

GROUNDWATER ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Second Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2018

Meeting Date: December 13, 2017
Meeting No.: 12

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 2210

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)
Alan Cherepon
Peter Pope (Co-Chair)
Janie Hopkins
Deba Dutta
David T. Villarreal
David Van Dresar
John Tracy
Linda Ruiz McCall

Alberto Jimenez
Ken Rainwater
Cindy Loeffler
Lynne Fahlquist

Agency Staff

Abiy Berehe
Leon Byrd
Bill Carter
Cindy Hooper
Peggy Hunka
Lauren Pulliam
L. Scott Underwood

Interested Parties

None

Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
TCEQ
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Texas Department of State Health Service (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)
Texas Tech University (TTU)
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Affiliation

Program

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

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, December 13, 2017
2. TGPC GWI Subcommittee Meeting Record, September 13, 2017
3. TGPC Agricultural Chemicals (AgChem) Task Force (TF) Status Report, December 13, 2017
4. Proposed FY 18 Pesticide Monitoring Plan
5. TGPC Publications Status Report, December 13, 2017
6. TGPC *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (“*Strategy*”) Update Task Force (TF) Status Report, December 13, 2017
7. Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) publication links
8. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Fact Sheets, http://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/pfas_fact_sheet_introductory_11_13_17.pdf
9. Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products Impact Aquatic Life, http://www.sustainablecitynetwork.com/topic_channels/environmental/article_84fa26f2-d544-11e7-9e0a-bbfa8435b4fb.html
10. Estimating the High-Arsenic Domestic-Well Population in the Conterminous United States, <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.est.7b02881>
11. Draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) ?* white paper
12. B. Carter (TCEQ) feedback on draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) ?* white paper
13. Draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* update, 21Sep2017, mark-up
14. Draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* update, 21Sep2017, clean
15. J. Hopkins (TWDB) feedback on draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* update, 21Sep2017

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

1. TGPC Public Information Act Policy

MEETING RECORD OF DECEMBER 13, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the TGPC GWI Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:37 AM CST. GWI Subcommittee members were introduced. 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. There were no concerns with the minutes from the previous meeting.

2. STATUS REPORTS

Agricultural Chemicals Task Force

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

- There had been one Agricultural Chemicals Task Force meeting (via email, phone, or in person) since the last GWI Subcommittee meeting.
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 monitoring results:
 - End-of-year and associated monitoring reports and data had been sent to the Region 6 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on September 6, 2017.
- Proposed FY 2018 monitoring plan:
 - Continue with cooperative pesticide monitoring with TWDB, primarily for atrazine and possibly 2,4-D; in 2018, TWDB would be sampling in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer and several minor aquifers, and a total of 150 samples were anticipated; and,
 - One urban metropolitan area with sufficient water wells to sample for some not-previously-monitored urban pesticides, provided the laboratory could accommodate the analyses; if not, a cluster of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Superfund pesticide-related sites would be identified and samples would be collected from private wells in the region, focusing on pesticides associated with those sites.
- 2017 cooperative and on-going monitoring results had been sent to EPA and Region 6 EPA.
- Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) had downloaded the January 10, 2017 to September 20, 2017 USGS data and it was being entered into a format compatible for entry into the Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD); 1,441 wells (85 new), 65 new samples, and 14,258 analytes were anticipated to be added. Additional work included identifying several location and aquifer errors, identifying state well numbers for a couple of wells, and removing a duplicate well entry or two.
- Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) had participated in the annual Texas Plant Protection Association conference in Bryan on December 5-6, 2017 with the TGPC exhibit booth which explained the work conducted by the interagency organization working to keep pesticides out of the groundwater in Texas under the EPA Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) grant.
- The revised Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was approved by Region 6 EPA on October 11, 2017.
- In December 2017, Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) had updated the Texas Pesticides of Interest Tracking System (POINTS) online database for the 2017 calendar year.

- Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) had attended the Region 6 EPA States/Tribes Pesticide meeting in Addison on October 11-12, 2017:
 - The focus continued to be away from water quality and instead on worker, school, and pollinator protection; the EPA also believed that private water wells were in need of monitoring after Hurricane Harvey, and they had some grant money for special projects like this;
 - Bigger issues for agricultural concerns included Dicamba-ready seed and drift issues in 2017 carrying over into 2018 (less of an issue for Texas), feral hog Kaput pesticide concerns, import problems (Texas has a large percentage of import ports in El Paso, Laredo, and Galveston), new mosquito control technology by breeding methods, and they reinforced the goal of continuing with cooperative Federalism between EPA and states;
 - The new administration was pleased with the grant program, felt that they were getting good value for the money, and did not expect any cuts in 2018; and,
 - The next meeting would be in Oklahoma in April 2018.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) concluded by referencing the Proposed FY 18 Pesticide Monitoring Plan in the handout package.

David Villarreal (TDA) added that they had requested funding for the collection of damaged agricultural chemical containers due to Hurricane Harvey.

Lynne Fahlquist (USGS) noted that they would be sampling groundwater in the Edwards-Trinity Aquifer in FY 2018.

Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) arrived at approximately 9:41 AM CST and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

TGPC Publications

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

- Groundwater Assessment for the *2018 Texas Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)* (“*Texas Integrated Report*”):
 - The 2018 report preparation was underway and anticipated to be completed by April 1, 2018.
- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2016* (“*Joint Report*”, TCEQ publication SFR-056):
 - In January 2018, TCEQ staff would start working with TGPC members and TCEQ program areas on the *2017 Joint Report*; approval for the format and content of the *2017 Joint Report* would be requested at the TGPC meeting on January 10, 2018.
- *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (“*Strategy*”, AS-188):
 - One Task Force email on the revised *Strategy* update had been exchanged since the last GWI Subcommittee meeting.

Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy Update Task Force

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported on the *Strategy Update Task Force*:

- Since the last GWI Subcommittee meeting, a revised draft *Strategy update* had been emailed to Task Force members and comments had been received.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at 9:30 AM CDT, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 2210.

4. DISCUSS CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Water Supply Enhancement Program

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported on the release of the second edition of a report by States First, an Initiative of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC). The report was entitled "Potential Injection-Induced Seismicity Associated with Oil & Gas Development: A Primer on Technical and Regulatory Considerations Informing Risk Management and Mitigation" (<http://www.gwpc.org/states-first-initiative-releases-second-edition-induced-seismicity-primer>). GWPC had also released the third edition of its "State Oil and Natural Gas Regulations Designed to Protect Water Resources" report (<http://www.gwpc.org/sites/default/files/State%20Regulations%20Report%202017%20Final.pdf>).

Emerging Contaminants

Before the meeting, Emily Hall (DSHS) had provided two ITRC publication links related to PFAS to share with the GWI Subcommittee, as well as an Introduction document to the first of six planned ITRC PFAS Fact Sheets (http://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/pfas_fact_sheet_introduutory_11_13_17.pdf). Deba Dutta (DSHS) announced that Emily Hall had recently been promoted, so he was not sure about the timeline for the draft white paper regarding the health impacts of PFAS-contaminated groundwater.

David Villarreal (TDA) reviewed a recent article entitled "Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products Impact Aquatic Life" (http://www.sustainablecitynetwork.com/topic_channels/environmental/article_84fa26f2-d544-11e7-9e0a-bbfa8435b4fb.html).

Saline Groundwater Trends and Impacts in Texas

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Agricultural Chemicals

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

Border Groundwater

John Tracy (AgriLife Research) reported that the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) would be sponsoring a “Groundwater Issues and Science Affecting Policy and Management in the Southwest” conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in February 2018 (<http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/conferences/Pages/5034feb18.aspx>). John Tracy also noted that their draft white paper regarding border groundwater may be available in April 2018 as they prepare for the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) “The Science, Management and Governance of Transboundary Groundwater” conference in Fort Worth in July 2018 (<https://awrasummerconference.secure-platform.com/a/>).

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) reported that, due to recent heavy workloads, they would revisit their draft Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) water quality and compatibility white paper in early 2018.

Abandoned Water Wells

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported on updated information that had recently been added to the TGPC Water Wells webpage (<http://tgpc.texas.gov/water-wells/#7>) regarding possible U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding for water well decommissioning (i.e., plugging).

Failing Septic Systems

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that:

- The U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) initiatives would include water quality issues, especially those affecting food supplies;
- They were looking for funding that would allow them to do Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) in order to possibly identify the source of bacterial contamination (e.g., wildlife, septic systems, livestock, feral hogs, etc.); and,
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had backed off on widespread FSMA implementation for approximately two years.

Others

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) referred GWI Subcommittee members to the recent USGS and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) article in their handout package entitled “Estimating the High-Arsenic Domestic-Well Population in the Conterminous United States” (<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.est.7b02881>). TCEQ’s Groundwater Planning and Assessment Team had reviewed the article and felt that the data was consistent with what had previously been reported in the *Texas Integrated Report*, and that the TGPC Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee would work with AgriLife Extension to update their 12-year-old *Drinking Water Problems: Arsenic* fact sheet (<https://agrilifebookstore.org/>, publication EL-5467) after UTBEG completed their Evaluation of Arsenic Contamination in Texas study (target date August 2018).

The GWI Subcommittee took a meeting break at approximately 10:42 – 10:50 AM CST. A quorum of designated TGPC representatives/alternates was present at the meeting and they were reminded not to discuss TGPC business during the break.

Lynne Fahlquist (USGS) left at approximately 10:51 AM CST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

5. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Failing On-site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) ?* White Paper Outline

Before the meeting, Anish Jantrania (AgriLife Extension) had provided a draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Failing On-site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) ?* white paper. Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) would compile the GWI Subcommittee member feedback and provide it to Anish Jantrania after the meeting.

Draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* Update

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* update. After extensive discussion, GWI Subcommittee members agreed that the *Strategy* Update Task Force (with the addition of representatives from TWDB, TDA, and UTBEG) should meet again, incorporate all of the feedback received at the meeting, and bring an updated version to the next meeting.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Tracy (AgriLife Research) reported that they were near the end of their search for a new Vice Chancellor and that there should be an announcement soon.

Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) announced that their new, online TexNet Seismic Monitoring Program (<http://www.beg.utexas.edu/texnet>) would be a public resource. Peter Pope (RRC)

agreed that this would be a source of information for operators that were requesting injection well permits.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) announced that Region 6 EPA had recently named Anne Idsal as their new Administrator.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

8. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:55 PM CST.