

GROUNDWATER ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE
 OF THE
 TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
 RECORD OF MEETING
 Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2023

Meeting Date: March 8, 2023
 Meeting No.: 33

Place: videoconference
 Room: N/A

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING ATTENDANCE 2

MEETING HANDOUTS 3

MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 8, 2023..... 4

1. PRE-MEETING REMINDERS4

2. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS4

3. STATUS REPORTS4

Agricultural Chemicals Task Force4

TGPC Publications.....4

4. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE5

5. DISCUSS CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES5

Oil and Gas Produced Water.....5

Emerging Contaminants.....5

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)6

Abandoned Water Wells6

Brackish Groundwater6

Evapotranspiration Networks.....6

Others7

6. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION.....7

Draft *TGPC GWI Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Activity Plan*.....7

Final Draft *Abandoned Water Wells and the Challenges They Pose* White Paper8

Final Draft *Prioritizing New Drinking Water Infrastructure Funding in Texas* White Paper8

Draft *Potential Impacts of Unregulated Private Water Systems in Child Care Operations* White Paper.....8

Discussion of White Papers Under Development.....8

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS.....8

8. PUBLIC COMMENT9

9. ADJOURN9

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)
Chris Heiligenstein (Co-Chair)
Rebecca Storms
Eric Lawrence
David Villarreal
Leah Martinsson
Rosario Sanchez
Bridget Scanlon

David Gunn
Linzy Foster
Ken Rainwater

Agency Staff

Stanley Aniagu
Kayla Ayala

Alan Barraza
Abiy Berehe
Robert Bradley
Alan Cherepon
Kristin DeBone
Heather Dodson
Adam Foster
Grant Gibson
Patricia Ging
Jason Godeaux
Cindy Hooper
Peggy Hunka
James LaManna
Scott Underwood
Margaret Willis

Interested Parties

Lorrie Council
Diana Nichols
Jennifer Miller

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 Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research)
Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas
at Austin (UTBEG)
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
United States Geological Survey (USGS)
Texas Tech University (TTU)

Affiliation

Program

TCEQ	Toxicology Division
TCEQ	Program Support and Environmental Assistance Division
TCEQ	Water Quality Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TWDB	
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Quality Planning Division
TWDB	
TDLR	
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
USGS	
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Supply Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
DSHS	

Affiliation

Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC)
Kelly Hart & Hallman, LLP
Brazos River Authority

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, March 8, 2023
2. TGPC GWI Subcommittee Meeting Record, December 7, 2022
3. TGPC Agricultural Chemicals (AgChem) Task Force (TF) Status Report, March 8, 2023
4. TGPC Publications Status Report, March 8, 2023
5. *Texas, New Mexico see supply opportunities in produced water* news article, <https://www.mrt.com/business/oil/article/pbwec-texas-new-mexico-see-supply-opportunities-17814311.php>
6. *RRC Unveils Interactive Map of Orphaned Wells Being Plugged with the Use of Federal Funding* press release, <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/news/010323-federal-well-plugging-data-visualization/>
7. RRC Plugging of Oil and Gas Wells Viewer, <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/resource-center/data-visualization/oil-gas-data-visualization/federally-funded-well-plugging-data-visualization/>
8. 2013 Texas Groundwater Quality Database Survey (Excel file)
9. Draft *TGPC GWI Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Activity Plan*
10. Final Draft *Abandoned Water Wells and the Challenges They Pose* White Paper (mark-up and clean)
11. Final Draft *Prioritizing New Drinking Water Infrastructure Funding in Texas* White Paper (mark-up and clean)
12. USGS Publications and Announcements, March 8, 2023

MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 8, 2023

1. PRE-MEETING REMINDERS

Before the meeting started, Chris Heiligenstein (RRC) 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 videoconference or teleconference at no cost.

Chris Heiligenstein (RRC), Co-Chair of the GWI Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:34 AM CST and then called the roll of GWI Subcommittee members. The representatives from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) 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:

- TCEQ had their immunoassay kits, they were scheduled to do sampling in June 2023, and TWDB was scheduled to do cooperative monitoring sampling in April 2023.
- A table-top display and staff providing information on the TGPC, including pesticide information and data, was set up at the annual Texas Ground Water Association (TGWA) Convention in San Marcos on January 25 – 27, 2023.
- The Pesticides of Interest Tracking System (POINTS) Pesticide Assessment Database was updated for Texas by Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) in December 2022 for Fiscal Year 2022 and uploaded to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Central Data Exchange (CDX) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Grant Database.
- A U.S. EPA Region 6 pesticide meeting was scheduled to be held in a hybrid format (virtually and in Oklahoma) in May 2023.

TGPC Publications

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

- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2022* (“*Joint Report*”, SFR-56)
 - Work on the 2022 *Joint Report* was in process and it was expected to be published before June 1, 2023.

- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 88th Legislature* (“*Legislative Report*”, SFR-47)
 - The *Legislative Report* for the 88th Legislature was published and distributed to legislative leadership in December 2022, and it was available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/groundwater/publications/sfr-47-22-tgpc-report-88th-legislature.pdf>.

Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) also reported on the following groundwater-related TCEQ publications:

- Groundwater Assessment (AS-465/24) for the *2024 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>)
 - Work on the Groundwater Assessment for the *2024 Texas Integrated Report* would commence in September 2023.
- *Priority Groundwater Management Areas and Groundwater Conservation Districts, Report to the 88th Legislature* (“*PGMA/GCD Legislative Report*”, SFR-53/22)
 - The PGMA/GCD Legislative Report was published and distributed to legislative leadership in January 2023, and it was available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/groundwater/publications/sfr-53-22-pgma-gcd-report-88th-legislature.pdf>.

4. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 9:30 AM CDT and it was planned as a videoconference.

5. DISCUSS CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Oil and Gas Produced Water

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) referred members to a recent news article which indicated that the Texas Produced Water Consortium would have two pilot projects up and running in west Texas by the end of 2023. Ken Rainwater (TTU) reported that the Texas Produced Water Consortium had been meeting occasionally.

Leah Martinsson (TAGD) joined the meeting at approximately 9:50 AM CST.

Emerging Contaminants

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that recent news related to emerging contaminants was focused on PFAS, microbial contaminants, microplastics in the Gulf of Mexico, potential train derailment hazards, *Cyclospora*, and algal issues.

Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) inquired about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and manganese samples from Texas. James LaManna (TCEQ) indicated that:

- PFAS data had been collected as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) program, and they were expecting the U.S. EPA to establish a final Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) rule for it in March 2023; and,
- Manganese was being monitored in Public Water Supply (PWS) systems, the U.S. EPA had established a Health Advisory Level (HAL) for it, and an MCL was expected soon.

Stanley Aniagu (TCEQ) reported that the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) had recently created a new team (<https://itrcweb.org/teams/active/6ppd-q>) to investigate Tire Anti-Degradants (including 6 p-Phenylenediamine, also known as 6PPD). 6PPD breaks down into 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q) which enters the environment and can affect aquatic organisms. Eric Lawrence (DSHS) indicated that he was working on this issue, too.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

Rebecca Storms (TWDB) reported that they would be hosting a webinar on March 30, 2023, regarding their “Longevity Assessment for the City of Bandera Water Wells” study (<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/asr/projects/Bandera/index.asp>). This longevity assessment focused on the lower Trinity Aquifer due to it being the primary water production source for the City of Bandera and the target for their ASR project.

Abandoned Water Wells

David Gunn (TDLR) reported that they were in the process of reissuing approximately 50 letters to abandoned water well owners. Chris Heiligenstein (RRC) noted that the Texas Historical Commission (THC) had a database which included reports of abandoned water wells discovered during archeological surveys.

Brackish Groundwater

Rebecca Storms (TWDB) reported that their Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS) group would be holding a stakeholder meeting on March 22, 2023, to review brackish groundwater production zone amendment guidance.

Evapotranspiration Networks

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that Senate Bill 988 had been introduced by Senator Charles Perry during the current 88th Texas Legislative session with its amendment to Texas Water Code (TWC) 16.012(b) and addition of TWC 16.026 regarding the TexMesonet Hydrometeorology Network and TexMesonet Advisory Committee.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) also reported the following updates from Guy Fipps (AgriLife Extension):

- They were finalizing a TexasET Network app for agriculture that would allow users to obtain current crop water requirements and irrigation recommendations; the app was in final beta testing and would be released in April 2023 in both Android and IOS versions;

- They had added chill units/hours to the TexasET Network; this data was needed by fruit and some vegetable crops; and,
- They were in discussions with an irrigation controller manufacturer about production of a special controller for the WaterMyYard program.

Others

Chris Heiligenstein (RRC) reported that they had recently announced a new interactive map of orphaned oil and gas wells that were being plugged with the use of federal funding (press release, <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/news/010323-federal-well-plugging-data-visualization/>; direct link to the Viewer itself, <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/resource-center/data-visualization/oil-gas-data-visualization/federally-funded-well-plugging-data-visualization/>). Sites were entered into the Viewer after a well plugging contract was signed. The sites included both plugged and pending wells, the GIS data was updated and added to the Viewer weekly, and statistics could be generated for each county.

Leah Martinsson (TAGD) left the meeting at approximately 10:28 AM CST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

Rebecca Storms (TWDB) discussed a proposed survey regarding groundwater quality databases and data collection programs in Texas. A previous survey from 2013 was reviewed, but the focus of the new survey would be on the groundwater quality data that was currently being collected in Texas, the types of current monitoring programs, and the associated databases. Based on the results of this new survey, recommendations could be made regarding possible changes and/or additions to the various statewide programs. Input was requested from Subcommittee members (e.g., possible new fields or content to add to the survey, new organizations to contact, ways to collect the survey responses, the timeline for completing the survey, etc.). Subcommittee members were also solicited for assisting with the survey development and rollout, and an update on this effort would be provided at the next meeting.

Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) left the meeting at approximately 10:47 AM CST, Ken Rainwater (TTU) left the meeting at approximately 10:54 AM, and they were absent for the remainder of the meeting.

6. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Draft *TGPC GWI Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Activity Plan*

As required by the GWI Subcommittee's Charge (https://tgpc.texas.gov/wp-content/themes/responsive/subcommittees/gwissues/GWI_SubComm_Charge10Jul2019.pdf), Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented an updated draft of the *TGPC GWI Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Activity Plan*. A new groundwater-related issue regarding Groundwater Quality Monitoring was noted, as well as the possibility of adding one or two more white papers to the Accomplishments list, and the final draft *Activity Plan* would be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Rosario Sanchez (AgriLife Research) left the meeting at approximately 11:04 AM CST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

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

Adam Foster (TDLR) presented the final draft of the *Abandoned Water Wells and the Challenges They Pose* white paper with two continuing research needs and three recommendations. David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, Rebecca Storms (TWDB) seconded, and all remaining members approved the final draft abandoned water wells white paper. The white paper would be presented to the TGPC for approval at their next meeting. Adam Foster (TDLR) was thanked for his 3.5 years of effort on this white paper.

Adam Foster (TDLR) left the meeting at approximately 11:08 AM CST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

Final Draft *Prioritizing New Drinking Water Infrastructure Funding in Texas* White Paper

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the final draft of the *Prioritizing New Drinking Water Infrastructure Funding in Texas* white paper with five opportunities and nine continuing task needs. David Villarreal (TDA) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining members approved the final draft infrastructure white paper. The white paper would be presented to the TGPC for approval at their next meeting. Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) was thanked for her eight months of effort on this white paper.

Draft *Potential Impacts of Unregulated Private Water Systems in Child Care Operations* White Paper

Margaret Willis (DSHS) reported that they expected to present the initial draft of the *Potential Impacts of Unregulated Private Water Systems in Child Care Operations* white paper at the next meeting. One of their findings so far was that there did not appear to be a current system for identifying child care centers that use well water.

Discussion of White Papers Under Development

Chris Heiligenstein (RRC) suggested developing a white paper about abandoned monitor wells that were used for compliance prevention of groundwater contamination or research.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) announced that a new webpage with the approved TGPC white papers had been added to the website. A link to that webpage could be found in several places, but the easiest ones to find were on the home page (<https://tgpc.texas.gov/>, under the “TGPC Updates” heading at the top of the webpage) and on the Publications webpage (<https://tgpc.texas.gov/tgpc-publications/>).

Linzy Foster (USGS) announced the following information:

- New Publications
 - Depth to Groundwater Measured from Wells Completed in the Chicot and Evangeline (Undifferentiated) and Jasper Aquifers, Greater Houston Area, Texas, 2022: U.S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P967ZHTU>;
 - Groundwater-Level Altitudes and Long-Term Groundwater-Level Changes in the Chicot and Evangeline (Undifferentiated) and Jasper Aquifers, Greater Houston area, Texas, 2022: U.S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9F32XDT>;
 - Hydrogeology, land-surface subsidence, and documentation of the Gulf Coast Land Subsidence and Groundwater-Flow (GULF) model, southeast Texas, 1897–2018, <https://doi.org/10.3133/pp1877>;
 - MODFLOW 6 model and ensemble used in the simulation of groundwater flow and land-surface subsidence in the northern part of the Gulf Coast aquifer system, 1897-2018, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9XM8A1P>; and,
 - Groundwater-Level Altitudes and Groundwater-Flow Direction and Nature and Extent of Volatile and Semivolatile Organic Compounds at Petro-Chemical Systems, Inc. (Turtle Bayou), Superfund Site, Liberty County, Texas, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20225104>.
- New Web App
 - Edwards Aquifer Urban Hydrology Network Interactive Map, <https://webapps.usgs.gov/edwardsAquiferUH/map/index.html>.
- New Project
 - Trinity–San Jacinto River Basin Integrated Water Science Basin Study, <https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/usgs-selects-trinity-san-jacinto-river-basin-study-impacts-climate>.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

9. ADJOURN

Chris Heiligenstein (RRC) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:23 AM CST.