

GROUNDWATER ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE  
 OF THE  
 TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
 RECORD OF MEETING  
 Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2019

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019  
 Meeting No.: 17

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
 Room: 2210

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**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Subcommittee Members

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)  
Alan Cherepon  
Leslie Bruce (Co-Chair)  
Emily Hall  
Evelyn Reategui-Zirena  
Bryan Anderson  
David T. Villarreal  
T.J. Helton

Leah Martinsson  
John Tracy  
Rosario Sanchez  
Anish Jantrania

Christopher Braun

Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
TCEQ  
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)  
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)  
DSHS  
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 Water Resources Institute (TWRI)  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)  
United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Agency Staff

Maria Denise Benitez  
Abiy Berehe  
Leon Byrd  
Bill Carter  
Joseph “Kip” Haney  
Joe Nicosia  
L. Scott Underwood

Affiliation

Program

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

Interested Parties

N/A

Affiliation

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, March 6, 2019
2. TGPC GWI Subcommittee Meeting Record, January 16, 2019
3. TGPC Agricultural Chemicals (AgChem) Task Force (TF) Status Report, March 6, 2019
4. TGPC Publications Status Report, March 6, 2019
5. Draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) ?* white paper
6. J. Haney (TCEQ) feedback on draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) ?* white paper
7. Draft *Transboundary Groundwater Resources along the Texas-Mexico Border* white paper
8. Draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Issues Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 Activity Plan*

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

1. TGPC Public Information Act Policy

## MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 6, 2019

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the TGPC GWI Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:31 AM CST. GWI Subcommittee members were introduced. The representatives from the Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG), Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Texas Tech University (TTU) were not present at the meeting.

### 2. STATUS REPORTS

#### Agricultural Chemicals Task Force

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

- Cooperative monitoring was not scheduled to begin until April 2019, and TCEQ sampling in the Northern Panhandle was planned for late May or early June 2019.
- The update and quality assurance and control activities on the Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD), including Fiscal Year 2019 pesticide water monitoring data from other TCEQ programs and the USGS, was planned for August and September 2019.
- TCEQ staff would provide:
  - A table display and personnel at the Capitol for the annual National Groundwater Awareness Week on March 13, 2019;
  - A TGPC poster exhibit at the Capitol for the annual National Groundwater Awareness Week on March 18 – 22, 2019; and,
  - A desk display and personnel for the TCEQ annual Environmental Trade Fair on May 14 – 15, 2019.
- Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) would attend the biannual U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/States/Tribes pesticide meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas on May 14 – 16, 2019, sharing Texas groundwater protection activities with other Region 6 states and the U.S. EPA.

#### TGPC Publications

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

- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2018* (“*Joint Report*”, SFR-056):
  - Staff were working on the 2018 *Joint Report* and it would be completed before June 2019.

### 3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at 9:30 AM CDT, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 2210.

#### 4. DISCUSS CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

##### Water Supply Enhancement Program

T.J. Helton (TSSWCB) reported that the Water Supply Enhancement Program was in their Exceptional Items list, but it would need to be approved.

##### Hydraulic Fracturing

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

##### Emerging Contaminants

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that there were glyphosate lawsuits underway in California. Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) noted that Tyrone Hayes would be speaking about pesticides at the University of Texas “*Hot Science – Cool Talks*” event in Austin on March 8, 2019. Emily Hall (DSHS) reported that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) would be conducting a nation-wide PFAS Exposure Assessment in 2019 – 2020 (<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/PFAS-Exposure-Assessments.html>). T.J. Helton (TSSWCB) reported that PFAS had recently been detected in milk from cows in Clovis, New Mexico ([https://www.hpj.com/latzke/clovis-dairy-s-well-contamination-has-farmers-across-the-ogallala/article\\_577d26be-3c47-11e9-a37c-f73b271f577e.html](https://www.hpj.com/latzke/clovis-dairy-s-well-contamination-has-farmers-across-the-ogallala/article_577d26be-3c47-11e9-a37c-f73b271f577e.html)).

##### Saline Groundwater Trends and Impacts in Texas

Bryan Anderson (TWDB) reported that a bill had recently been filed that would restore funding for their brackish groundwater program.

##### Agricultural Chemicals

There was no additional discussion of this topic at the meeting.

##### Border Groundwater

There was no discussion of this topic at this point in the meeting.

##### Aquifer Storage and Recovery

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

##### Abandoned Water Wells

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that there had been some recent discussion about establishing a state-wide abandoned water well plugging fund as per one of the TGPC’s long-standing legislative report recommendations. Bryan Anderson (TWDB) noted that they could convert an unused water well that was still in working order into a monitoring well.

## Failing Septic Systems

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

## Others

Bryan Anderson (TWDB) reported that they had recently received some inquiries regarding coal ash from power plants.

## 5. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

### Final Draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) ?* White Paper

Emily Hall (DSHS) and Evelyn Reategui-Zirena (DSHS) presented an updated draft of the *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) ?* white paper. Joseph “Kip” Haney (TCEQ) reviewed his feedback on the white paper. Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) asked about the extent of PFAS sampling that had been done in Texas; Emily Hall (DSHS) noted that the 2012 – 2016 third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) study of Public Water Systems had found no health advisory exceedances in Texas. John Tracy (AgriLife Research) suggested that the white paper include information about the types and costs of wellhead treatment technology for PFAS. A final draft of the white paper would be presented at the next meeting.

Bryan Anderson (TWDB) left at approximately 10:01 AM CST, returned at approximately 10:04 AM CST, and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

### Draft *Transboundary Groundwater Resources along the Texas-Mexico Border* White Paper

Rosario Sanchez (TWRI) presented an updated draft of the *Transboundary Groundwater Resources along the Texas-Mexico Border* white paper. Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) offered to investigate whether there were any additional TCEQ Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) that would be appropriate to review the white paper. David Villarreal (TDA) asked whether a Spanish version of the white paper would be available; John Tracy (AgriLife Research) offered their translation services after the white paper was approved. A final draft of the white paper would be presented at the next meeting.

### Draft *TGPC GWI Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 Activity Plan*

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the draft *TGPC GWI Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 Activity Plan* (“*Activity Plan*”). John Tracy (AgriLife Research) suggested a name update for one of the potential white paper topics. Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) suggested updates for the Agricultural Chemicals Task Force Status Report topics list. A final draft of the *Activity Plan* would be presented at the next meeting.

## Discussion of White Papers Under Development

There was no additional discussion of the white papers that were under development.

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Tracy (AgriLife Research) announced the recent publication of a Council of Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) paper on the impact of aquifer depletion on U.S. agriculture ([http://www.cast-science.org/publications/?aquifer\\_depletion\\_and\\_potential\\_impacts\\_on\\_longterm\\_irrigated\\_agricultural\\_productivity&show=product&productID=285019](http://www.cast-science.org/publications/?aquifer_depletion_and_potential_impacts_on_longterm_irrigated_agricultural_productivity&show=product&productID=285019)).

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

## 8. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:46 AM CST.