

LEGISLATIVE REPORT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Fiscal Year 2008

Meeting Date: June 3, 2008
Meeting No.: 2 in Fiscal Year 2008

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Kelly Mills

Radu Boghici

Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
(TCEQ)

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Agency Staff

Kathy McCormack

Affiliation

TCEQ

Program

Water Supply Division

Interested Parties

Rob Ries

Affiliation

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. June 3, 2008 Legislative Report Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. April 9, 2008 Legislative Report Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
3. TGPC 81st Legislative Report schedule, dated September 24, 2007
4. Emailed feedback on Recommendations from Janie Hopkins (TWDB)
5. Feedback on the Table of Contents, Recommendations, and body of the previous report from Ric Jensen (TWRI)
6. *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 80th Legislature*, TCEQ SFR-047
(http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/047_06.pdf)

MEETING RECORD OF JUNE 3, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kelly Mills (TCEQ), substituting for Cary Betz (TCEQ), Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Legislative Report Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 AM CST.

2. REVIEW PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION OF DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OTHER SECTIONS OF *ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE: REPORT TO THE 81ST LEGISLATURE* (“LEGISLATIVE REPORT”)

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) proposed that the Legislative Report Subcommittee should finalize the draft Recommendations in time for the TGPC Fiscal Year 2008 Fourth Quarter Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 30, 2008 and that the target date for the final draft of the Legislative Report should be August 28, 2008. This would allow the member agencies at least one month (September 2008) for review and approval prior to the TGPC Fiscal Year 2009 First Quarter Meeting which should occur some time in October 2008.

3. DISCUSSION AND EDITING OF DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on feedback received from the TGPC, the status of the 15 Recommendations in the previous *Legislative Report* was reviewed again in order to determine which ones had been addressed by the 80th Legislature, and, if they had not been funded, whether they deserved continued support:

- Streamline Permitting Efforts
 1. Facilitate Disposal/Use of Desalination Concentrate and Drinking Water Treatment Residuals
 - The Recommendation was funded by the 80th Legislature – move to the Actions on Recommendations to the 80th Legislature section. (09Apr2008)
 - No change from the last meeting. (03Jun2008)
 2. Evaluate Characteristics of Concentrate and Residuals to Support Streamlined Permitting
 - Combine with the Support Groundwater Research section and change Recommendation title to “Evaluate Characteristics of Concentrate and Residuals and Support Streamlined Permitting” ? (09Apr2008)
 - No change from the last meeting. (03Jun2008)
- Strengthen Groundwater Conservation and Water Quality Protection Efforts
 3. Fund Brush-Control Projects to Increase Groundwater Yield
 - Continue to request funding for this Recommendation from the 81st Legislature. (09Apr2008)
 - No change from the last meeting. (03Jun2008)
 4. Encourage On-Farm Agricultural Best Management Practice Incentives through Creation of a Water Conservation Plan Program
 - Ask the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) if this Recommendation was funded by the 80th Legislature. (09Apr2008)
 - Still need TSSWCB input. (03Jun2008)

5. Protect Groundwater Quality through Education Programs
 - Ask the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) if they have produced anything that can be used as an example in this document. (09Apr2008)
 - Continue with this Recommendation. (03Jun2008)
- 5.5. TAR also proposed adding a Recommendation to **Develop Education and Training Programs for Groundwater District Management**. (03Jun2008)
6. Establish an Abandoned Water Well-Plugging Fund
 - Continue to request funding for this Recommendation from the 81st Legislature. (09Apr2008)
 - TAR proposed changing the Recommendation to Establish an Abandoned Water Well-Plugging Fund **and Education Program**. (03Jun2008)
7. Fund the Texas Water Development Board's Municipal Water Conservation Programs
 - The Recommendation was funded by the 80th Legislature – move to the Actions on Recommendations to the 80th Legislature section. (09Apr2008)
 - No change from the last meeting. (03Jun2008)
8. Continue to Support the Panhandle AgriPartners Program
 - Ask Texas AgriLife Research (TAR) and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES) for the status of this Recommendation. (09Apr2008)
 - Continue with this Recommendation. (03Jun2008)
- Advance Groundwater Management and Protection through Enhanced Data Collection and Availability
9. Improve the State's Groundwater Database
 - The Recommendation was funded by the 80th Legislature – move to the Actions on Recommendations to the 80th Legislature section. (09Apr2008)
 - No change from the last meeting. (03Jun2008)
10. Establish Statewide Real-Time Groundwater-Level Monitoring System
 - Change Recommendation title to “Enhance and Continue Support of Statewide Real-Time Groundwater-Level Monitoring System” and request additional funding from the 81st Legislature for this Recommendation. (09Apr2008)
 - TWDB proposed changing the Recommendation to **Expand** Statewide Real-Time Groundwater-Level Monitoring System. This is one of TWDB's legislative exceptional items. (03Jun2008)
11. Provide Data and Resources to Support “Desired Future Conditions”
 - Change Recommendation title to **Enhance and Continue Support of** Data and Resources to Support “Desired Future Conditions” and request additional funding from the 81st Legislature for this Recommendation. (09Apr2008)
 - The Recommendation was funded by the 80th Legislature – move to the Actions on Recommendations to the 80th Legislature section. (03Jun2008)
12. Improve Groundwater Availability Modeling
 - Continue to request funding from the 81st Legislature for this Recommendation. (09Apr2008)
 - The Recommendation was funded by the 80th Legislature – move to the Actions on Recommendations to the 80th Legislature section. (03Jun2008)
13. Convert State Well Reports to Electronic Format/Database for Ease of Access
 - Work still needs to be done in this area. (09Apr2008)
 - Still need TCEQ input. (03Jun2008)
- Support Groundwater Research

14. Evaluate Impact of Dryland Agriculture on Groundwater Resources in the Texas High Plains Aquifer
 - Ask the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG) for the status of this Recommendation. (09Apr2008)
 - Still need UTBEG input. (03Jun2008)
15. Study the Impact of Irrigation on Groundwater Resources in the High Plains Aquifer
 - Ask TAR for the status of this Recommendation. (09Apr2008)
 - Still need TAR input. (03Jun2008)
16. TWDB also proposed adding a Recommendation to **Provide Resources to Research Brackish Water Resources.** (03Jun2008)

4. DISCUSSION OF THE COMPLETION OF THE DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE PRESENTATION OF THEM TO THE TGPC

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) proposed that the Legislative Report Subcommittee should use email to complete the draft Recommendations and that TCEQ staff would solicit input from the various member agencies, as needed. Kelly Mills also proposed that the target date for identification of the draft Recommendations should be June 23, 2008, with the final draft of the Recommendations to be completed by July 23, 2008.

5. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

A Legislative Report Subcommittee meeting, if needed, is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 2:00 PM in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 3202A. If a final list of Recommendations can be drafted by the Subcommittee via email, and this face-to-face meeting is not needed, the next TGPC Legislative Report Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 10:00 AM in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 2210.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rob Ries asked the Legislative Report Subcommittee to keep up the good work.

8. ADJOURN

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:50 AM CST.