

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
Groundwater Research Subcommittee
Subcommittee Charge

Date Approved

April 17, 2013

Sponsor

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC)

Co-Chairs

University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UT BEG)
Texas AgriLife Research (TAR)

Members

Participating and interested agencies and individuals.

Subcommittee Purpose

State agencies and other groundwater program areas are facing more sophisticated and difficult regulatory decisions and have an increasing need for research tailored to specific environmental and regulatory problems. The traditional research organizations, generally associated with universities and state and federal agencies, in both the agricultural and natural resource sectors, have developed the experience, infrastructure, and technical expertise needed to address these complex research needs.

The Groundwater Research Subcommittee will identify interagency research needs and provide a coordinated approach for discussion with potential funding sources. A multi-disciplinary approach should be used to build upon expertise from many different areas. The Groundwater Research Subcommittee should identify projects where shared resources could support research to solve problems that are common to many TGPC members, including identifying opportunities for cooperatively applying to federal agencies for pass-through monies. The Groundwater Research Subcommittee should facilitate cooperation by identifying ways that member agencies can join research forces with other state or federal agencies and local governmental entities.

Additionally, the Groundwater Research Subcommittee should work with the universities and state and federal agencies to develop stronger research proposals to address specific identified problems. The Groundwater Research Subcommittee should identify research and program needs and help focus the efforts of the researchers on meeting these needs. Because recommendations of the TGPC and its Subcommittees are now considered in the

ranking of projects for Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 grants in Texas as of the 2012 update to the *Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program*, the Groundwater Research Subcommittee should provide recommendations for new projects to address Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution issues and information gaps. In areas where overlapping research initiatives are discovered, the Groundwater Research Subcommittee should facilitate communication between various research organizations.

Expected Results

The Groundwater Research Subcommittee will provide input to the TGPC on groundwater research needs. In addition, the Groundwater Research Subcommittee may identify projects and funding sources, develop white papers on groundwater issues, and facilitate cooperation among groundwater research and management organizations.

Scope and Boundaries

The primary goal of the Groundwater Research Subcommittee is to facilitate the identification of interagency research needs and to provide a coordinated approach for discussion with potential funding sources.

The Groundwater Research Subcommittee may utilize additional staff from appropriate agencies as needed to address specific issues and to maximize expertise related to its Charge. The Groundwater Research Subcommittee should consult with other standing TGPC Subcommittees in order to identify research needs.

The Groundwater Research Subcommittee should hold quarterly meetings, must meet all requirements of open meetings, and must maintain written records of all meetings.

The Groundwater Research Subcommittee may elect to form Task Force work groups in order to address individual issues, as needed. These Task Force work groups shall meet as necessary in order to support the Groundwater Research Subcommittee.

Reporting to the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

The Groundwater Research Subcommittee shall report on its activities at the regularly scheduled TGPC quarterly meetings.

Projected Completion Date

The continuing identification of interagency research needs and coordination of discussion with potential funding sources is open-ended.