

Tx Groundwater Protection Committee – Legislative Report Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
5/22/2006

I. Introductions:

Attendees: Mary Ambrose (TCEQ), Richard Egg (TSSWCB), Janie Hopkins (TWDB)

Staff: Frank Fuller (TCEQ), Issac Jackson (TCEQ), Steve Musick (TCEQ), Kathleen McCormack (TCEQ), Alan Cherepon (TCEQ)

Notes: The attendees introduced themselves.

II. The Subcommittee Charge

The committee charge was reviewed. (Available at http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/legislative/LegCommitteeChargeOverview_rev2_.pdf)

II. Discussion of Previous Report to 79th Legislature. (Available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/047_03.pdf)

Steve Musick led a discussion of the actions taken by the legislature as they relate to the recommendations found in the *Activities of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 79th Legislature*. The following was noted:

- the abandoned water well plugging fund was not funded;
- additional funding was provided for GAMs for minor aquifer studies,
- no additional funds were provided to increase groundwater quality sampling;
- it was unknown whether funding was provided for research and characterization of brackish waters and disposal of desalination reject water in saline aquifers and depleted oil and gas reserves (the Tx Agricultural Experiment Station may have more information)
- Steve Musick was not aware of any special legislative action to provide collaborative agricultural and hydrological studies on nitrate in groundwater;
- brush control funding was continued, but funds were not increased;
- the proposal for on-farm agricultural BMP incentives through creation of water conservation plan program was not acted upon..

IV. Steve Musick presented a red/line strikeout version of the previous report's table of contents to indicate where possible changes may need to be made to this year's report. Recommended changes were nonsubstantive.

V. The subcommittee reviewed the format for future recommendations and no changes were made to the current format used in the past which was (1) a short issue summary, (2) the recommendation, and (3) background, including costs that support the

recommendation. The subcommittee discussed having a one page summary of the recommendations prepared and provided to legislative management.

VI. Possible recommendations were discussed. Individuals and agencies were identified that may have a possible interest in developing or updating proposals for inclusion in the upcoming report. The subcommittee requested that TCEQ staff provide an electronic copy of the previous report to the participants. Additionally, TCEQ staff will request recommendations on behalf of the subcommittee from the chairs of other TGPC subcommittees.

The following is a list of possible ideas for recommendations and the names of individuals who might want to work on them.

- Conversion of Water Well Drillers logs to electronic format – David Gunn, Steve Musick, Barry Miller
- Abandoned Water Well Plugging Fund – David Gunn, Barry Miller
- Support for Abandoned Oil and Gas Plugging Fund – Barry Miller, Leslie Savage
- Support for GAMs – Janie Hopkins
- Issues Related to Desalination – Mary Ambrose, Janie Hopkins, Leslie Savage
- Issues Related to Potential Loss of Petroleum Storage Tank funds for cleanups – Mary Ambrose
- Brush Control – Richard Egg
- Agricultural Water Conservation Plan funding – Richard Egg
- Drinking water issues related to radionuclides and arsenic – Mary Ambrose

VII. The subcommittee reviewed the time line to complete and deliver the report. The subcommittee discussed having draft recommendations due in the middle of June to be discussed at a meeting in late June. The recommendations would be presented to the full committee at its meeting in July. The full committee would vote on each recommendation at the 1st quarterly meeting of FY07.

VIII. The subcommittee decided to poll members to see if they could meet the last week in June.