Force members to confer once or twice before the next GWIS meeting. The task force will report their findings to the GWIS. Mr. Mills announced that Cary Betz (TCEQ) would provide task force guidance. The task force will be composed of GWIS members from the TCEQ, RRC, TWDB, and TAGD. The TCEQ will take the lead. Mr. Mills invited the other members to join the task force but there was no audible response.

By consensus, Kelly Mills (TCEQ) closed the Groundwater Classification discussion.

5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER QUALITY ISSUES

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) opened the floor for discussion.

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that the Comptroller's Office is now involved with endangered species. Several species may be listed this year including a mussel species, which may be prone to groundwater quality changes. Mr. Villarreal reported that Region Water Planning Groups have recommended brush control to increase groundwater quantity.

By consensus, Kelly Mills (TCEQ) closed the Groundwater Quality discussion.

6. DISCUSS GENERAL AGENDA CONTENT

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) invited subcommittee members to comment on the agenda's content, structure, and improvement.

Kevin Wagner (AgriLife Research) suggested updates and discussions on groundwater monitoring, research needs, and TGPC reports.

David Villarreal (TAD) asked about presentations at GWIS meetings. Kelly Mills (TCEQ) replied he does not expect a speaker at every meeting. Mr. Mills announced that presentations will not be a regular agenda item but he would be open to presentations on topical issues pertinent to the GWIS.

Chris Moore (RRC) suggested keeping presentations on schedule to avoid overlap of the GWIS morning and TGPC afternoon meetings.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynne Fahlquist (USGS) announced that the USGS has designated funds for the compilation of water-use data and groundwater modeling development. Ms. Fahlquist reported that the USGS and TWDB would be working together compiling water-use data. Janie Hopkins (TWDB) added that the TWDB has designated funds for their water use section, too.

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) announced his promotion to Assistant Director of the Water Availability Division.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Carter (TCEQ) reported the TCEQ's nonpoint source request for application was delayed.

9. ADJOURN

With Chris Moore's (RRC) concurrence, Kelly Mills (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at 11:06 A.M.