

**TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE**  
**RECORD OF MEETING**  
 Fourth Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2010

Meeting Date: July 14, 2010  
 Meeting No.: 86

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
 Room: 2210

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>MEETING ATTENDANCE.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MEETING HANDOUTS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MEETING RECORD OF JULY 14, 2010 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS .....	4
2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS .....	4
Agricultural Chemicals.....	4
Data Management.....	5
Public Outreach and Education .....	5
Groundwater Research .....	7
Legislative Report .....	7
Nonpoint Source Task Force .....	7
3. PRESENTATION .....	8
Texas Well Owner Network: Private Well Management to Protect Human Health and Aquifer Integrity.....	8
4. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION .....	9
Discuss Data Management Subcommittee Charge and Staff Assignments.....	9
Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee – Report to the 82nd Legislature – Continue Discussion of the Report .....	9
Quadrennial Rules Review of 31 TAC Chapter 601, Groundwater Contamination Report – Discuss and Approve Proposal for Publication .....	11
Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy – Continue Discussion of the Update.....	11
Set Future Meeting Date.....	12
5. INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR GROUNDWATER-RELATED ACTIVITIES – STATUS UPDATE .....	12
Groundwater Contamination Notice Coordination (HB 3030, 78th Legislature) .....	12
Groundwater Management Areas.....	12
Regional Water Planning.....	12
Groundwater Availability Modeling .....	12
Nonpoint Source Pollution .....	12
National Groundwater Initiatives .....	13
Drought Status.....	13
6. ANNOUNCEMENTS .....	13
Rules Update .....	13
New Publications.....	14
Upcoming Conferences .....	14
7. PUBLIC COMMENT.....	14
8. ADJOURN .....	14

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Committee Members

Cary Betz

Janie Hopkins

Ken Ofunrein

Richard Eyster

Donna Long

Kevin Wagner

David Gunn

### Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

Texas AgriLife Research (TAR)

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

### Agency Staff

Karen Latta

Diane Boellstorff

Sean Ables

Abiy Berehe

Lauren Bilbe

Linda Brookins

Alan Cherepon

Katherine Flannery

Peggy Hunka

Isaac Jackson

### Affiliation

### Program

Sunset Advisory Commission

Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES)

TCEQ Water Supply Division

TCEQ Water Supply Division

TCEQ Water Quality Planning Division

TCEQ Water Supply Division

TCEQ Water Supply Division

TCEQ Water Supply Division

TCEQ Water Supply Division

TCEQ Intergovernmental Relations Division

Bruce Lesikar

TAES

Kathy McCormack

TCEQ Water Supply Division

Kelly Mills

TCEQ Water Supply Division

Joe Peters

TCEQ Water Supply Division

Robert Phillips

TCEQ Water Supply Division

L. Scott Underwood

TCEQ Water Supply Division

John Williams

TCEQ Environmental Law Division

Leslie Smith

TDA

David Villarreal

TDA

Nicolas Kalla

TDLR

### Interested Parties

Janet Atwood

### Affiliation

Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP

Lynne Fahlquist

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on July 14, 2010
2. Record for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on April 7, 2010
3. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting on June 24, 2010
4. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Nonpoint Source (NPS) Task Force (TF) Meeting on June 25, 2010
5. Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Annual Report Guidelines Fiscal Year 2010
6. TGPC Data Management Subcommittee Charge (approved January 16, 2008)
7. J. Hopkins' feedback on TGPC Data Management Subcommittee Charge (TGPC members only)
8. Draft Recommendations to the 82nd Texas Legislature (TGPC members only)
9. Plugging Fund Ideas
10. Draft Quadrennial Rules Review of 31 TAC Chapter 601, Groundwater Contamination Report
11. U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of June 29, 2010; Drought 2010 – Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of July 1, 2010; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook July – September 2010
12. TCEQ Rules of Interest to TGPC 07/14/2010
13. *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells*, TAES B-6238, Revised April 2010, <https://agriflifebookstore.org/>
14. TCEQ 2010 Public Drinking Water Conference flyer
15. 12th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst flyer
16. 2010 Water-related Conferences in Texas, July 2010

## MEETING RECORD OF JULY 14, 2010

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cary Betz (TCEQ), Designated Chairman of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 PM CDT. TGPC members then introduced themselves. Representatives from the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC), the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD), and the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG) were not present at the meeting.

### 2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Agricultural Chemicals

Joe Peters (TCEQ) reported that the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee met for their Fiscal Year 2010 Fourth Quarter meeting that morning.

For the Site Selection Task Force, Janie Hopkins (TWDB) reported that their monitoring continues in the Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, and Edwards-Trinity Plateau aquifers. TWDB is also collecting more samples from the Gulf Coast aquifer, and will be sampling at a Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) location in Central Texas from August to September 2010.

For the Educational Task Force, Bruce Lesikar (TAES) announced that they were in the planning process for educational and training events for next year, and that Danna Porter (TAES) was putting together a plan for TAES County Agents in the High Plains.

Recommendations for the *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee – Report to the 82nd Legislature* (“Legislative Report”) were also discussed during the meeting. The Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee decided that the proposed recommendations concerning “Abandoned Water Well Plugging and Education Fund”, “Protecting Groundwater Quality Through Education Programs”, and “Continued Support of the TEX\*A\*Syst Program” should be retained, and that “Educational Program for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pesticide Permitting Program” should be added as a sub-bullet under the “Protecting Groundwater Quality Through Education Programs” recommendation.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) reviewed a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) webcast regarding the upcoming requirement of a NPDES permit for pesticide applications on or near water bodies. Kelly Holligan (TCEQ Water Quality Division) then commented on the TPDES general permit that they were in the process of developing for Texas.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) gave a short, preliminary report on this year’s Pesticide Management Plan Monitoring. There had been two trips, one to the Panhandle (22 wells sampled) and one to the Dallas/Ft Worth area (10 wells and one spring sampled).

David Villarreal (TDA) reported on the last State Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Issues Research Evaluation Group (SFIREG) meeting that he attended. Three items of interest were:

- U.S. EPA is moving forward on requirements for pesticide manufacturers to report on inert/inactive ingredients;
- U.S. EPA is also moving forward on screening for endocrine disruptors; and,
- U.S. EPA is in the process of deciding how to proceed with POINTS (Pesticides Of INterest Tracking System; i.e., whether to retire it or advance it to the next level).

#### Data Management

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that the Data Management Subcommittee had not met since the last TGPC meeting and deferred further discussion of the Subcommittee's Charge until the Business portion of the meeting.

#### Public Outreach and Education

Bruce Lesikar (TAES) passed around photos of the TGPC booth at the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair in May 2010 and noted that the recently revised *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (TAES B-6238, <https://agriflifebookstore.org/>) publication was one of the meeting handouts. Bruce Lesikar then reported that the POE Subcommittee last met on June 24, 2010 and six state agencies and organizations were represented.

POE Subcommittee members approved the draft Public Outreach and Education Activities section of the *Legislative Report* with the understanding that final numbers (e.g., for conferences and visitors, plugging demonstrations and attendees, water well screening events and samples, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), TGPC GovDelivery subscribers, and TGPC website activity statistics) may be updated prior to publication submission later in 2010.

POE Subcommittee members approved support for the draft Recommendations in the *Legislative Report* listed as bullets 3, 4, and 5 under Item 1 regarding:

- Protect Groundwater Quality through Education Programs;
- Develop Education and Training Programs for Groundwater District Management; and,
- Establish an Abandoned Water Well–Plugging and Education Fund.

The Outreach Events Status Report (available on the POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm>, under “Additional Resources”) was reviewed:

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
  - Four since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (176 samples)
  - One planned through September 2010
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
  - None since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting
  - One planned through July 2010

- TGPC Booth
  - Two since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (358 estimated attendees)
  - One planned through August 2010

Various topics related to the *TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy* (“*Implementation Strategy*”, [http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC\\_POE\\_EduOutreachPlan\\_Impl\\_St\\_rat03Oct2007.pdf](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan_Impl_St_rat03Oct2007.pdf)) were discussed:

- TGPC FAQs Announcement to the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
  - A similar announcement may be sent to the state’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), non-TAGD Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs), TAES County Offices, and Education Committees of Texas Geological Societies.
- Results of the TAGD Website Survey
  - Of the 36 GCDs that responded, eight did not have a website, with the main issues affecting TAGD website design and maintenance being funding, time, training, and staff.
- A handout listing costs associated with various outreach methods from a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) workshop was distributed.
- Google Analytics
  - A free Google Analytics account has been set up for the TGPC website, and activity statistics (e.g., number of unique visitors, average time on the website, browser, country of origin, search engine, referring sites, keywords, and page views) have been collected on seven TGPC webpages (the homepage, Meetings, POE, FAQs, Water Wells, Groundwater Contamination, and Groundwater Information) since June 1, 2010.
- TGPC’s Plugging Abandoned Water Wells Content for Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Shoot the Bull Radio Program
  - A 200-word script is being developed on abandoned water wells for this 90-second radio “conversation” with the TDA Commissioner. If successful, additional agriculture/groundwater scripts could be generated (e.g., any of the TGPC FAQ topics, any of the TGPC website daughter page topics, National Groundwater Awareness Week in March, education for new landowners regarding wellhead protection, TAES water well screening events and abandoned well closure demonstrations, etc.).
- Draft Groundwater Protection Survey
  - A survey is being considered that would collect input on groundwater issues and topics to be addressed. Target audiences and question details are being explored.
- Abandoned Water Well Identification Online Training Module
  - A Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) abandoned water well presentation for state agency staff may be modified and posted online for the public.

FAQs on the following topics are in various stages of revision:

- Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality:
  - *How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ?*

- *What are the Construction Standards for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?*
- *What is the Permitting Process for an Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well ?*
- *Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?*

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2010.

#### Groundwater Research

Kevin Wagner (TAR) reported that the Groundwater Research Subcommittee met that morning and their discussion focused on upcoming sources of funding, including TCEQ's Request for Grant Application (RFGA) for U.S. EPA Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319(h) funding related to the remediation of Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution. Kevin Wagner also gave an overview presentation regarding groundwater research at Texas A&M University.

#### Legislative Report

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that the Legislative Report Subcommittee last met on May 19, 2010 and Recommendations for the *Legislative Report* were finalized. Further discussion was deferred to the Business portion of the meeting.

#### Nonpoint Source Task Force

Donna Long (TSSWCB) reported that the NPS Task Force last met on June 25, 2010 and six state agencies and organizations were represented.

Donna Long (TSSWCB) and Lauren Bilbe (TCEQ) reviewed the NPS Task Force Charge ([http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/nonpoint/NPS\\_TF\\_Charge07Apr2010.pdf](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/nonpoint/NPS_TF_Charge07Apr2010.pdf)).

The TSSWCB and TCEQ Co-Chair positions were chosen. Donna Long (TSSWCB) and Lauren Bilbe (TCEQ) will be serving as Co-Chairs for the NPS Task Force.

The next NPS Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2010. The time originally chosen was 10:00 AM; however, that time has since been revised to 9:30 AM due to the lengthy discussions expected in that meeting.

Donna Long (TSSWCB) gave an overview presentation on the Texas NPS Program managed by TSSWCB and TCEQ. The main topics included:

- The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 guidance:
  - Requiring the State of Texas to develop a five year plan to manage all NPS pollution in the State; and,
  - The Section 319(h) Grant Program that focuses primarily on surface water quality (however, it may address groundwater, as well).
- The watershed approach and addressing surface water/groundwater interactions; and,
- The upcoming Watershed Action Planning annual process for addressing impaired surface waters in the state to be kicked off by TCEQ in 2011.

The NPS Task Force discussed the upcoming Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program's five year plan revision:

- Arthur Talley (TCEQ NPS Program staff) notified the NPS Task Force of the State's request for a two-year extension from U.S. EPA in order to incorporate the Watershed Action Planning process by the TCEQ that is currently being developed;
- Donna Long (TSSWCB) noted that updates to the Management Program have been received by most of the agencies and organizations present at the NPS Task Force meeting;
- Lauren Bilbe (TCEQ) requested feedback from the NPS Task Force members regarding programs not listed in the Management Program that conduct work addressing NPS pollution in the state;
- Lauren Bilbe (TCEQ) noted that the Management Program will reference the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* ("*Strategy*") and the State's Watershed Action Plan as methods for more comprehensively and adaptively managing NPS pollution in Texas;
- Lauren Bilbe (TCEQ) and Donna Long (TSSWCB) mentioned the need to expand the Management Program to incorporate an approach for addressing surface water/groundwater interactions, especially with watershed planning; and,
- Donna Long (TSSWCB) expressed the need to update DRASTIC (Depth to water; annual Recharge; Aquifer media; Soil media; Topography; vadose zone Impact; hydraulic Conductivity) or find a new approach for prioritizing NPS pollution issues in Texas groundwater. Cary Betz (TCEQ) noted that this update is a topic that would be beneficial for the NPS Task Force to address.

The NPS Task Force discussed the upcoming Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2010:

- Lauren Bilbe (TCEQ) referenced the handout outlining the information needed in any submitted Annual Report articles (i.e., a one-to-three-paragraph update on all agency projects that address NPS issues should be submitted by July 31, 2010); and,
- Donna Long (TSSWCB) emphasized that highlighted projects should include those conducted by all programs listed in the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program as a measure of how Texas is working to meet the goals listed in the five year plan, not just the projects funded under the CWA Section 319(h) grant program.

It was announced that the next NPS Task Force meeting will include discussion of the NPS portions of the *Strategy*. Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) and Cary Betz (TCEQ) indicated that there was still sufficient time to provide feedback on the *Strategy*.

### 3. PRESENTATION

Texas Well Owner Network: Private Well Management to Protect Human Health and Aquifer Integrity

Diane Boellstorf (TAES) summarized the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program. The presentation included:

- Results from a survey of public perceptions and attitudes about water;

- Down-hole camera photos of debris, dead animals, plant roots, and leaks in a number of water wells; and,
- TWON Program Goals, Approach and Methods, Training Topics and Activities, Program Marketing, and Evaluation of Program Effectiveness.

#### 4. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

##### Discuss Data Management Subcommittee Charge and Staff Assignments

Janie Hopkins' (TWDB) feedback on the Data Management Subcommittee's Charge was not available until later in the meeting, so Cary Betz (TCEQ) requested that TGPC members review it after the meeting for discussion and action at the next TGPC meeting.

##### Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee – Report to the 82nd Legislature – Continue Discussion of the Report

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that, due to publication deadlines and TCEQ management review requirements, TGPC agency management review and approval of the *Legislative Report* would be needed earlier than originally estimated (i.e., before the next TGPC meeting). Kevin Wagner (TAR) requested that both marked-up and clean versions of the Recommendations in the draft *Legislative Report* be provided. Cary Betz indicated that the draft *Legislative Report* would be distributed to TGPC member agencies within the next month.

TGPC members discussed the following *Legislative Report* Recommendations:

- Strengthen Groundwater Conservation and Water Quality Protection Efforts
  - Fund Brush-Control Projects to Increase Groundwater Yield
    - Donna Long (TSSWCB) will provide updates on the funding estimates to P. Hunka (TCEQ) within the next week.
  - Encourage On-Farm Agricultural Best Management Practice Incentives through Continued Support of a Water Conservation Plan Program
    - Donna Long (TSSWCB) may provide updates on the funding estimates to P. Hunka (TCEQ) within the next week.
  - Protect Groundwater Quality through Education Programs
    - In the Background section, TGPC members agreed to change (added words in *italics*) the fourth bullet to “*Pesticide laws and regulations and actions agricultural producers can take to reduce pesticide use and limit the risk of degrading groundwater quality*” and delete the sixth bullet regarding “An educational program for the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) pesticide permitting program.”
    - Kevin Wagner (TAR) may provide updates on the funding estimates to P. Hunka (TCEQ) within the next week.
  - Develop Education and Training Programs for Groundwater District Management
    - Kevin Wagner (TAR) may provide updates on the funding estimates to P. Hunka (TCEQ) within the next week.

- Continued Support of the Tex\*A\*Syst Program
  - TGPC members agreed to change the title to “Continued Support *and Update* of the Tex\*A\*Syst Program”.
  - Donna Long (TSSWCB) will update the last paragraph of the Recommendation, draft the Background section, and provide both to P. Hunka (TCEQ) within the next week.
- Establish an Abandoned Water Well–Plugging and Education Fund
  - No suggested changes.
- Continue to Support the Texas High Plains Evapotranspiration Network
  - Kevin Wagner (TAR) may provide updates on the funding estimates to P. Hunka (TCEQ) within the next week.
- Ensure the Brackish/Saline Aquifers Having Potential for Use as Drinking Water are Protected from Contamination
  - TGPC members agreed to change (added words in *italics*) the first sentence of the Recommendation to “Encourage state regulatory agencies to examine existing *and future or proposed* policies and rules to ensure that brackish and saline groundwater sources, identified as having potential use as drinking water, are adequately protected from contamination.”
- Advance Groundwater Management and Protection through Enhanced Data Collection and Availability
  - Enhance and Continue Support of Data and Resources to Support “Desired Future Conditions”
    - TGPC members agreed to use Janie Hopkins’ (TWDB) edited version of the Recommendation.
  - Acquire and Analyze Brackish Groundwater Data
    - TGPC members agreed to change the title to “*Continue Acquisition and Analysis of* Brackish Groundwater Data” and to use Janie Hopkins’ (TWDB) edited version of the Recommendation.
- Support Groundwater Research
  - Evaluate Characteristics of Desalination Concentrate and Residual and Support Streamlined Permitting
    - Cary Betz (TCEQ) will confirm with UTBEG that the Recommendation is still necessary; if so, TGPC members agreed to keep it with no suggested changes.
  - Characterize Groundwater Surface Water Interactions
    - Cary Betz (TCEQ) will draft the Recommendation and Background sections and provide them to P. Hunka (TCEQ) within the next week.
  - Evaluate Groundwater Treatment Methodologies for Removal of Contaminants
    - TGPC members agreed to change the title to “Evaluate Groundwater Treatment Methodologies for Removal of Contaminants *from Private Drinking Water Wells*”.
    - Kevin Wagner (TAR) will draft the Recommendation and Background sections and provide them to P. Hunka (TCEQ) within the next week.

TGPC members agreed that TCEQ staff could make any non-substantive changes as required by the TCEQ Publications department. David Gunn (TDLR) proposed, Richard

Eyster (TDA) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved the proposed Recommendations.

#### Quadrennial Rules Review of 31 TAC Chapter 601, Groundwater Contamination Report – Discuss and Approve Proposal for Publication

John Williams (TCEQ) reminded TGPC members that:

- Their agency authorization letters designating them (and their alternates) as TGPC representatives need to be current;
- New members are obligated to take the Texas Attorney General’s Open Meetings Act (OMA) training; and,
- Letters and training certificates should be submitted to Kathy McCormack (TCEQ).

John Williams (TCEQ) reported that Texas Government Code requires all state agencies to review their Rules every four years and to make an assessment as to whether the reasons for the Rules continue to exist. The TGPC’s Rules (Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Chapter 601):

- Define the conditions that constitute groundwater contamination for the purpose of inclusion of cases in the public files for each state agency having responsibilities over the protection of groundwater;
- Describe the contents of the TGPC’s *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report* required by the Texas Water Code (TWC); and,
- Specify the form and content of notices of groundwater contamination that must be mailed to each owner of a private drinking water well that may be affected by documented cases of groundwater contamination, and to each applicable GCD, as directed by the TWC.

John Williams (TCEQ) indicated that, in the last four years, there have been no statutory changes to the TGPC’s requirements or delegation of authority and jurisdiction, and therefore it is recommended that the reasons for the TGPC’s Rules still exist and they should be re-adopted.

Kevin Wagner (TAR) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved:

- Publication of a notice of the TGPC’s intention to re-adopt their Rules in the *Texas Register* on July 30, 2010; and,
- TCEQ staff to make any non-substantive changes as required by the current *Texas Register* style manual.

Public comment will be due by August 30, 2010, and the TGPC will vote on re-adoption of their Rules at the next TGPC meeting.

#### Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy – Continue Discussion of the Update

With four TGPC member agencies currently under Sunset Review (TCEQ, TWDB, RRC, and TSSWCB), Cary Betz (TCEQ) suggested that further discussion of the *Strategy* be

deferred until after the Sunset Advisory Commission's management and statutory Recommendations have been published, adopted, and considered by the 82nd Texas Legislature in 2011. Cary Betz also suggested that the Data Management Subcommittee should continue to work on the Groundwater Monitoring Plan. TGPC members concurred with these two suggestions.

#### Set Future Meeting Date

The next TGPC quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2010 at 1:00 PM CDT.

### 5. INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR GROUNDWATER-RELATED ACTIVITIES – STATUS UPDATE

#### Groundwater Contamination Notice Coordination (HB 3030, 78th Legislature)

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) reported that the Impact Evaluation Team (IET) reviewed eight contamination cases and mailed out 65 letters to water well owners and users in the last quarter.

#### Groundwater Management Areas

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) reported that seven Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) have adopted Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) in 35 aquifers and have provided this information to TWDB. In addition to Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) values, TWDB has calculated exempt use for the entire state and provided this information to the GMAs. TWDB expects all of the GMAs to submit their DFCs by the September 1, 2010 deadline.

#### Regional Water Planning

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) reported that TWDB has reviewed 14 of the 16 initially-prepared plans and provided their comments to these Regional Water Planning Groups. The plans are due back to TWDB by September 1, 2010. The two most important issues are exempt water usage and appropriations for some reservoirs.

#### Groundwater Availability Modeling

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) reported that TWDB has been working on the internal models so that exempt use can be determined. Models still under development include Kinney County and GMA 16.

#### Nonpoint Source Pollution

Lauren Bilbe (TCEQ) reported that requests for Fiscal Year 2011 grant applications will be available later this summer on the TCEQ NPS Pollution webpage (<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/nps/grants/grant-pgm.html>). Lauren

Bilbe also referred TGPC members to the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Annual Report Guidelines for reporting Fiscal Year 2010 projects, noted that submissions are due by August 13, 2010, and indicated that a formal request for this information will be sent to the TGPC members.

#### National Groundwater Initiatives

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that the U.S. Department of the Interior's Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI, <http://acwi.gov/>) Subcommittee on Groundwater (<http://acwi.gov/sogw/index.html>) continues to work on the pilot programs, including the Texas project coordinated by Janie Hopkins (TWDB). Janie Hopkins indicated that they have had monthly discussions with USGS, U.S. EPA, and several other parties regarding well selection for the national water level network. A project report, including the state's field practices and data management system, is due by the end of 2010.

Cary Betz (TCEQ) also reported that the U.S. EPA is planning a study on the effects of hydraulic fracturing on groundwater ("fracing").

#### Drought Status

Cary Betz (TCEQ) referred the TGPC to the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor and TCEQ drought-affected Public Water Supply Systems maps. Since the last meeting, drought conditions have worsened slightly in the northeastern portion of the state, but they are forecast to improve through September 2010. Cary Betz also reported that two million acre-feet of water had recently been added to International Falcon and Amistad Reservoirs.

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Rules Update

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported on current TCEQ rulemaking that was of interest to the TGPC:

- 2010-009-025-CE: Lab Accreditation
- 2009-055-007-PR: Memorandum of Understanding Between the TCEQ and the Rail Road Commission of Texas
- 2009-044-331-PR: SB 1387: Injection / Storage of Anthropogenic Carbon Dioxide
- 2009-034-311-PR: Water Quality Management within the Barton Creek and Onion Creek Watersheds
- 2009-020-290-OW: Federal Lead Copper Revisions and Federal Corrections for Surface Water, Disinfection, and Groundwater
- 2009-011-321-PR: Revisions to certain Subchapters of 30 TAC Chapter 321 related to revised EPA CAFO rules
- 2008-022-213-CE: Edwards Aquifer
- 2007-049-298-OW: HB 3/SB 3: Environmental Flow Standards

Additional information on a specific TCEQ rule can be found at [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/rules/propose\\_adopt.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/rules/propose_adopt.html).

## New Publications

Cary Betz (TCEQ) announced two TCEQ publications:

- *Landscape Irrigation, A Take Care of Texas Guide* (GI-409, [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-409.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-409.html)) had been revised; and,
- *Rainwater Harvesting with Rain Barrels, A Take Care of Texas Guide* (GI-383, [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-383.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-383.html)) had been revised.

## Upcoming Conferences

Cary Betz (TCEQ) referred TGPC members to the conferences listed in the “2010 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout – the current version of this handout is always available on the TGPC’s POE Subcommittee webpage at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm> under “Additional Resources”.

Cary Betz also referenced the flyers for the TCEQ 2010 Public Drinking Water Conference on August 10 – 11, 2010 ([http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_supply/pdw/conference.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/pdw/conference.html)), and the 12th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst on January 10 – 14, 2011 (<http://www.pela.com/sinkholeconference2011.htm>).

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) announced that their annual Groundwater 101 Workshop would be held on November 10, 2010 in Austin.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) announced that the 20th Anniversary U.S. EPA Region 6 Quality Assurance Conference (<http://www.epa.gov/region6/6pd/qa/index10.htm>) is scheduled for October 18 – 22, 2010 in Dallas, and the bi-annual U.S. EPA Region 6 pesticide meeting is scheduled for October 26 – 27, 2010 in Dallas.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

David Villarreal (TDA) announced the development of a new resource for U.S. private well data, the National Well Data Repository Project (<http://aapco.ceris.purdue.edu/doc/min2010/min042610eqi.html#cont3>), which can be used for environmental surveillance and public health purposes. The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) is looking for state participants.

## 8. ADJOURN

Cary Betz (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:21 PM CDT.