

## **GROUNDWATER RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

### **TIME AND DATE:**

1:30 PM, March 20, 2003

### **LOCATION:**

Conference Room, Building 130, Bureau of Economic Geology, J. J. Pickle Research Center Campus, 10100 Burnet Road, Austin, Texas

### **PURPOSE OF MEETING:**

Regular business meeting

### **AGENCIES REPRESENTED:**

Bureau of Economic Geology [BEG]  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality [TCEQ]  
Texas Department of Agriculture [TDA]  
Texas Department of Health [TDH]  
Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board [TSSWCB]  
United States Geological Survey [USGS]

### **OTHER ENTITIES REPRESENTED:**

EarthSoft

### **ATTENDEES:**

Bridget Scanlon	BEG, Co-chair of the GW Research Subcommittee of the TGPC
Mary Ambrose	TCEQ, Chairman of TGPC
Jay Bragg	TSSWCB
Chet Clark	TCEQ
Lynne Fahlquist	USGS
Richard (Stu) Goldsmith	TCEQ
Sean Kelly	TCEQ
Arnold L. Gray	EarthSoft
Donna Long	TSSWCB
Fred Meyers	TCEQ
Ken Ofunrein	TDH
Jeanette O'Hare	TDA
David Parmer	TCEQ
Joseph L. Peters	TCEQ
Bob Reedy	BEG
Robert Wallace	EarthSoft

## MEETING SUMMARY:

Dr. Scanlon called the meeting to order and immediately proceeded to the first item on the agenda. The first item was a presentation by EarthSoft. Mr. Robert Wallace, an Austin representative of EarthSoft software, introduced the subject to be discussed, EQuIS, and then introduced Dr. Arnold Gray, a representative of EarthSoft from New Jersey, who was to make the presentation.

EQuIS is EarthSoft's central software product. It is an environmental data management system. It's the mostly widely used environmental data management system in use today. According to the presentation it has the capability of importing a large variety of environmental data from a variety of preexisting databases. It can serve as a central depository of data, whether it be new data or data gather together from diverse sources, making it highly accessible and easily analyzed. A large variety of add-on tools are available that enhance the EQuIS data management system in areas such as report writing, geology, analytical laboratory data importing, ArcGIS/ArcView interfacing, etc. A notebook with an information CD were handed out by Mr. Wallace and Dr. Gray, which contain many of the details of EQuIS and EarthSoft's other software products. Some final points of the presentation include the following.

- \* Source Code is given with license of the System
- \* System written in Visual Basic
- \* The total software cost for an enterprise system for all the state agencies of Texas would be \$135,000, plus a 15% yearly maintenance fee (\$20,250).
- \* A ten-user license would be \$20,000

The presentation ended at about 3:00 PM.

After the presentation Mr. Wallace and Dr. Gray left and the meeting continued with a discussion of the various problems of getting approval for obtaining the EQuIS software. Among the various problems are the present budget crisis, inertia of state bureaucracy, and the disappointment of TCEQ in past softwares. Ms. Ambrose suggested that the Data Management Subcommittee might be the Subcommittee most appropriate to consider the software. The discussion continued with the costs of obtaining the software. Mr. Clarke informed us that if you include training and other costs, the total cost of adopting the software would be around \$500,000. Ms. Long and others suggested that a pilot implementation could be payed for through a 319 project and perhaps also the total software costs and the 15% per year maintenance fee.

The second item of discussion was the progress on the Draft Operational Plan. Dr. Scanlon stated that the various agencies should email her a list of their research needs. It came out in the discussion that the main thrust of the Operational Plan would be the description of a procedure for identifying research needs and funding sources. In discussing the need for a procedure Ms. Long pointed out that the Coastal Coordination Council has a system already developed to rank proposals (potential projects). However, it was also pointed out that there are some problems with using someone else's system. Some adaptations would need to be made by determining the common points of interest.

In continuing with the Draft Operational Plan discussion, Dr. Scanlon asked if topics could be drawn from the Strategic Plan. It was mentioned that there should also be a procedure or process in the plan for identifying funding sources for identified proposals. The plan should mostly deal with the process of identifying proposals and funding sources but examples should also be included.

Also, during the meeting Ms. Ambrose informed the group that the Railroad Commission was undertaking a massive project of trying to link their various databases.

The meeting ended at about 4:00 PM.

**HANDOUT:**

EartSoft spiral bound handout with information CD

Prepared by Joseph L. Peters, April 11, 2003

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