

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

Meeting Date: June 13, 2018
 Meeting No.: 14

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)
Bryan Anderson
Emily Hall
David T. Villarreal
T.J. Helton

David Van Dresar
John Tracy
Amy Banerji

David Gunn
Ken Rainwater

Agency Staff

Maria Denise Benitez
Leslie Bruce
Leon Byrd
Tim Cawthon
Michael Chadwick
Beth Hood
Cindy Hooper
Drew Huffman
Peggy Hunka
David Murry

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 State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
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)

Affiliation

Program

TCEQ	Water Availability Division
RRC	
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Quality Planning Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TAGD	
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Water Availability Division
TCEQ	Radioactive Materials Division

Interested Parties

Christina Wisdom

Wisdom Law, PLLC

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, June 13, 2018
2. TGPC GWI Subcommittee Meeting Record, March 21, 2018
3. TGPC Agricultural Chemicals (AgChem) Task Force (TF) Status Report, June 13, 2018
4. TGPC Publications Status Report, June 13, 2018
5. *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, Groundwater Issues Subcommittee, Subcommittee Charge*, April 22, 2015
6. *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, Groundwater Issues Subcommittee, FISCAL YEAR 2018 – 2019 ACTIVITY PLAN*
7. Draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Failing On-site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) ?* white paper
8. David Gunn (TDLR) feedback on draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Failing On-site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) ?* white paper

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

1. TGPC Public Information Act Policy

MEETING RECORD OF JUNE 13, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the TGPC GWI Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:34 AM CDT. GWI Subcommittee members were introduced. The representatives from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) were not present at the 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.
- The Middle-Of-Year report was sent to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 6 in Dallas on April 4, 2018.
- Cooperative monitoring for the current fiscal year began in April 2018, but only about 15 samples had been collected for pesticide screening thus far.
- TCEQ monitoring took place the week of June 4, 2018:
 - Shallow wells and springs were sampled for atrazine and related pesticides used on corn and sorghum cropland areas from Williamson to Ellis Counties, primarily east of IH-35. This area had not been previously monitored by TCEQ and was close enough to TCEQ's central office to limit travel expenses.
 - Eight springs and five wells were sampled, along with one duplicate and one blank. The samples were screened for atrazine, with the highest detection at 0.18 ppb. Five samples were taken to the laboratory for analysis by Method 525.2.
- TCEQ staff provided display material and personnel for the TGPC exhibit counter at the annual TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair on May 15 – 16, 2018.
- Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) had attended the USEPA/States/Tribes pesticide meeting in Stillwater, Oklahoma on May 2 – 3, 2018, sharing information about Texas groundwater protection activities with other states and the USEPA.

Peter Pope (RRC) asked about the atrazine screening detection values. Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) indicated that screening levels less than 0.3 ppb are typically not detected in the lab samples.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) also reported that some recent pesticide complaints to TCEQ had been forwarded to TDA and the TCEQ regional offices.

TGPC Publications

Cindy Hooper (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 groundwater assessment portion of the *2018 Texas Integrated Report* had been prepared and it would be posted together with the other assessment reports on the TCEQ website upon USEPA approval (this is a biannual report).
- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2017* (“*Joint Report*”, TCEQ publication SFR-056):
 - The *2017 Joint Report* had been completed, it was under management review, and it was anticipated to be published by the end of June 2018; and,
 - Cindy Hooper (TCEQ) thanked everyone for their assistance with this year’s *Joint Report*.
- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 86th Legislature* (“*Legislative Report*”, TCEQ publication SFR-047)
 - The Legislative Report Subcommittee was activated to work on the referenced report on January 10, 2018, and there had been one Legislative Report Subcommittee meeting since the last GWI Subcommittee meeting;
 - The Legislative Report Subcommittee had started working on the draft report and its recommendations to the 86th Legislature, and the draft report would be presented at the July 2018 TGPC meeting; with TGPC approval, the final draft report would then be routed for upper management review and concurrence; and,
 - It was planned that the final report would be distributed to the Legislature in December 2018 before the session began in January 2019.
- *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (“*Strategy*”, TCEQ publication AS-188):
 - At the last GWI Subcommittee meeting, the final draft of the proposed *Strategy* update was approved and the *Strategy* Update Task Force was deactivated;
 - The TGPC approved the proposed *Strategy* update for member agency management concurrence at their last meeting on April 18, 2018; and,
 - As of June 12, 2018, six member agency management concurrence letters had been received (still waiting for UTBEG, RRC, DSHS, and TCEQ).

John Tracy (AgriLife Research) announced that Craig Nessler was no longer their director, but as of June 1, 2018, the new Vice Chancellor for Agriculture for the Texas A&M System was the acting director of AgriLife Research.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, 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

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Emerging Contaminants

Emily Hall (DSHS) reported that:

- Additional U.S. Department of Defense sites with perflourinated compound contamination had been identified since the last GWI Subcommittee meeting;
- They had attended an annual Society of Toxicology meeting on March 11 – 15, 2018 where Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) had been a topic of discussion; and,
- They would be willing to meet with TCEQ to discuss the focus of their PFAS white paper.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) noted that there had been a presentation at the annual TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair on May 15 – 16, 2018 which provided an introduction to PFAS (e.g., nomenclature, sources, toxicity, and regulations) and a review of analytical best practices (e.g., variability, and new tests). This presentation was available online at <https://www.pathlms.com/etfc>.

Saline Groundwater Trends and Impacts in Texas

Amy Banerji (UTBEG) reported that they were involved with some brackish groundwater studies that were funded by TWDB.

Agricultural Chemicals

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

Border Groundwater

John Tracy (AgriLife Research) reported that they would be working on the Border Groundwater white paper after the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) 2018 Summer Conference on The Science, Management, and Governance of Transboundary Groundwater on July 9 – 11, 2018. A workshop on the final afternoon would document the lessons learned during the conference and the next steps.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

Amy Banerji (UTBEG) reported that their Texas Soil Observation Network (TxSON, <http://www.beg.utexas.edu/research/programs/txson>) would be looking at the total water budget, focusing on the Pedernales River, but also collecting some data on the Colorado River. There was no update on the status of their Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) white paper.

Ken Rainwater (TTU) reported that ASR had been discussed at the American Ground Water Trust (AGWT) and TWDB 6th Annual Texas Aquifer Conference on June 6 – 7, 2018.

Abandoned Water Wells

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Failing Septic Systems

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that they were in the process of implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and that there could be potential liability questions regarding bacterial source tracking.

Others

Ken Rainwater (TTU) reported that they had encountered bacterial corrosion in a project on drinking water wells for Midland County Freshwater District No. 1. An interesting observation was that the wells (i.e., the discharge pipe, pump, motor, etc.) that corroded the fastest were not being used. David Villarreal (TDA) noted that they had done a lot of work on anti-fouling agents, and that they might be able to help with obtaining an experimental use permit.

The GWI Subcommittee took a meeting break at approximately 10:29 – 10:36 AM CST. A quorum of designated TGPC representatives and alternates were present at the meeting, and they were reminded not to discuss TGPC business during the break. David Villarreal (TDA) returned from the break at approximately 10:37 AM CST and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

5. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

TGPC GWI Subcommittee Charge

The GWI Subcommittee performed a review of their *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, Groundwater Issues Subcommittee, Subcommittee Charge* (“Charge”, http://tgpc.state.tx.us/wp-content/themes/responsive/subcommittees/gwissues/GWI_SubComm_Charge22Apr2015.pdf) and did not have any changes to recommend to the TGPC. The *Charge* would be reviewed again at the GWI Subcommittee’s Fourth Quarter meeting in FY 2019.

TGPC GWI Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 Activity Plan

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, Groundwater Issues Subcommittee, FISCAL YEAR 2018 – 2019 ACTIVITY PLAN* and noted that the GWI Subcommittee had followed its plan related to the proposed *Strategy* update; however, the GWI Subcommittee had not approved a white paper since December 2016, so they would return to their efforts in developing, discussing, and approving new white papers.

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) suggested two staff members in TCEQ's Toxicology Division as possible Subject Matter Experts for the PFAS white paper.

John Tracy (AgriLife Research) asked whether a white paper regarding the mining of non-renewable groundwater would be appropriate. Peter Pope (RRC) asked whether there are predictable declines in groundwater quality in association with declines in groundwater quantity.

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 of the *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Failing On-site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) ?* white paper. Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) agreed to compile the GWI Subcommittee member feedback during the meeting, and forward it (along with documented feedback from James McCaine (TCEQ) and Tim Cawthon (TCEQ) after the meeting, as well as a copy of the meeting recording) to Anish Jantrania, and an updated draft white paper would be provided at the next meeting.

Ken Rainwater (TTU) left at approximately 11:34 AM CST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

Bryan Anderson (TWDB) left at approximately 11:35 AM CST, returned at approximately 11:38 AM CST, and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

Discussion of White Papers Under Development

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

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements at the meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

8. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:58 AM CDT.