

**TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE**  
**RECORD OF MEETING**  
 Third Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2015

Meeting Date: April 22, 2015  
 Meeting No.: 110

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
 Room: 2210

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**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Committee Members

Cary Betz

Larry French

Chris Moore

Emily Hall

David Villarreal

T.J. Helton

David Van Dresar

Kevin Wagner

Linda Ruiz McCall

Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

Department of State Health Services

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)

Agency Staff

Bill Carter

Alan Cherepon

Kathy Humphries

Peggy G. Hunka

Kathy McCormack

Marcia Workman

Janie Hopkins

Affiliation

TCEQ

TCEQ

TCEQ

TCEQ

TCEQ

TCEQ

TWDB

Program

Water Quality Planning Division

Water Availability Division

Environmental Law Division

Water Availability Division

Water Availability Division

Water Availability Division

Interested Parties

Kelly Davis

Pete George

Affiliation

Save Our Springs Alliance

Collier Consulting Inc.

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on April 22, 2015
2. Record for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on January 21, 2015
3. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting, February 3, 2015
4. TGPC Responsive Design Website
5. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Issue Subcommittee, Subcommittee Charge (TGPC members only)
6. Drought 2015 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas, April 14, 2015; Public Water Supply Systems Affected, April 15, 2015; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, April – July 2015; TCEQ List of Texas Public Water Systems (PWSs) Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages, April 17, 2015
7. TCEQ Rules Update, 4/21/2015
8. *Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in Texas: 2014 Annual Report*, SFR-066/14 (January 2015), [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/sfr/066-14.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/066-14.pdf)
9. 2015 Water-related Conferences in Texas, April 2015
10. TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair & Conference program
11. TGPC Counter at TCEQ ETF announcement (TGPC members only)

The following item was also on display on the handout table:

1. TGPC Public Information Act Policy

## **MEETING RECORD OF APRIL 22, 2015**

### **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 1:13 PM CDST. TGPC members then introduced themselves. The representative from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) was not present at the meeting, and the representatives from UTBEG and TAGD were not present at the beginning of the meeting.

Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) arrived at approximately 1:15 PM CDST and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

### **2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Groundwater Issues

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that the TGPC Groundwater Issues Subcommittee had its kickoff meeting that morning. Discussion items included:

- The organization of the Subcommittee;
- Continuing agenda items for major issues (e.g., agricultural chemicals, Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution, etc.);
- Task Forces for specific issues, studies, or programs;
- Current legislation (SB 1421 and HB 1635) concerning the TGPC Groundwater Classification System; and,
- Current groundwater quality issues (e.g., a recent Southern Methodist University (SMU) study investigating natural gas wells and earthquakes occurring near Azle, Texas).

One of the Groundwater Issues Subcommittee Co-Chairs approved by the Subcommittee was Kelly Mills (TCEQ). A minor revision to the Subcommittee Charge was scheduled to be discussed in the Business portion of the meeting.

David Van Dresar (TAGD) arrived at approximately 1:23 PM CDST and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

#### Agricultural Chemicals

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that the TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee had not met since the last TGPC meeting. Deactivation of this Subcommittee was scheduled to be discussed in the Business portion of the meeting.

## Data Management

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that the TGPC Data Management Subcommittee had not met since the last TGPC meeting. Deactivation of this Subcommittee was scheduled to be discussed in the Business portion of the meeting.

## Public Outreach and Education

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that the TGPC POE Subcommittee last met on February 3, 2015, nine state agencies and organizations were represented, and the current Outreach Events Status Report (available on the POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://tGPC.state.tx.us/tGPC-subcommittees/tGPC-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/>, under the “Additional Resources” heading) was reviewed:

- There had been three TGPC exhibits since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting on November 12, 2014.

Diane Boellstorff (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 4,910 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011. Diane Boellstorff also noted that they may work with Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) to offer some TWON educational outreach when water wells are plugged.

The Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC website for November 12, 2014 – January 29, 2015 was reviewed. The average website visit duration was less (1.8 vs. 2.4 minutes) and the average pages per visit was less (3.7 vs. 4.0) than what was reported at the last meeting. As usual, a spike of activity on the TGPC website occurred after the last TGPC meeting GovDelivery email notice. Desktop users accounted for 79 %, mobile users accounted for 14 %, and tablet users accounted for 7 % of the visits to the TGPC website. The top four browsers used to access the TGPC website were Chrome (34 %), Internet Explorer (32 %), Safari (19 %), and Firefox (12 %). It was also announced that the TGPC responsive design website launched on February 2, 2015.

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the warehouse inventory of printed AgriLife Extension publications used for TWON and TGPC outreach events. Since the status of the *Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas* (B-6120) update was unknown, the POE Subcommittee discussed using the reproduction allocation in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 TCEQ and AgriLife Extension POE Contract to print/reprint the following AgriLife Extension publications:

- *Texas Well Owner Network* trifold brochure (no number yet);
- *Plugging Abandoned Water Wells* (B-6238);
- *Hydraulic Fracturing and Your Private Water Well* (SC-012);
- *Shock Chlorination of Wells* (L-5441); and,
- *Well Owner's Guide to Water Supply* (B-6257).

Regarding the various actions discussed at the last meeting that could be taken to promote the four topics in the current *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan* (“Plan”,

[http://tgpc.state.tx.us/POE/TGPC\\_POE\\_GW\\_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf](http://tgpc.state.tx.us/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf)):

- Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported that she had contacted Kyle Wright (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Water Quality Specialist) to discuss training NRCS conservationists statewide regarding approaches for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-share for water well decommissioning (i.e., plugging) that have been utilized by Chris Janak (District Conservationist for the Hallettsville NRCS office). Kyle Wright plans to share a portion of Chris Janak’s training materials with other conservationists during NRCS regional training events. Cost-share availability should increase the number of decommissioned water wells.
- Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the POE Subcommittee’s interest in working with Industry Council on the Environment (ICE, <http://ice-texas.org/>) members regarding the topic of abandoned water wells (e.g., the Phase 1 Site Assessment process and whether abandoned water well training (identification, reporting, etc.) is needed for those involved, as well as how we may be able to share our messages on this topic with other key groups, such as real estate agencies). Deborah Loesch (ICE) invited Kathy McCormack to attend the next ICE monthly meeting on February 19, 2015 and to contact Dorothy Gurka (ICE Administrator) regarding a TGPC presentation at a future ICE monthly meeting.

Chris Moore (RRC) reviewed the draft *How Do I Convert an Abandoned Oil & Gas Well Into a Water Well ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) with POE Subcommittee members. After discussion and feedback, the FAQ was put on hold until the 1QFY2016 POE Subcommittee meeting pending the results of current legislative action.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) noted that enhancements included in the TGPC responsive design website were hyperlinked images to a larger format and an additional “bread crumb” navigational menu on the top of daughter pages. The TGPC home page URL of [www.tgpc.state.tx.us](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us) remains the same, but the URLs for all of the TGPC website’s daughter pages have changed. It was requested that TGPC members check their agency/organization websites for any links to TGPC daughter pages (e.g., the Water Wells webpage URL is now <http://tgpc.state.tx.us/water-wells/> instead of <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/WaterWells.php>) and update them accordingly.

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2015.

#### Groundwater Research

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that the TGPC Groundwater Research Subcommittee had not met since the last TGPC meeting. Deactivation of this Subcommittee was scheduled to be discussed in the Business portion of the meeting.

### 3. PRESENTATION

There was no scheduled presentation at the meeting. Cary Betz (TCEQ) indicated that he would request that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) provide a presentation at the next TGPC meeting.

### 4. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discuss and Approve Update of Groundwater Issues Subcommittee Charge, Including Chair/Co-Chair

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reviewed a minor revision to the TGPC Groundwater Issues Subcommittee Charge. The other proposed Groundwater Issues Subcommittee Co-Chair was Chris Moore (RRC). The responsibilities and focus areas of the TGPC Nonpoint Source Task Force and Agricultural Chemicals, Data Management, and Groundwater Research Subcommittees have been combined and incorporated into the new Groundwater Issues Subcommittee. David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Kevin Wagner (AgriLife Research) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved the updated Groundwater Issues Subcommittee Charge as amended at the meeting.

Deactivation of Nonpoint Source Task Force and Agricultural Chemicals, Data Management, and Groundwater Research Subcommittees

Kevin Wagner (ArgiLife Research) proposed, Chris Moore (RRC) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members approved deactivation of the Nonpoint Source Task Force and Agricultural Chemicals, Data Management, and Groundwater Research Subcommittees.

*Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* – Discussion of Final Report Text, Approval of Final Report, and Discussion of Timetable for Completion of Final Report and Delivery to the Legislature

Cary Betz (TCEQ) noted that this item would remain on the TGPC agenda until the TGPC Groundwater Issues Subcommittee completes its work on the Groundwater Classification System. At that time, it will be included in the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (“*Strategy*”) update and discussed in a future TGPC meeting. Cary Betz also requested that members notify him if another appropriate topic for the *Strategy* is identified.

Current Groundwater Issues

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting. In the future, items from the TGPC Groundwater Issues Subcommittee may be presented, discussed, and approved during this portion of the meeting.

## Set Future Meeting Date

The next TGPC quarterly meeting was scheduled for July 15, 2015, at 1:00 PM CDST.

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

### Groundwater Contamination Notice Coordination (Texas Water Code §26.408)

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) reported that the Impact Evaluation Team (IET) had met three times since the last TGPC meeting. The Odessa Groundwater Plume was reviewed on January 20, 2015, and 14 letters for that case were mailed on February 13, 2015. During the three meetings, four cases were reviewed resulting in 62 letters mailed to private drinking water well owners. Letters for the case reviewed on March 31, 2015 have not yet been mailed, but this will result in an additional nine well owners being notified. Chris Moore (RRC) requested that Cary Betz (TCEQ) make a presentation to his agency about the groundwater contamination notice process.

### Groundwater Management Areas

David Van Dresar (TAGD) reported that Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) were still in the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) planning process with Proposals to Adopt due by May 1, 2016.

### Regional Water Planning

Larry French (TWDB) reported that draft Regional Water Plans (RWPs) are due to TWDB by May 1, 2015, so Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) are currently adopting plans and setting public hearing dates. These meetings will mostly be held in June and July 2015, but vary by RWPG. At the April 10, 2015 meeting, the Board approved executing the fifth cycle RWP contracts, and their initial Statement of Work (SOW) will be population and demand projection revisions.

### Groundwater Availability Modeling

Larry French (TWDB) reported that 11 separate projects are underway (five in-house, and six contracted).

In-house projects:

- A new model for the Llano Uplift Aquifers (a collection of the minor aquifers Ellenburger-San Saba, Hickory, and Marble Falls) to be completed in 2015;
- A model for the eastern arm of the Capitan Reef Complex Aquifer to be completed in 2015;
- A model for the Blossom Aquifer;
- A model for the Gulf Coast Aquifer System in Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) 15 and 16; and,
- A model for the Marathon Aquifer.

The schedules for the latter three projects will be affected by the DFC and Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) processes and will be completed sometime after 2016.

Contracted projects:

- Delivery of the final draft educational videos to TWDB was scheduled for no later than June 30, 2015;
- A draft model report for the High Plains Aquifer System is complete and will be finalized by the end of 2015, in time for the GMAs to use as part of their joint planning effort;
- A draft conceptual model report for the Brazos River Alluvium model had been posted online for public comment (the comment period ended April 15, 2015). The next contract deliverable was March 31, 2016 for the draft model; and,
- At the Board meeting on April 29, 2015, three contracts for future models were scheduled to receive authorization to proceed:
  - A Lower Rio Grande Valley groundwater transport model;
  - Mapping fresh, brackish, and saline groundwater in the Queen City, Sparta, and Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifers (mainly in GMA 13); and,
  - The effect of faults on groundwater flow in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Central Texas (GMA 12) and model updates.

Nonpoint Source Pollution

T.J. Helton (TSSWCB) announced that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Act (CWA) §319(h) NPS pollution grant funding Request for Proposals (RFPs) for agricultural and silvicultural projects in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 would be open at the end of April 2015 and would be due to TSSWCB by June 30, 2015. Bill Carter (TCEQ) added that similar Request for Grant Applications (RFGAs) for urban and non-rural projects in FY 2016 would be open at the beginning of June 2015 and would be due to TCEQ by July 31, 2015. Assistance is available for those interested in submitting a RFP.

Chris Moore (RRC) indicated that he would report on their NPS activities at the next TGPC meeting.

National Groundwater Initiatives

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that:

- A good summary of the National Groundwater Monitoring Network was presented at the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) annual Groundwater Summit in San Antonio on March 16 – 18, 2015;
- Funding is still available for participation in this network; and,
- The U.S. Department of the Interior Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) Subcommittee on Ground Water (SOGW, <http://acwi.gov/sogw/>) is working on outreach, public water supply well security, and data integrity.

## Drought Status

Cary Betz (TCEQ) referred TGPC members to the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor and TCEQ drought-affected Public Water Systems (PWSs) maps, as well as the TCEQ List of PWSs Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages (aka, the “180-day list”). As of April 14, 2015, 47 % of the state was in one of the five drought categories (down from 60 % at the last meeting), and drought conditions were forecast to persist or intensify only in the north central portion of the state through July 2015. As of April 15, 2015, of the 4,636 active community water systems in Texas, 1,168 were affected by drought (either voluntary or mandatory), and 775 of these use groundwater (either exclusively or partially). As of April 17, 2015, 56 PWSs in the state could be out of water in 180 days or less (down from 58 at the last TGPC meeting).

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Rules Update

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

- 2013-057-291-OW – HB 1600 and SB 567: PUC Transfer;
- 2013-025-317-LS – Reproposal of Chapter 317: Design Criteria;
- 2012-040-217-OW – Amendment to Chapter 217: Design Criteria;
- 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 one TCEQ publication:

- *Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in Texas: 2014 Annual Report*, SFR-066/14 (January 2015), [http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/sfr/066-14.pdf](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/066-14.pdf).

Cary Betz (TCEQ) also noted that publication of the TGPC’s annual *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report* (SFR-056) was delayed due to a TCEQ program area.

### Upcoming Conferences

Cary Betz (TCEQ) referred TGPC members to the conferences listed in the “2015 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout – the current version of this handout is always available on the TGPC’s POE Subcommittee webpage at <http://tgpc.state.tx.us/tgpc->

[subcommittees/tgpc-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/](#) under the “Additional Resources” heading.

Cary Betz (TCEQ) also announced that the TGPC would again be sponsoring an exhibit counter in the TCEQ Water kiosk at the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair on May 5 – 6, 2015, and he requested TGPC member assistance with staffing this annual outreach effort.

#### 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### 8. ADJOURN

Cary Betz (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:40 PM CDST.