

LEGISLATIVE REPORT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2008

Meeting Date: April 9, 2008
Meeting No.: 1 in Fiscal Year 2008

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 5108

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Affiliation

Cary Betz (Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Kelly Mills	TCEQ
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ
Janie Hopkins	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Leslie Savage	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Ambrose Charles	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. April 9, 2008 Legislative Report Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. TGPC 81st Legislative Report schedule, dated September 24, 2007
3. *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 APRIL 9, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cary Betz (TCEQ), Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Legislative Report Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:38 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”)

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reviewed the TGPC *81st Legislative Report* schedule. Kelly Mills (TCEQ) reported that previous *Legislative Reports* (the 80th Legislature edition is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/047_06.pdf) were compiled with updates from other TGPC activities (e.g., the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy*, TCEQ AS-188 (http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf), the *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report*, TCEQ SFR-056 (the 2006 edition is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/sfr/056_06_index.html), TGPC meeting minutes, etc.), summarizing what the TGPC had done over the past two years, and that new information was provided in the Recommendations section. Cary Betz indicated that, with the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* being updated this year, much of this work would apply to the *81st Legislative Report*, as well.

Cary Betz (TCEQ) decided to ask the TGPC for feedback on the draft *81st Legislative Report* Table of Contents by May 30, 2008.

3. DISCUSSION AND EDITING OF DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The status of the 15 Recommendations in the previous *Legislative Report* was reviewed 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.
 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” ?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 6. Establish an Abandoned Water Well-Plugging Fund
 - Continue to request funding for this Recommendation from the 81st Legislature.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 12. Improve Groundwater Availability Modeling
 - Continue to request funding from the 81st Legislature for this Recommendation.
- 13. Convert State Well Reports to Electronic Format/Database for Ease of Access
 - Work still needs to be done in this area.
- 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.
- 15. Study the Impact of Irrigation on Groundwater Resources in the High Plains Aquifer
 - Ask TAR for the status of this Recommendation.

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) and Leslie Savage (RRC) asked if the number of Recommendations could be reduced or prioritized. Leslie Savage also asked whether some

Recommendations might be listed as “Support (agency X’s) Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)”.

The Legislative Report Subcommittee agreed that an updated Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) map should be included in the *81st Legislative Report*.

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

Cary Betz (TCEQ) decided to ask the TGPC for input on revised and new *81st Legislative Report* Recommendations by May 30, 2008.

5. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next Legislative Report Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at 10:00 AM, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

Cary Betz (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:31 AM CST.