

**TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
RECORD OF MEETING**

First Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2014

Meeting Date: October 16, 2013  
Meeting No.: 100

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
Room: 2210

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Committee Members

Cary Betz

Janie Hopkins

Chris Moore

Ken Ofunrein

Michael Hare

T.J. Helton

David Van Dresar

Kevin Wagner

Bridget Scanlon

David Gunn

### Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)

Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research)

University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG)

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

### Agency Staff

Abiy Berehe

Mike Chadwick

Alan Cherepon

Peggy Hunka

Paul S. Lewis

Kathy McCormack

Kelly Mills

Joe Peters

Greg Tipple

L. Scott Underwood

Kristine Uhlman

### Affiliation

TCEQ

UTBEG

### Program

Water Availability Division

Water Availability Division

Water Availability Division

Water Availability Division

Remediation Division

Water Availability Division

Water Availability Division

Water Availability Division

Water Supply Division

Water Availability Division

### Interested Parties

John Coll

Gary Franklin

Chris Pepper

### Affiliation

Cardno ATC Associates, Inc.

Barton Springs / Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD)

Winstead PC

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on October 16, 2013
2. Record for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on July 17, 2013
3. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee meeting, September 10, 2013
4. A National Framework for Groundwater Monitoring in the United States (revised July 2013), [http://acwi.gov/sogw/ngwmn\\_framework\\_report\\_july2013.pdf](http://acwi.gov/sogw/ngwmn_framework_report_july2013.pdf) (TGPC members only)
5. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition (September 10, 2013), [http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC\\_POE\\_GW\\_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf)
6. Draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* Chapter II: Characterizing the State's Groundwater Resources (TGPC members only)
7. Drought 2013 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of October 8, 2013; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, September – December 2013; Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of October 9, 2013
8. TCEQ Rules Update, 10/14/2013
9. *After a Disaster: Is Your Drinking Water Safe?*, TCEQ publication GI-431 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-431.html>
10. *Disinfecting Your Private Well*, TCEQ publication GI-432 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-432.html>
11. *How to Sample Your Well Water and Understand the Results*, TCEQ publication GI-433 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-433.html>
12. *Take Care of Texas*, TCEQ publication GI-430 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-430.html>
13. *Public Drinking Water Systems: Responding to a Disaster*, TCEQ publication RG-517b (September 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/rg/rg-517b.html>
14. 2013 – 2014 Water-related Conferences in Texas, October 2013

The following items were also on display on the handout table:

1. TGPC Public Information Act Policy
2. *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2012*, TCEQ publication SFR-056/12 (July 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/sfr/056>

## MEETING RECORD OF OCTOBER 16, 2013

### 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 1:03 PM CDST and noted that this was the TGPC's 100th meeting. TGPC members then introduced themselves.

### 2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Agricultural Chemicals

Joe Peters (TCEQ) reported that the TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee had met that morning.

For the Site Selection Task Force, Janie Hopkins (TWDB, Task Force Chair) reported that the TWDB's plans for groundwater monitoring for 2014 include the Carrizo-Wilcox, Seymour, Lipan, Sparta, and Queen City Aquifers, and possible one or two additional aquifers.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) reported that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had not added any pesticides to their list of 57 pesticides to be evaluated so no new assessments are needed at this time.

Peter Van Metre (USGS) had been scheduled to present on their Updated Pesticide Use Maps but he was not able to attend due to the U.S. government shutdown.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) presented a Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Pesticide Monitoring Summary:

- Panhandle Verification Monitoring and Cooperative Monitoring with TWDB;
- Twenty lab analyses by three different methods on the Verification Monitoring samples indicated only one well with a trace amount of atrazine;
- For the Verification Monitoring samples, immunoassay (IA) screening for four pesticides indicated only very low atrazine detections in a few wells and a few trace amounts of the other pesticides tested; and,
- For the Cooperative Monitoring samples, 249 IA analyses for atrazine, and a smaller number of IA analyses for triazine metabolites, 2,4-D, and chlorpyrifos, indicated only trace amounts of atrazine.

During the Business portion of the meeting, Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee members approved the proposed FY 2014 Pesticide Monitoring Plan:

- Panhandle On-going Monitoring and Cooperative Monitoring;
- Some Panhandle samples to be analyzed by three lab methods, and all samples to be analyzed by IA; and,

- Cooperative Monitoring to be performed by TWDB in the Carrizo-Wilcox, Seymour, Lipan, Sparta, and Queen City Aquifers, and possible one or two additional aquifers.

## Data Management

Mike Chadwick (TCEQ) reported that the TGPC Data Management Subcommittee last met on October 8, 2013. Cary Betz (TCEQ) provided copies of the revised *A National Framework for Ground-Water Monitoring in the United States* (July 2013), [http://acwi.gov/sogw/ngwmn\\_framework\\_report\\_july2013.pdf](http://acwi.gov/sogw/ngwmn_framework_report_july2013.pdf). Discussion noted that the reporting format and variables contained in the report are the future direction of groundwater management record keeping. Cary Betz (TCEQ) agreed to provide an executive summary of the report to Data Management Subcommittee members.

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) reported that they were:

- Updating the groundwater measuring sample methodology;
- Working with 50 Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) on reporting water level measurements, but there were challenges in obtaining the data in a repeatable format; and,
- Working on an improved database for launch in early 2014, with the migration of pump test and water quality data, TDLR driller's reports, and gravel packing information.

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) requested that:

- TCEQ inquire whether the data points for Public Water Supply (PWS) wells in the Texas Drinking Water Watch (<http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>) could be plotted on the TWDB Water Information Integration and Dissemination (WIID, [http://wiid.twdb.state.tx.us/index\\_explain.asp](http://wiid.twdb.state.tx.us/index_explain.asp)) System. This PWS geographic location information is currently kept in-house due to homeland security protection of source water locations from public access; and,
- TCEQ provide a permanent identification of PWS wells. The present Source ID code changes when the well owner changes, resulting in a loss of historic information associated with that specific well. TWDB cannot keep a historic dataset on specific wells due to ownership changes. An unchangeable number (e.g., a raw water number or a GPS location of the specific well) was suggested as a permanent record number for specific PWS wells.

The next Data Management Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for the morning of the next TGPC meeting.

## Public Outreach and Education

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that the TGPC Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee last met on September 10, 2013 and 11 state agencies and organizations were represented.

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

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) Water Well Screening Events
  - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (44 samples)
  - Four planned through November 2013
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closures
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - None scheduled at this time
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
  - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (118 estimated attendees)
  - Three planned through December 2013

Drew Gholson (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) schedule of completed, confirmed, obligated, and suggested water well screening events and workshops. There have been over 2,767 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011.

The Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC website for June 10 – September 4, 2013 was reviewed by the POE Subcommittee. The average website visit duration was just over two minutes, and the average pages per visit were just over four. Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) noted that some additional enhancements would be made to the TGPC website in Fiscal Year 2014.

The final draft of the *TGPC Groundwater Education Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition* (“Plan”) was reviewed and POE Subcommittee members approved it with the changes discussed at the meeting. The *Plan* would be submitted to the TGPC for approval at their October 16, 2013 meeting.

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) thanked POE Subcommittee members for their feedback on the draft TWON *Improving Hazardous Materials Management to Protect Groundwater Quality* fact sheet. Diane Boellstorff also reported that a draft fact sheet related to Petroleum Storage Tanks (PSTs) and two draft fact sheets related to livestock should be available for POE Subcommittee review soon.

The draft *What is a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) update was reviewed and POE Subcommittee members approved it with the changes discussed at the meeting. The FAQ update would be posted on the TGPC FAQ webpage, <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/FAQs.php>.

Ron Kaiser (Texas A&M University) provided background information on the development of *Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas* (AgriLife Extension publication B-6120, available at <http://www.agrilifebookstore.org/Default.asp>) and shared some of the hot topics which should be included in the planned update:

- Desired Future Conditions (DFC) process;

- Permit rules (with examples);
- Day and Bragg court cases, and how they relate to takings;
- Water meters;
- Brackish groundwater; and,
- The jurisdiction of GCDs and RRC related to oil and gas operations.

The POE Subcommittee will provide feedback on draft B-6120 updates as they become available.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) thanked Nikki Dictson (Texas Water Resources Institute) for notifying her Texas Watershed Coordinator and Texas Riparian Association distribution lists on July 17, 2013 about the TGPC's online FAQs.

The next POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for December 4, 2013.

### Groundwater Research

Kevin Wagner (AgriLife Research) reported that the Groundwater Research Subcommittee had met that morning and discussion items included:

- Sources of funding and current calls for proposals, such as the TSSWCB Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319(h) Request for Proposal (RFP) which closed October 11, 2013, potential opportunities for some United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding for a new water challenge area which should be announced by the end of 2013, and some potential funding through the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts related to groundwater quality for endangered species;
- The need to better understand the U.S. EPA priorities related to groundwater and CWA Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source (NPS) project funding; and,
- The *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (“Strategy”, [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf)) and how the Groundwater Research Subcommittee may need to work more closely with TAGD, perhaps through a session (i.e., current academic groundwater research vs. GCD needs) at TAGD's next annual meeting.

### 3. PRESENTATION

#### National Groundwater Monitoring Network

Cary Betz (TCEQ) gave a presentation on the National Groundwater Monitoring Network. In 2007, the federal Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI, <http://acwi.gov/>) Subcommittee on Ground Water (SOGW, <http://acwi.gov/sogw/>) was commissioned to develop a “framework” to establish and encourage implementation of a long-term national groundwater quantity and quality monitoring network. The first “framework” document was released in June 2009. Pilot projects were conducted in select areas of the country to incorporate parts of existing State groundwater monitoring programs into a national network. Lessons learned resulted in a revised *A National Framework for Ground-Water Monitoring in the United States* in July 2013

([http://acwi.gov/sogw/ngwmn\\_framework\\_report\\_july2013.pdf](http://acwi.gov/sogw/ngwmn_framework_report_july2013.pdf)). The National Ground Water Monitoring Network (NGWMN) may be considered an aggregation of select wells and springs across the nation, that takes advantage of, and seeks to enhance, existing Federal, multi-state, State, Tribal, and local monitoring efforts, and is not intended to replace these systems, nor address local issues. Monitoring points (wells or springs) designated for the NGWMN will be selected after there has been an evaluation of conceptual groundwater flow models within aquifer systems.

T.J. Helton (TSSWCB) left at 1:58 PM CDST and returned at 2:03 PM CDST.

#### 4. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

##### TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) presented the second edition of the *Plan* to the TGPC members. David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved the *Plan*. Cary Betz (TCEQ) thanked the POE Subcommittee for their work.

David Gunn (TDLR) left at 2:16 PM CDST and returned at 2:18 PM CDST.

##### Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reviewed an updated draft of “Chapter II: Characterizing the State’s Groundwater Resources” from the *Strategy* ([http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf)) and requested that TGPC members provide feedback, particularly the RRC on the “Risk-Based Cleanup Standards” section. Cary Betz expected to have an updated outline of the *Strategy* by the end of October 2013.

TGPC members would meet on November 19, 2013 at 1:30 PM CST for another *Strategy* Work Session.

##### Current Groundwater Issues

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that they were still working on Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) issues and how reuse is related to water sources, groundwater conservation, and water rights.

David Van Dresar (TAGD) noted that power plants are using groundwater sources and investigating the use of brackish groundwater or the desalination of brackish groundwater.

Ken Ofunrein (DSHS) asked whether the treatment of fracking-produced water for reuse (vs. injection) was being explored; Chris Moore (RRC) indicated that it was possible, but

this practice tended to be used only where it was economical. Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) added that this reuse usually only accounts for a third of the required fracking water.

#### Set Future Meeting Date

The next TGPC quarterly meeting was scheduled for January 15, 2014 at 1:00 PM CST.

#### 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) had met three times in the last quarter and sent out 15 letters related to three groundwater contamination cases.

##### Groundwater Management Areas

David Van Dresar (TAGD) reported that the submission date for the next round of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) to TWDB was May 1, 2016. Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) are working on their DFCs and hiring consultants to help with development of the impacts and requirements.

##### Regional Water Planning

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) reported that:

- Population and water demand projections for the 2016 Regional Water Plans and 2017 State Water Plan would be taken to the Board on October 17, 2013 for consideration;
- Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) continue work on source availability and entity supply analyses. Some have submitted their strategy scopes of work and some (Regions C, F, H, K, L, and O) have begun work on select water management strategy analyses; and,
- House Bill 4 from the recent legislative session established a Stakeholder Committee for Project Prioritization composed of the RWPG Chairs or their designees:
  - The Stakeholder Committee first met on October 8 – 9, 2013 and should meet again in early November 2013;
  - The Stakeholder Committee was tasked with developing uniform standards by which RWPGs will prioritize projects in their regional water plans;
  - Should Proposition 6 pass on the November 5, 2013 ballot initiative, these standards would be due to TWDB by December 1, 2013; and,
  - RWPGs would then use the standards and submit draft prioritizations to TWDB by June 1, 2014 with final prioritizations due by September 1, 2014.

## Groundwater Availability Modeling

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) reported that:

- Staff would process the DFCs as soon as they are submitted;
- Staff have completed 85 of the required 101 Total Estimates of Recoverable Storage (TERS) and the remaining 15 should be completed by the end of 2013;
- Thirty GCD model runs for management plans have been completed so far in 2013;
- Externally-contracted Groundwater Availability Models (GAMs) include the Houston Area Groundwater Model (currently with the GMA 14 GCDs for review, but the GAM is on hold while the United States Geological Survey (USGS) re-visits the Jasper layer), the High Plains Aquifer System GAM, the Brazos River Alluvium GAM, and a conceptual GAM for GMA 8;
- Internal GAMs include the Blossom, Eastern Arm of Capitan Reef Complex, Marathon, Llano Uplift, and a local model of the Seymour Aquifer in Haskell, Baylor, and Knox Counties; and,
- Additional contract updates include:
  - A hydrochemistry draft report for GMAs 11, 12, and 13 is in review;
  - An educational video on GAMs is progressing;
  - Staff and a consultant are working on a hydrochemistry final report for GMAs 3 and 7;
  - A hydrochemistry draft report for GMAs 14, 15, and 16 is delayed until the end of 2013; and,
  - Staff are working on funding options for FY 2014 and 2015 GAM grants.

## Nonpoint Source Pollution

There was no discussion of this topic.

## National Groundwater Initiatives

There was no discussion of this topic.

## Drought Status

Cary Betz (TCEQ) referred TGPC members to the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor and TCEQ drought-affected Public Water Supply (PWS) Systems maps. Due to the federal shutdown, drought category percentages were not available for the October 8, 2013 state map, but drought conditions were forecast to persist or intensify for much of the state through December 2013. As of October 9, 2013, of the 4,655 active community water systems in Texas, 1,225 were affected by drought (either voluntary or mandatory), and 823 of these use groundwater (either exclusively or partially).

David Van Dresar (TAGD) reported that Wichita Falls was recently added to the 180-day list (i.e., TCEQ's "List of Texas PWSs Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages", <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/trot/droughtw.html>, which indicates that they could be out of water in 180 days or less), and 49 PWS systems in the state had restricted

all outdoor watering. Strategies for dealing with these situations include establishing new inter-connects, drilling new wells, tapping into stock ponds, and even trucking in water. David Van Dresar indicated that the state climatologist had recently forecast a 50/50 chance for rain over the winter.

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Rules Update

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

- 2013-058-331-WS – HB 1079: Class III UIC Area Permits;
- 2013-053-331-WS – SB 1532: Authorizing Certain Injection Wells in the Edwards Aquifer;
- 2013-043-290-OW – HB 2781: Rainwater Harvesting;
- 2013-020-PET-NR – Follow-up with COMM on Tarrant Regional Water District Petition;
- 2013-029-336-WS – Uranium Soil Concentration Standard;
- 2013-025-317-LS – Reproposal of 30 TAC Chapter 317: Design Criteria for Sewage Systems;
- 2012-040-217-OW – Amendments to 30 TAC Chapter 217: Design Criteria for Domestic Wastewater Systems;
- 2012-001-307-OW – Triennial Revision of 30 TAC Chapter 307, Texas Surface Water Quality Standards;
- 2009-034-311-OW – Water Quality Management within the Barton Creek and Onion Creek Watersheds; and,
- 2008-022-213-CE – Edwards Aquifer Amendment.

Additional information on a specific TCEQ rule can be found at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/whatsnew.html>.

### New Publications

Cary Betz (TCEQ) announced six TCEQ publications:

- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2012*, SFR-056/12 (July 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/sfr/056>;
- *After a Disaster: Is Your Drinking Water Safe?*, GI-431 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-431.html>;
- *Disinfecting Your Private Well*, GI-432 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-432.html>;
- *How to Sample Your Well Water and Understand the Results*, GI-433 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-433.html>;
- *Take Care of Texas*, GI-430 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-430.html>; and,

- *Public Drinking Water Systems: Responding to a Disaster*, RG-517b (September 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/rg/rg-517b.html>.

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) announced the publication of *Summary of Groundwater Conditions in Texas: Recent (2011-2012) and Historical Water-Level Changes in the TWDB Recorder Network*, Technical Note 13-02 (August 2013), [https://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/technical\\_notes/doc/TechnicalNote\\_13-02\\_GW\\_Recorder2012.pdf](https://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/technical_notes/doc/TechnicalNote_13-02_GW_Recorder2012.pdf).

#### Upcoming Conferences

Cary Betz (TCEQ) referred TGPC members to the conferences listed in the “2013 – 2014 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.php> under “Additional Resources”.

David Gunn (TDLR) left at 3:01 PM CDST and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

#### 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### 8. ADJOURN

Cary Betz (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:02 PM CDST.