

GROUNDWATER ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE  
 OF THE  
 TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
 RECORD OF MEETING  
 First Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2017

Meeting Date: September 14, 2016  
 Meeting No.: 7

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
 Room: 2210

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Subcommittee Members

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)  
Chris Moore (Co-Chair)  
Alan Cherepon  
Emily Hall  
David Villarreal  
T.J. Helton

David Van Dresar  
John Tracy  
Linda Ruiz McCall

Adam Foster  
Cindy Loeffler  
Christopher Braun

### Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)  
TCEQ  
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 Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)  
United States Geological Survey (USGS)

### Agency Staff

Leon Byrd  
Mike Chadwick  
Faith Hambleton  
Cindy Hooper  
Peggy Hunka  
Hayden Ross  
L. Scott Underwood  
Marcia Workman

### Affiliation

TCEQ  
TCEQ  
TCEQ  
TCEQ  
TCEQ  
TCEQ  
TCEQ  
TCEQ  
TCEQ

### Program

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

### Interested Parties

Julia Carrillo

### Affiliation

Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, September 14, 2016
2. TGPC GWI Subcommittee Meeting Record, June 22, 2016
3. TGPC Agricultural Chemicals (AgChem) Task Force (TF) Status Report, September 2016
4. TGPC Publications Status Report, September 2016
5. Draft *Priority Groundwater Management Area* White Paper, September 7, 2016
6. K. McCormack (TCEQ) feedback on Draft *Priority Groundwater Management Area* White Paper
7. Draft *How is Groundwater Quantity Affected by Freshwater Mussels ? How are Freshwater Mussels Affected by Groundwater Quantity ?* White Paper, September 2, 2016
8. B. Wolaver (UTBEG) feedback on Draft *How is Groundwater Quantity Affected by Freshwater Mussels ? How are Freshwater Mussels Affected by Groundwater Quantity ?* White Paper
9. Federal status of the Texas freshwater mussels (Unionidae) listed by the State of Texas table, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region, September 2016

The following items were also on display on the handout table:

1. TGPC Public Information Act Policy
2. Threatened Freshwater Mussels (Bivalvia: Unionidae) of Texas poster

## MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the TGPC GWI Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 AM CDST. GWI Subcommittee members were introduced. A representative from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) was not present at the meeting, and the representative from TAGD was not present at the beginning of the meeting.

### 2. STATUS REPORTS

#### Agricultural Chemicals Task Force

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) reported on the AgChem TF:

- There had been one AgChem TF meeting (via email, phone, or in person) since the last GWI Subcommittee meeting;
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 pesticide monitoring results:
  - Cooperative Monitoring Immunoassay (IA) screening: 90 wells, 22 QA samples = 112 total samples
    - 112 Atrazine, 13 detects, high 0.19 ppb
    - 60 Imidacloprid, 28 OK, 32 unacceptable, no detects
    - 84 Glyphosate, 24 qualified (estimated values), 60 OK, 17 detects, high 0.14 ppb
    - 45 2,4-D, 7 detects, high 0.14 ppb
    - 96 pyrethroids, none acceptable
  - TCEQ Pollinator Protection Monitoring: 14 samples, 9 wells, 3 springs, 2 QA samples from Austin-San Antonio/La Grange-Seguin-Floresville; shallow wells and springs near apiaries
    - All 14 samples analyzed by the five above immunoassay kits
    - IA screening: 5 2,4-D, high 0.90 ppb; 1 Atrazine, 0.11 ppb; 1 Imidacloprid, 0.11 ppb; 1 Glyphosate, 0.076 ppb; no acceptable pyrethroids analyses
    - 12 analyzed at DSHS laboratory by Method 525.2; 1 Atrazine detect of 0.1 ppb
- The FY 2017 pesticide monitoring plan would be presented at the next GWI Subcommittee meeting:
  - Cooperative Monitoring was tentatively scheduled for Spring 2017; and,
  - TCEQ was preparing to sample in the Panhandle in late Spring 2017 in order to resample Public Water Supply (PWS) wells that have had higher concentrations of atrazine in past years, as part of the on-going monitoring program, since these wells had not been sampled in three years.
- He had begun downloading the 2014 – 2016 USGS data for the TCEQ Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD);
- He had attended the TCEQ annual Public Drinking Water (PDW) conference in Austin on August 10, 2016, and assisted with public outreach and education at the TGPC exhibit booth;
- The revised Pesticide Monitoring Plan (PMP) for the Implementation of the *Texas State Management Plan for Prevention of Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)* was sent to Region 6 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Dallas on August 25, 2016, with minor changes from last year's QAPP;

- Updates to the Pesticides of Interest Tracking System (POINTS) database are typically made in December; they would be provided at the next GWI Subcommittee meeting, and no changes were anticipated;
- He planned to attend the U.S. EPA/States/Tribes semi-annual pesticide meeting in Dallas on October 12 – 13, 2016, and he would be providing a presentation on the TCEQ pollinator protection monitoring this past year; and,
- He anticipated attending and setting up an exhibit table for the TGPC AgChem TF at the annual Texas Plant Protection Association conference in Bryan on December 6 – 7, 2016.

David Van Dresar (TAGD) arrived at 9:44 AM CDST and was present for the remainder of the meeting. Adam Foster (TDLR) left at 10:07 AM CDST, returned at 10:09 AM CDST, and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

#### TGPC Publications

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported on the following TGPC publications:

- Groundwater Assessment for the *2016 Texas Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)* (“*Texas Integrated Report*”):
  - Last revised April 2016.
- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2015* (“*Joint Report*”, TCEQ publication SFR-056):
  - TCEQ staff had completed the 2015 *Joint Report* and publication notices were sent to County Judges, County Health Officials, and to the individual Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs); and,
  - A link to the publication was also posted on the TGPC website.
- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 85th Legislature* (“*Legislative Report*”, TCEQ publication SFR-047):
  - Two Legislative Report Subcommittee meetings had been held this year in order to prepare the Legislative Report;
  - The draft report had been reviewed by TGPC member agency upper management;
  - TCEQ staff had updated the final draft report and it would be presented at the October 2016 TGPC meeting;
  - After the TGPC’s approval, the final draft report would be sent to TCEQ Agency Publications; and,
  - The final report would be distributed to the Legislature in December 2016 before the session begins on January 10, 2017.
- *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (“*Strategy*”, TCEQ publication AS-188):
  - No change in status.
- *Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (Plugging document, TCEQ publication RG-347)
  - No change in status.
- *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee* (TGPC trifold brochure, TCEQ publication GI-088)
  - No change in status.

### 3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2016, at 9:30 AM CDST, in TCEQ's Building B, Conference Room 201A.

### 4. DISCUSS CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

#### Water Supply Enhancement Program

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that TSSWCB had a recent press release about land stewardship practices rejuvenating a dormant spring on a Comal County ranch (<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/media/20160726>).

#### Hydraulic Fracturing

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) noted that David Villarreal (TDA) had shared a recent article about recycling fracked well water (<http://www.dallasnews.com/business/energy/20160907-search-is-on-for-ways-to-use-fracked-well-water-and-texas-may-have-an-answer.ece>).

#### Freshwater Mussels

Discussion of this topic was moved to the Business portion of the meeting.

#### Emerging Contaminants

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) mentioned that Abiy Berehe (TCEQ) had shared a recent article about pharmaceutical pollution in wastewater ([https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/09/160901183748.htm?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Fearth\\_climate%2Fwater+%28Water+Conservation+News+--+ScienceDaily%29](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/09/160901183748.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Fearth_climate%2Fwater+%28Water+Conservation+News+--+ScienceDaily%29)).

#### 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.

#### Priority Groundwater Management Areas (PGMAs)

Discussion of this topic was moved to the Business portion of the meeting.

## Border Groundwater

John Tracy (AgriLife Research) reported that all of the agreements had been signed for the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (a joint effort between the Water Resource Institutes and USGS Water Science Centers in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas). The program's emphasis is on the science and engineering of the aquifers (vs. policies), and the focus in Texas is on the Hueco-Mesilla Bolson Aquifer near El Paso. The project was funded for FY 2017, and may continue to be funded in FY 2018. A kickoff meeting was planned in El Paso on September 29, 2016.

## Others

There was no discussion of other current groundwater issues at the meeting.

Chris Moore (RRC) left at 10:25 AM CDST, returned at 10:29 AM CDST, and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

## 5. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

### *Draft Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) White Paper*

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the draft PGMA white paper and requested that GWI Subcommittee members provide feedback by September 21, 2016. A final draft of the PGMA white paper would be brought back for approval at the next GWI Subcommittee meeting.

Emily Hall (DSHS) and David Villarreal (TDA) left at 10:40 AM CDST, and John Tracy (AgriLife Research) left at 10:41 AM CDST. Emily Hall returned at 10:42 AM CDST, David Villarreal (TDA) returned at 10:43 AM CDST, and John Tracy returned at 10:45 AM CDST and all were present for the remainder of the meeting.

### *Draft How is Groundwater Quantity Affected by Freshwater Mussels ? How are Freshwater Mussels Affected by Groundwater Quantity ? White Paper*

Cindy Loeffler (TPWD) presented a draft white paper on freshwater mussels and valuable feedback was provided by GWI Subcommittee members. GWI Subcommittee members were also requested to provide feedback on this draft white paper by September 21, 2016. The freshwater mussels white paper would be updated and brought back for additional discussion and possible approval at the next GWI Subcommittee meeting.

T.J. Helton (TSSWCB) left at 11:19 AM CDST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christopher Braun (USGS) announced that Pete McMahon (USGS) would be speaking on "Groundwater Quality in Vicinity of Recent Energy Development" at an upcoming USGS webinar on October 19, 2016.

David Villarreal (TDA) announced that there would be Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) work group meetings related to Monarch butterflies and freshwater mussels on September 21 – 22, 2016, in Austin.

John Tracy (AgriLife Research) reported that the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and National Ground Water Association (NGWA) had launched a Groundwater Visibility Initiative which would examine the challenges of managing the integration of groundwater and surface water (e.g., the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water as a single resource, groundwater as part of integrated water resources management, and effective consideration of groundwater in watershed management and planning). This program would also assist various institutions with effectively incorporating these concepts into laws, regulations, management, and planning. Cindy Loeffler (TPWD) noted that springs are a visible connection between groundwater and surface water, and Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) added that referring to one water resource (where groundwater is a key part of the hydrologic cycle) is important.

#### 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### 8. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:35 AM CDST.