

GROUNDWATER ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2020

Meeting Date: March 4, 2020
Meeting No.: 21

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 2210

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Alan Cherepon
Leslie Bruce (Co-Chair)
Natalie Ballew
David Villarreal
T.J. Helton

David A. Van Dresar
John Tracy
Claire Satterwhite
Kimberly Horndeski
Ken Rainwater
Diane Boellstorff

Patty Ging

Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research)
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
Texas Tech University (TTU)
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Agency Staff

Abiy Berehe
Lorrie Council
Grant J. Gibson
Dan Hannah
Cindy Hooper
Peggy Hunka
Lauren Pulliam
Emily Sanchez
Rebecca Storms
L. Scott Underwood

Affiliation

TCEQ
TCEQ
TCEQ
TCEQ
TCEQ
TCEQ
TCEQ
TCEQ
TCEQ
TWDB
TCEQ

Program

Water Availability Division
Radioactive Materials Division
Water Availability Division
Radioactive Materials Division
Water Availability Division
Water Availability Division
Water Quality Planning Division
Water Quality Planning Division
Water Availability Division

Interested Parties

N/A

Affiliation

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, March 4, 2020
2. TGPC GWI Subcommittee Meeting Record, December 4, 2019
3. TGPC Agricultural Chemicals (AgChem) Task Force (TF) Status Report, March 4, 2020
4. TGPC Publications Status Report, March 4, 2020
5. Aquifer Storage and Recovery Issues, Preliminary Outline (GWI Subcommittee section format), TCEQ notes from TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting 04Dec2019 and TCEQ feedback from internal meetings 16Dec2019 and 08Jan2020
6. Concerns with Unintentional Mixing of Groundwater diagram

The following item was also on display on the handout table:

1. TGPC Public Information Act Policy

MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 4, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Leslie Bruce (RRC), Co-Chair of the TGPC GWI Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:04 PM CST. GWI Subcommittee members were introduced. The representatives from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG) were not present at the meeting.

2. STATUS REPORTS

Agricultural Chemicals Task Force

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) reported on the Agricultural Chemicals Task Force:

- There was no Cooperative Pesticide Monitoring Program data to report yet, but immunoassay screening should begin in late April 2020.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) also reported that:

- He had prepared the Middle of Year report for TCEQ's Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) grant;
- There had been a request for an updated TCEQ Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD) map and database from a graduate student at Texas A&M University;
- Ongoing interest had been expressed in a Lavaca River pesticide issue in Hallettsville, and Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) had hosted a Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program training for area residents interested in land and water stewardship in the Lavaca River watershed on February 27, 2020; and,
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had recently inquired about the use of Aquashade dye, which is used on surface water to prohibit algae growth, and they were referred to TPWD's Aquatic Invasive Species team.

TGPC Publications

Abiy Berehe (TCEQ) reported on the following TGPC publications:

- Groundwater Assessment for the *2020 Texas Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)* ("*Texas Integrated Report*", N/A)
 - Preparation of the groundwater assessment portion of the *2020 Texas Integrated Report* had begun and staff planned to complete the report by April 1, 2020.
- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2019* ("*Joint Report*", SFR-056)
 - Preparation of the *2019 Joint Report* had begun and staff planned to complete it by June 1, 2020.

- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 87th Legislature (“Legislative Report”, SFR-047)*
 - The TGPC Legislative Report Subcommittee, which is in charge of preparing the *Legislative Report*, was reactivated at TGPC meeting on January 15, 2020, and the Subcommittee held its first meeting on March 4, 2020.
- *Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells (“Plugging document”, RG-347)*
 - The publication was under review and discussion within the TGPC Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 1:00 PM CDT, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 2210.

4. DISCUSS CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Hydraulic Fracturing

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Oil and Gas Produced Water

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Emerging Contaminants

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that DSHS had mentioned in recent meetings that the cyclospora parasite had now been found in domestic produce and it may become an issue.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

Discussion of this topic occurred during the Business portion of the meeting.

Abandoned Water Wells

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Wellhead Impacts After Natural Disasters

Discussion of this topic occurred during the Business portion of the meeting.

Brackish Groundwater

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Desalination

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Endangered Species

Kimberly Horndeski (TPWD) reported they had recently updated their list of threatened and endangered species, they were still monitoring the freshwater mussel process, there was a new issue related to springs and snails, and they were monitoring a pipeline in the state that had the potential to impact salamanders.

Coal Ash from Power Plants

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Anthropogenic Mixing of Groundwater

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Others

Ken Rainwater (TTU) asked about a statewide repository of seismic data. Leslie Bruce (RRC) said that she would put him in touch with some of their staff who could help him find this data. UTBEG may also have data to share.

5. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Draft Aquifer Storage and Recovery Issues White Paper

Ken Rainwater (TTU) presented the updated outline of the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) white paper. Natalie Ballew (TWDB) noted that they would be publishing an ASR report for the next legislative session. The possibility of waiting for publication of the TWDB ASR report was considered.

Discussion of White Papers Under Development

John Tracy (AgriLife Research) discussed their potential white paper regarding wellhead impacts after natural disasters. Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) suggested including information on what needs to be done in order to facilitate data availability and transferability after an emergency. David Villarreal (TDA) provided some examples of specific aspects of wellhead protection that they would like to see in the white paper. Additional feedback included listing safeguards and resources for private water well owners.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements at the meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

8. ADJOURN

Leslie Bruce (RRC) adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:59 PM CST.