

GROUNDWATER ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Second Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2019

Meeting Date: January 16, 2019
Meeting No.: 16

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 2210

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)
Alan Cherepon
Leslie Bruce (Co-Chair)
Emily Hall
Janie Hopkins
David T. Villarreal
David A. Van Dresar
John Tracy
Anish Jantrania

Ken Rainwater

Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
TCEQ
Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research)
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
Texas Tech University (TTU)

Agency Staff

Abiy Berehe
Diane Boellstorff
Leon Byrd
Faith Hambleton
Cindy Hooper
James McCaine
Evelyn Reategui-Zirena
L. Scott Underwood

Affiliation

Program

TCEQ Water Availability Division
AgriLife Extension
TCEQ Water Availability Division
TCEQ Water Quality Planning Division
TCEQ Water Availability Division
TCEQ Program Support Division
DSHS
TCEQ Water Availability Division

Interested Parties

Randolph P. Weber, P.E.

Affiliation

Texas On-site Wastewater Association (TOWA)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, January 16, 2019
2. TGPC GWI Subcommittee Meeting Record, September 5, 2018
3. TGPC Agricultural Chemicals (AgChem) Task Force (TF) Status Report, January 16, 2019
4. Proposed FY19 Pesticide Monitoring Plan
5. TGPC Publications Status Report, January 16, 2019
6. Texas' Energy Boom and the Looming Water Challenge, <http://cgmf.org/blog-entry/321/Texas%E2%80%99-Energy-Boom-and-the-Looming-Water-Challenge.html>
7. Prineville, Apple partner on long-term water supply project, <https://www.ktvz.com/news/prineville-apple-partner-on-long-term-water-supply-project/941369683>
8. Search for 2-year-old Spanish toddler in narrow well, <https://www.apnews.com/5517a0ab51ad4078b00170a97e618881>
9. Excerpt (cover, pages 139 – 142, and page 145) from *Interim Report to the 86th Texas Legislature*, House Committee on Natural Resources, December 2018, https://house.texas.gov/_media/pdf/committees/reports/85interim/Natural-Resources-Committee-Interim-Report-2018.pdf
10. Summary of a USGS meeting regarding a Geoenvironmental Assessment of a portion of the Texas Gulf Coast Uranium Resources Pilot Study
11. Final Draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Failing On-site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) ?* white paper
12. Draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) ?* white paper
13. Draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Issues Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 Activity Plan*
14. Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC) Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture flyer

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

1. TGPC Public Information Act Policy

MEETING RECORD OF JANUARY 16, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Leslie Bruce (RRC), Co-Chair of the TGPC GWI Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:38 AM CST. GWI Subcommittee members were introduced. The representatives from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), 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), and United States Geological Survey (USGS) were not present at the meeting.

2. STATUS REPORTS

Agricultural Chemicals Task Force

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

- The End-Of-Year (EOY) self-assessment and associated sampling reports were sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 in Dallas on September 27, 2018. The table-formatted EOY report for the FIFRA grant was sent to the TCEQ federal grants staff to incorporate into the Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) report on October 2, 2018.
- The proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Pesticide Monitoring Plan would include cooperative monitoring, and provided sufficient budget is available, atrazine monitoring in the corn and sorghum cropland of the Northern Panhandle Region, with a limited number of samples to include laboratory analysis by EPA Method 525.2. Other activities would include updating and conducting quality assurance and control activities on the Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD) and requesting pesticide water monitoring data from TCEQ programs and the USGS.
- The USGS FY2018 pesticide monitoring results from their website database were entered into the IPD and completed on November 8, 2018.
- TCEQ staff provided a table display and personnel for the annual Texas Plant Protection Conference in Bryan/College Station on December 4 – 5, 2018.
- Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) attended the U.S. EPA/States/Tribes pesticide meeting in Dallas on October 10 – 11, 2018, sharing Texas groundwater protection activities with other Region 6 states and the U.S. EPA.

TGPC Publications

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

- *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 this report on January 10, 2018, and there were three Legislative Report Subcommittee meetings in 2018;
 - The final draft report was approved at the October 17, 2018 TGPC meeting; TCEQ staff completed the publication process and it is available online at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/047-18.pdf; and,
 - The report was distributed to the Texas Legislature in December 2018 before the session began on January 8, 2019.

- *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (“*Strategy*”, TCEQ publication AS-188):
 - At the TGPC’s quarterly public meeting October 17, 2018, the responses to the public comments regarding the proposed *Strategy* update were presented and approved; the Committee then approved the proposed *Strategy* update; the record of the meeting, including the Committee’s responses to the public comments, can be found at <http://bit.ly/2OJpr6q>; and,
 - The *Strategy* was published on November 30, 2018 and it is available online at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at 9:30 AM CDT, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 2210.

4. DISCUSS CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Water Supply Enhancement Program

Ken Rainwater (TTU) reported that the Water Supply Enhancement Program may be included in the new state budget.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the article in the handout package about “produced water” from oil and gas development activities in the West Texas Permian Basin. Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported that guidelines had previously been developed for applying produced water on agricultural land. John Tracy (AgriLife Research) reported that there had been a grant for applying produced water on agricultural land in the Rio Grande Valley, but the produced water was actually reused in the fracking process.

Emerging Contaminants

There was no discussion of this topic at this point in the meeting.

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 they would have an updated draft of the *Transboundary Groundwater Resources along the Texas-Mexico Border* white paper at the next meeting.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the article in the handout package about an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) joint project between a city and a large company in Oregon.

Abandoned Water Wells

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the article in the handout package about a child in Spain that had fallen down an abandoned water well and excerpts from the *Interim Report to the 86th Texas Legislature*, House Committee on Natural Resources (December 2018), regarding their recommendations about abandoned water wells, some of which were based on recommendations in the TGPC *Legislative Report*.

Failing Septic Systems

There was no discussion of this topic at this point in the meeting.

Others

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the summary in the handout package about a USGS meeting regarding a geoenvironmental assessment of a portion of the Texas Gulf Coast Uranium Resources Pilot Study.

The GWI Subcommittee took a meeting break at approximately 10:21 – 10:31 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.

5. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

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

Anish Jantrania (AgriLife Extension) presented a final draft of the *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Failing On-site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) ?* white paper. David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, David Villarreal (TDA) seconded, and all remaining members approved the white paper. The white paper would be presented to the TGPC for approval at their meeting later that day.

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that he had recently attended a National Rapid Response Teams meeting and suggested that there be future research on the proximity of failing OSSFs to food

production sites, as well as whole genome analyses of OSSF-associated bacteria, viruses, and protozoans and the recalcitrance or survivability of these microbes.

Draft *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) ?* White Paper

Emily Hall (DSHS) presented an updated draft of the *How is Groundwater Quality Affected by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) ?* white paper, requested feedback on it, and indicated that a final draft would be presented at the next meeting.

Draft *Transboundary Groundwater Resources along the Texas-Mexico Border* White Paper

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

Draft *TGPC GWI Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 Activity Plan*

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the draft *TGPC GWI Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 Activity Plan* and requested that members review it after the meeting in preparation for more discussion at the next meeting. Additional topics suggested for white paper development included brackish groundwater, endangered species, well flooding after disasters, and uranium mining.

Discussion of White Papers Under Development

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

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Villarreal (TDA) announced that Janie Hopkins (TWDB) would be retiring soon and that this was the last time that she would be attending a TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting. Janie Hopkins was thanked for her long-term service to the TGPC and its various Subcommittees.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

8. ADJOURN

Leslie Bruce (RRC) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:15 AM CST.