

GROUNDWATER ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE
 OF THE
 TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
 RECORD OF MEETING
 Fourth Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2022

Meeting Date: June 8, 2022
 Meeting No.: 30

Place: videoconference
 Room: N/A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)
 Chris Heiligenstein (Co-Chair)
 Natalie Ballew
 Eric Lawrence
 David Villarreal
 T.J. Helton

David Van Dresar
 Rebecca Smyth

Ken Rainwater
 Linzy Foster

Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
 Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
 Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
 Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
 Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
 Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
 Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
 Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG)
 Texas Tech University (TTU)
 United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Agency Staff

Stanley Aniagu
 Alan Barraza
 Abiy Berehe
 Alan Cherepon
 Mindy Conyers
 Lorrie Council
 Grant Gibson
 Claudia Guillot-Wallace
 Cindy Hooper
 Peggy Hunka
 Leah Martinsson
 Alysa Suydam
 Scott Underwood
 Margaret Willis

Affiliation

Program

TCEQ	Toxicology Division
TCEQ	Water Quality Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TWDB	
TCEQ	Radioactive Materials Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TAGD	
TWDB	
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
DSHS	

Interested Parties

N/A

Affiliation

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, June 8, 2022
2. TGPC GWI Subcommittee Meeting Record, March 9, 2022
3. TGPC Agricultural Chemicals (AgChem) Task Force (TF) Status Report, June 8, 2022
4. TGPC Publications Status Report, June 8, 2022
5. TGPC Groundwater Issues Subcommittee *Charge*, https://tgpc.texas.gov/wp-content/themes/responsive/subcommittees/gwissues/GWI_SubComm_Charge10Jul2019.pdf
6. Final draft *Opportunities and Challenges in Aquifer Storage and Recovery* white paper

MEETING RECORD OF JUNE 8, 2022

1. PRE-MEETING REMINDERS

Before the meeting started, Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) provided the attendees with some tips that would facilitate a productive videoconference.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The TGPC approves all Subcommittee products and designated TGPC members attending this Subcommittee meeting participated as an employee or representative of their agency or organization, not as a designated TGPC member. Therefore, this Subcommittee meeting was not subject to the Open Meetings Act and it was held 100% virtually. The public was also able to attend this meeting via teleconference or videoconference at no cost.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the GWI Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:34 AM CDT and then called the roll of GWI Subcommittee members. The representatives from Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research), Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) were not present at the meeting.

3. STATUS REPORTS

Agricultural Chemicals Task Force

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

- Groundwater pesticide monitoring by the Cooperative program with TWDB and TCEQ began in April 2022, with the first analyses conducted on April 29, 2022; the program was scheduled to continue through FY 2022;
- The TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair was held on May 10 – 11, 2022, and TGPC information was provided, including pesticide-related activities and resources for the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) grant work; and,
- The Region 6 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/States/Tribes pesticide Spring meeting was held virtually on May 25 – 26, 2022, and it was hosted by Louisiana; updates were given by EPA on the FIFRA grant changes that were specific to pesticides, and the states and Tribes provided summaries of their grant work; the various issues faced by the states and Tribes were also discussed; there was limited discussion of groundwater-related issues.

TGPC Publications

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) reported on the following TGPC publications:

- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2021* (“*Joint Report*”, SFR-056)
 - TCEQ GPAT staff were finalizing the report, which was expected to be completed in June 2022; and,

- Prior to publication, the draft 2021 *Joint Report* would be sent for TCEQ agency-wide review; at that time, TCEQ staff would also provide the draft report to TGPC members for review.
- Groundwater Assessment (AS-465/22) for the 2022 *Texas Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)* (“*Texas Integrated Report*”, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/assessment/22twqi/22txir>)
 - The Commission adopted the *Draft 2022 Texas 303(d) List* on June 1, 2022; next, TCEQ would transmit the 2022 *Texas Integrated Report* to the U.S. EPA for approval; and,
 - The 2022 Groundwater Assessment was available at <https://tgpc.texas.gov/tgpc-publications/#Current>.
- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 88th Legislature* (“*Legislative Report*”, SFR-047)
 - The Legislative Report Subcommittee met on June 8, 2022, to finalize the draft recommendations and planned to present the final draft report to the TGPC at their meeting on July 13, 2022; and,
 - The *Legislative Report* for the 88th Legislature was anticipated to be published and distributed to the Texas Legislature by December 31, 2022.
- *Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (“*Plugging document*”, RG-347)
 - A Spanish version (RG-347/esp) of the April 2021 plugging document had been developed and would be available online soon.

4. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 9:30 AM CDT and it was planned as a videoconference.

5. DISCUSS CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Oil and Gas Produced Water

Ken Rainwater (TTU) reported that the Texas Produced Water Consortium (<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/research/tx-water-consortium/>) was working on a draft presentation for August 1, 2022. Chris Heiligenstein (RRC) noted that Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) had given a well-received presentation on produced water at the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair on May 11, 2022.

Emerging Contaminants

David Villarreal (TDA) reported on a recent Clean Rivers Program meeting where the most significant findings included algae, *E. coli*, and enterococcus. He also noted a recent hepatitis outbreak linked to strawberries, that microplastics may be becoming an issue in surface water, and that recalcitrant surface water contaminants such as norovirus and cyclospora may also be making their way into water wells.

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 during the meeting.

Brackish Groundwater

There was no discussion of this topic during the meeting.

Evapotranspiration Networks

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that the Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC, <https://savetexaswater.org/>) was planning to recommend funding for evapotranspiration network projects in their legislative report.

Others

David Villarreal (TDA) noted that drought can affect the quality of both surface water and groundwater, and it appeared that Texas was heading into another period of extended drought. Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) announced that Rebecca Storms (TWDB) would be giving a presentation on the effects of drought on groundwater in Texas at the TGPC meeting on July 13, 2022. Ken Rainwater (TTU) pointed out that one of the conditions addressed by regional water planning is changes in water supply and availability.

Chris Heiligenstein (RRC) reported that some mining activity in Hondo, Texas may have caused methane to seep into groundwater due to exposed seams as the water table lowered.

6. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

TGPC GWI Subcommittee *Charge*

As required by the GWI Subcommittee's current *Activity Plan* (https://tgpc.texas.gov/gwissues/activity_plans/TGPC_GWI_FY2022_2023_ActivityPlan_14Jul2021.pdf), Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the TGPC GWI Subcommittee *Charge* (https://tgpc.texas.gov/wp-content/themes/responsive/subcommittees/gwissues/GWI_SubComm_Charge10Jul2019.pdf) for its annual review and discussion. Chris Heiligenstein (RRC) had agreed to continue as Co-Chair for the next Fiscal Year and no additional changes were suggested, so the *Charge* would remain in effect.

Draft *Opportunities and Challenges in Aquifer Storage and Recovery* White Paper

Ken Rainwater (TTU) presented the final draft of the *Opportunities and Challenges in Aquifer Storage and Recovery* white paper and noted that there were 192 ASR projects in the current State Water Plan. Natalie Ballew (TWDB) proposed, Stanley Aniagu (TCEQ) seconded, and all remaining members approved the final draft ASR white paper. The white paper would be presented to the TGPC for approval at their next meeting. Ken Rainwater (TTU) was thanked for his 2.5 years of effort on this white paper.

Draft *Abandoned Water Wells and the Challenges They Pose* White Paper

David Gunn (TDLR) reported that the white paper's author had been traveling and spending a lot of time on their Weather Modification Program so there was no update of the *Abandoned Water Wells and the Challenges They Pose* white paper for review at this meeting.

Discussion of White Papers Under Development

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that several potential white papers were being considered for development:

- *Roadmap for Prioritizing New Water Infrastructure Funding for Safe Drinking Water Act Violations in Texas*;
- The *Joint Report* and its connection with the TCEQ Groundwater Contamination Viewer and Groundwater Assessment for the *Texas Integrated Report*;
- Private water well disinfection Best Management Practices (BMPs); and,
- Private water wells supporting childcare facilities.

Margaret Willis (DSHS) spoke briefly about the latter topic saying that they would be looking at regulatory gaps because some childcare facilities in Texas did not fall under the various TCEQ PWS categories.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ken Rainwater (TTU) announced that he would be retiring at the end of August 2022, but that he hoped to continue to participate in the GWI Subcommittee.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

9. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:29 AM CDT.