

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
 Fourth Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2008

Meeting Date: July 30, 2008
 Meeting No.: 78

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
 Room: 2210

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Cary Betz

Robert Mace

Bill Renfro

Ken Ofunrein

Richard Eyster

Donna Long

David Van Dresar

C. Allan Jones

Bridget Scanlon

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 AgriLife Research (TAR)

University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG)

Agency Staff

Abiy Berehe

Mike Chadwick

Alan Cherepon

Chuck Dvorsky

Kathy McCormack

Kelly Mills

Joe Peters

Scott Swanson

David Villarreal

Brenner Brown

Janie Hopkins

Ann Ardis

Affiliation

TCEQ

TCEQ

TCEQ

TCEQ

TCEQ

TCEQ

TCEQ

TCEQ

TDA

TWDB

TWDB

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Program

Water Supply Division

Water Supply Division

Water Supply Division

Monitoring Operations Division

Water Supply Division

Water Supply Division

Water Supply Division

Water Supply Division

Interested Parties

Elizabeth Hurst

Mark Pearson

Affiliation

Gardere Wynne Sewell LLC

Community Resource Group (CRG) – Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on July 30, 2008
2. Record for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on April 9, 2008
3. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting on April 17, 2008 and June 11, 2008
4. Draft Recommendations to the 81st Texas Legislature (TGPC members only)
5. Model Ethics Policy for Texas State Agencies
6. Draft Texas Groundwater Protection Committee's Ethics Policy
7. Palmer Drought Severity Index by Texas Climatic Divisions as of July 19, 2008
8. U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of July 22, 2008
9. Drought 2008 – Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of July 1, 2008
10. TCEQ Rule Projects
11. *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2007*
(http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/sfr/056_07_index.html, TGPC members only)
12. 2008 Water-related Conferences in Texas
13. TGPC refrigerator magnets

MEETING RECORD OF JULY 30, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cary Betz (TCEQ), Designated Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), called the meeting to order at approximately 1:08 PM CST and then TGPC members introduced themselves.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Agricultural Chemicals

Joe Peters (TCEQ) reported that the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee met for their Fiscal Year 2008 Fourth Quarter meeting that morning.

For the Site Selection Task Force, Janie Hopkins (TWDB) reported that they have sampled approximately 400 – 450 wells in the Ogallala, Edwards Trinity, Dockum, Marble Falls, and other aquifers. In many places, the samples were also analyzed for radionuclides. Al Cherepon (TCEQ) also reported that 202 samples were received from TWDB for immunoassay (IA) screening for atrazine.

For the Educational Task Force, Bruce Lesikar (Texas AgriLife Extension Service) reported that a trifold brochure introducing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the prevention of pesticide contamination of groundwater has been completed. Final efforts were made by the Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee to complete the trifold brochure.

Patty Ging (USGS) gave a presentation on National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program Pesticide Monitoring in Texas Surface Water. The study is in its second stage dealing primarily with trends in water quality. Five pesticides are being monitored: metolachlor, cyanazine, clorpyrifos, diazinon, and atrazine. The study is currently in-progress and preliminary results were presented.

Two Business Items were discussed:

- Al Cherepon (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the Pesticide Management Plan Task Force, reported on their last meeting. The major topic of discussion at the meeting was the development of a flow diagram showing the procedure to be used by Texas in developing lists of Pesticides of Interest (POI) and Pesticides of Concern (POC). The flow diagram was in an advanced state of development and only a few improvements were made.
- Proposed changes in text for the next TGPC Report to the Legislature were handed out to the Subcommittee members for review and some useful comments were received.

During the Information Exchange portion of the meeting, Al Cherepon (TCEQ) provided information on TCEQ's urban monitoring activities conducted between April 14, 2008

and May 22, 2008 in metropolitan areas of Austin, San Antonio, and Houston. 150 samples were screened by IA for atrazine, 2,4-D, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and organophosphate/carbamate from 109 wells, 21 springs, and a few Public Water Supply (PWS) systems. Laboratory analysis was also performed on a subset of samples – in addition to the usual United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Method 525 constituents, which include propazine and prometon, U.S. EPA Methods 515 and 622 were used to analyze for 2,4-D, dicamba, picloram, azinphos-methyl, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion.

Data Management

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that the Data Management Subcommittee had not met since the last TGPC meeting. The Data Management Subcommittee is still waiting on direction from TCEQ's management in order to better define the draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* update.

Public Outreach and Education

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that seven agencies and organizations were represented at the POE Subcommittee meeting on April 17, 2008, and six were represented at the meeting on June 11, 2008.

One Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) titled "Water in Texas – Who Owns It?" was approved at the April 17, 2008 meeting and subsequently posted on the TGPC website (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/FAQs.htm>). Additional FAQs on the following topics are in various stages of revision:

- How is Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater Prevented in Urban Areas ?
- What Did TCEQ's Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater ?
- Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells and Water Quality
 - What is an Underground Injection Well ?
 - How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated ?
 - How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Regulated to Protect Water Quality ?
 - 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 ?
 - How are Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Wells Monitored to Ensure That They are not Leaking ?
- What is a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?
- How Do You Form a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) ?
- What is a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) ?
- What is the State Water Plan ?
- What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) ?
- What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) ?
- What is the Status of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Process ?
- What Does It Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities ?
- What is a Groundwater Management Area (GMA) ?

Reprinting of the following Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES) Fact Sheets (available at <http://agrilifebookstore.org/>) is complete:

- Protecting the Environment Using Integrated Weed Management in Lawns (L-5324)
- Drinking Water Problems – Nitrates (B-6184)
- Understanding and Maintaining your Septic System (L-5491)
- Graywater (B-6176)

Two Drinking Water Fact Sheets (MTBE and Benzene) were revised and provided to the POE Subcommittee for review at the April 17, 2008 meeting, and a trifold brochure titled “Keep Pesticides Out of Texas Water Supplies – Best Management Practices to Prevent Pesticide Contamination” was discussed extensively at both meetings. Consensus on the final wording of the MTBE Fact Sheet and trifold brochure, expressing the POE Subcommittee’s educational intent of both documents agreed upon during the meetings, was reached via email after the June 11, 2008 meeting, and these two documents entered the final steps of the TAES publication process in July 2008.

The status report on recent and upcoming outreach events (http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/WellScreening_Closure_TGPCboothEvents21Feb2008.pdf) was reviewed:

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
 - Four since the POE Subcommittee meeting on February 21, 2008 (333 samples)
 - Three planned through August 2008
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - One since the POE Subcommittee meeting on February 21, 2008 (19 attendees)
 - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
 - Two since the POE Subcommittee meeting on February 21, 2008 (1,476 attendees)
 - One planned through August 2008

TGPC website activity metrics since the POE Subcommittee meeting on February 21, 2008 were reviewed:

Timeframe	Unique Visitors	Average Visitors/day	Page Views	File Downloads
11Jul2007 – 25Sep2007 76 days	5,233	69	9,078	262 .pdf files 7,226 times
26Sep2007 – 16Dec2007 82 days	5,367	65	12,583	290 .pdf files 5,631 times
17Dec2007 – 19Feb2008 64 days	3,980	62	10,433	427 .pdf files 4,249 times
20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008 56 days	5,007	89	11,827	422 .pdf files 5,561 times
17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008 52 days	4,575	88	11,096	458 .pdf files 6,136 times

Combining the two most recent time periods (20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008 and 17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008):

- Twenty six days had over 100 Unique Visitors with a high of 182 Unique Visitors on April 2, 2008
 - The GovDelivery email notice for the April 9, 2008 TGPC and Legislative Report, Agricultural Chemicals, and Groundwater Research Subcommittee meetings was sent out on April 2, 2008.
- Nine days had over 300 Page Views with a high of 474 Page Views on April 2, 2008.
- The Top 5 pages viewed were:
 - Home Page
 - Meetings
 - Water Wells
 - Contamination
 - Groundwater Information (20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008) and Members – TDLR (17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008)
- The Top 5 .pdf files downloaded were:
 - National Groundwater Awareness Week 2008
 - 1st, 20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008
 - 4th, 17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008
 - TAES publication L-5342, On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems
 - 2nd, 20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008
 - 1st, 17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008
 - Seymour Aquifer Water Quality White Paper
 - 3rd, 20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008
 - 2nd, 17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008
 - Brackish Water and Desalination Reject Water Disposal White Paper
 - 4th, 20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008
 - 3rd, 17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008
 - April 9, 2008 TGPC Agenda (20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008) and Municipal Setting Designation FAQ (17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008)
- Google had the highest percentage of referrals to the TGPC website with 67 % during 20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008 and 74 % during 17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008.
 - Yahoo referrals were 11 % during 20Feb2008 – 16Apr2008 and 9 % during 17Apr2008 – 08Jun2008.
- Top Google and Yahoo key phrases included:
 - water well; water wells; texas water wells
 - groundwater contamination; ground water contamination
 - texas department of licensing and regulation
 - texas septic systems; septic systems texas
 - leaching chambers
 - texas water well database
 - texas railroad commission oil and gas
 - texas water well reports

A survey was made of links to the TGPC website on TGPC member agency websites (see the TGPC POE Subcommittee *Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy*,

http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan_Impl_St_rar03Oct2007.pdf, Issue E, Specific Activity 8). Survey results varied:

- A link to the TGPC website was not found on some of the TGPC member agency websites (RRC, Department of State Health Services, TDA, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, and TDLR);
- A link to the TGPC website was found on some of the TGPC member agency websites (TCEQ, Texas Water Development Board, and TSSWCB), but it was not the *first* website search result; and,
- A link to the TGPC website was found as the first website search result on one TGPC member agency website (Texas ArgiLife Research).

For TGPC member agency websites that did not have a link to the TGPC website, several webpages were presented where a link to the TGPC website may be appropriate. For TGPC member agency websites that needed to improve their TGPC link search results, several webmaster techniques related to the use of metadata keywords were suggested. This survey will be performed again before the next POE Subcommittee meeting.

The next POE Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2008.

Groundwater Research

Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) reported that the Groundwater Research Subcommittee met that morning and discussed a number of research proposals for the Nonpoint Source (NPS) program at TCEQ – several are related to pathogens in the Edwards and Brazos Alluvium Aquifers, one addresses atrazine near the airport in Lubbock, and another involves arsenic in Jim Hogg County.

The Groundwater Research Subcommittee had two suggestions for TWDB's research priorities and its call for ideas: 1) adding water quality to the Groundwater Availability Modeling (GAM) program so that water quality parameters (e.g., salinity) which are being addressed in the Water Availability Model (WAM) program can be linked together between the two programs, and 2) groundwater and surface water interactions.

The Groundwater Research Subcommittee noted that naturally-occurring and anthropogenic contaminant issues in privately-owned water wells are not addressed by any program and funding (for education, mitigation, etc.) is needed in this area.

C. Allan Jones (TAR) also reported that some members of the Groundwater Research Subcommittee met with TCEQ NPS program staff and discussed potential projects.

Legislative Report

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that the Legislative Report Subcommittee met on June 3, 2008 and July 22, 2008 and TGPC Recommendations were reviewed and edited (see Section 4, below). Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) will be compiling the TGPC Legislative Report again, similar to the last edition of the document.

Donna Long (TSSWCB) arrived after the Legislative Report Subcommittee report and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

3. PRESENTATION

Continuous Automated Groundwater Monitoring

Chuck Dvorsky (TCEQ) gave a presentation on groundwater applications for continuous water quality monitoring:

- Seven stations in the South Texas Groundwater Alliance (operated, maintained, and validated by the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District (GCD)) monitor water temperature, specific conductance, depth to water, soil temperature/moisture/salinity/conductivity, wind direction/speed, air temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, precipitation, and solar radiation – its objective is to collect data to evaluate and estimate recharge, discharge, movement, and storage values.
- At Jacob’s Well in Wimberley, one station (operated by USGS for TCEQ under a cooperative agreement) monitors water temperature, precipitation, stream velocity/stage/instantaneous flow, specific conductance, and turbidity – its objective is to collect data to evaluate the impact of Wimberley’s expanding population on the water flow and water quality of Jacob’s Well and Cypress Creek.
- Improvements or additional stations are planned at:
 - Antioch Cave on Onion Creek – one station (operated, maintained and validated by Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District under a Clean Water Act (CWA) 319(h) grant) monitor specific conductance, temperature, turbidity, flow (into Antioch Cave), and gage height – its objective is to continuously monitor surface water quality and use that data to activate a valve system which would exclude the first flush of rainfall runoff from the Edwards Aquifer.
 - Hollywood Park Sinkhole on Salado Creek – one station (operated, maintained, and validated by Edwards Aquifer Authority under a CWA 319(h) grant) similar to the station at Antioch Cave on Onion Creek.
 - Cow Creek GCD in Kendall County – six wells are monitoring depth to water and specific conductance. A pilot project with stations installed by TCEQ, operated and maintained by Cow Creek GCD, and validated by the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, will collect high density water level data for use by Cow Creek GCD in managing pumping during drought conditions.

4. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy – Continue Discussion of the Update

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that he is still waiting for input on the draft *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* update from RRC and TCEQ.

Report to the Legislature – Progress Report, Discussion of Draft Recommendations Developed by the Legislative Report Subcommittee, Discussion of Draft Recommendations from the Committee Members and Subcommittee Chairs, and Discussion of Final Report and Recommendation Approval Process to be used at the Next Committee Meeting

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported on the status of the TGPC’s draft 81st Legislative Report (“*Report*”) and requested approval of the draft TGPC Legislative Recommendations developed by the Legislative Report Subcommittee. Agency approval of the *Report* will be pursued in September 2008. The general TGPC Legislative Recommendation categories, specific titles, and final voting decisions are listed below.

STRENGTHEN GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION EFFORTS

Fund Brush-Control Projects to Increase Groundwater Yield

C. Allan Jones (TAR) proposed, Donna Long (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include the edited version of this Legislative Recommendation in the next edition of the *Report*.

Cary Betz (TCEQ) added a caveat to publishing this report. During the 80th Legislature, Rider 35 of TCEQ’s general appropriation was added, requiring a report evaluating the effectiveness of the TSSWCB brush control programs. This evaluation is being undertaken by Texas Tech University, and the report is anticipated in mid-September. Depending upon the findings of this report, TCEQ reserves the right to amend or delete this recommendation.

Encourage On-Farm Agricultural Best Management Practice Incentives through Creation of a Water Conservation Plan Program

David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include this Legislative Recommendation with revised cost figures in the next edition of the *Report*.

Protect Groundwater Quality through Education Programs

Robert Mace (TWDB) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include this Legislative Recommendation in the next edition of the *Report*.

Develop Education and Training Programs for Groundwater District Management

David Van Dresar (TAGD) proposed, Robert Mace (TWDB) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include this Legislative Recommendation in the next edition of the *Report*.

Establish an Abandoned Water Well-Plugging Fund and Education Program

The TGPC agreed to table this Legislative Recommendation for now. David Van Dresar (TAGD) agreed to poll TAGD members for the costs of their well plugging programs by August 8, 2008.

Continue to Support the Texas High Plains Evapotranspiration Network

Richard Eyster (TDA) proposed, Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include this Legislative Recommendation in the next edition of the *Report*.

ADVANCE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION THROUGH ENHANCED DATA COLLECTION AND AVAILABILITY

Expand the Statewide Real-Time Groundwater-Level Monitoring System

C. Allan Jones (TAR) proposed, David Van Dresar (TAGD) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include the edited version of this Legislative Recommendation in the next edition of the *Report*. Robert Mace (TWDB) indicated that this Legislative Recommendation is also a TWDB Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) exceptional item.

Improve the State's Groundwater Database

Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG) proposed, Ken Ofunrein (DSHS) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include this Legislative Recommendation in a special long-range planning section in the next edition of the *Report*.

Evaluate Effects of Concentrate and Residual Injection

C. Allan Jones (TAR) proposed, Richard Eyster (TDA) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include this Legislative Recommendation in a special long-range planning section in the next edition of the *Report*.

SUPPORT GROUNDWATER RESEARCH

Evaluate Impact of Dryland Agriculture on Groundwater Resources in the Texas High Plains Aquifer

Robert Mace (TWDB) proposed, C. Allan Jones (TAR) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include the edited version of this Legislative Recommendation in the next edition of the *Report*. C. Allan Jones indicated that TAR and UTBEG will be doing this study.

Study the Impact of Irrigation on Groundwater Resources in the High Plains Aquifer

C. Allan Jones (TAR) proposed, Robert Mace (TWDB) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include the edited version of this Legislative Recommendation in the next edition of the *Report*. C. Allan Jones indicated that TAR and UTBEG will be doing this study which complements some TWDB and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) projects.

Acquire and Analyze Brackish Groundwater Data

C. Allan Jones (TAR) proposed, Donna Long (TSSWCB) seconded, and all remaining TGPC members agreed to include this Legislative Recommendation in the next edition of the *Report*. Robert Mace (TWDB) indicated that this Legislative Recommendation is also a TWDB Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) exceptional item.

At the end of this discussion, C. Allan Jones (TAR) indicated that they need to edit all of their Legislative Recommendations slightly in order to bring them into alignment with current TAR/TAES LARs. Cary Betz (TCEQ) also announced that draft wording for another TGPC Legislative Recommendation regarding Carbon Dioxide Sequestration will be prepared within the next three weeks for the special long-range planning section, and that this Legislative Recommendation will be ready for TGPC agency review in September.

Ethics Policy

John Williams (TCEQ), the TGPC's Legal Advisor, had provided a final draft of the TGPC Ethics Policy but was not able to attend the meeting. The TGPC reviewed the final draft and had a wording change suggestion. Cary Betz (TCEQ) will forward this information to John Williams, and this item will be presented for approval at the next TGPC meeting.

Set Future Meeting Dates

The next TGPC quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2008 at 1:00 PM CDT.

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

Water Quality Inventory (305(b)) Report – TCEQ

Abiy Berehe (TCEQ) reported that the groundwater portion of the Water Quality Inventory (305(b)) Report is complete and available via a link on the TGPC homepage (http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/compliance/monops/water/08twqi/08twqi_grounderwater.pdf). C. Allan Jones (TAR) requested access to the database supporting this report.

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

Mike Chadwick (TCEQ) reported that TCEQ had received notice of 11 new groundwater contamination cases during the last quarter and notice of one additional case was received from RRC. Sixty six letters were mailed to the parties affected by the 11 new cases and eight letters were mailed concerning the RRC case.

Groundwater Management Areas – TWDB, TAGD

Robert Mace (TWDB) reported that several Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) will be completing their Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) by the end of 2008 in order to provide input to the next round of Regional Water Plans. GMA 8 has submitted DFCs for six of their seven aquifers and they are close to having official Managed Available Groundwater data. GMA 1 has almost completed their DFCs, and TWDB is working closely with GMAs 9, 13, 15 and 16.

Regional Water Planning – TWDB

Robert Mace (TWDB) reported that they are in the early stages of the next round of regional water planning and TWDB is reviewing proposed projects and work plans. The target date for finalizing contracts is the end of 2008. Robert Mace also announced that a Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2008 in Amarillo, Texas where GMAs, DFCs, Groundwater Availability Modeling (GAM), and brackish groundwater would be discussed.

Groundwater Availability Modeling – TWDB

There was no discussion of this subject.

Nonpoint Source Pollution – All Agencies

Donna Long (TSSWCB) reported for Lauren Bilbe (TCEQ) that TCEQ welcomes applications for their 2009 319(h) U.S. EPA NPS grant, and that NPS groundwater quality improvement projects would be considered for funding. Donna Long also

indicated that the TCEQ and TSSWCB NPS teams are beginning the once-every-five-years Texas NPS Management Plan revision with a completion target date of 2010.

National Groundwater Initiatives – All Agencies

Cary Betz (TCEQ) reported that there had not been much change since the last TGPC meeting. The federal government is moving forward with efforts to develop a strategy related to national groundwater management which involves quality and quantity. Texas continues to oppose any federal effort to manage groundwater, believing that local GCDs are the way to manage groundwater. The Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC, http://www.gwpc.org/home/GWPC_Home.dwt) was meeting that day to discuss, and lobby for, this national groundwater strategy. Nevada has withdrawn from GWPC over this issue.

Cary Betz (TCEQ) also reported that the U.S. Department of the Interior's Advisory Committee on Water Information (<http://acwi.gov/>) Groundwater Subcommittee (<http://acwi.gov/sogw/index.html>) has been working on a national groundwater monitoring framework document which may be in draft form by November 2008. The focus has shifted from water quality to water level measurements. This program would be administered by USGS at the national level.

Drought Status – All Agencies

Scott Swanson (TCEQ) reported that he had spoken with TAGD that morning about Drought Contingency Plans. Scott Swanson noted that GCDs working on Drought Contingency Plans should consult with TCEQ in order to assure that organizational rules aren't in conflict and to avoid confusion in the regulated community.

C. Allan Jones (TAR) reported that the Texas Weather Connection (<http://webgis.tamu.edu/>) has interactive maps with more detail than the Palmer Drought Severity Index map. These maps are often used by fire officials and County Commissioners.

David Van Dresar (TAGD) reported that five GCDs had implemented some stage of their Drought Contingency Plans.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rules Update

Cary Betz (TCEQ) distributed a summary of current TCEQ rulemaking that was of interest to the TGPC:

- Dams and Reservoirs
- Reclaimed Water Production Facilities Rule
- HB 3/ SB 3: Environmental Flow Standards

- SB3, HB 4, HB 1391: Standards for Harvested Rainwater and Public Safety Standards – Cary Betz agreed to provide the contact information regarding this rule to Ken Ofunrein (DSHS).
- HB 2541: MSW Recycling Facilities In Certain Counties
- HB 1956: PST Financial Assurance
- HB 2714: Computer Equipment Recycling Program
- SB 1037: Evaporation Pits
- HB 2482: Onsite Sewage Facilities
- HB 3838, SB 1604: Phase 2 of Implementation of Radioactive Material Disposal and Source Material Recovery Requirements
- HB 4, HB 1656, SB 3: Landscape Irrigation
- Hazardous Household Waste Rules Revisions
- Texas Surface Water Quality Standards – Cary Betz noted that there may be some watershed rule changes related to the Edwards Aquifer recharge and contributing zones.
- Repeal of 30 TAC Ch 317 and Proposal of 30 TAC Ch 217, Design Criteria for Sewerage Systems

Cary Betz (TCEQ) also pointed out, at the bottom of the handout, a summary of the Injection Well rule that was adopted and effective July 10, 2008. This was one of the previous TGPC Legislative Recommendations.

Robert Mace (TWDB) noted TCEQ’s recently adopted rule related to groundwater availability and platting – if a county or city requires a developer to provide information on their groundwater resources through groundwater availability platting, the developer is also required to submit that report to TWDB and the appropriate GCD.

Additional information on a specific rule can be found at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/rules/propose_adapt.html.

New Publications

Cary Betz (TGPC) reported that the *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2007* has been published and will be available on the TCEQ website (http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/sfr/056_07_index.html) with a link on the TGPC website, as well. Abiy Berehe (TCEQ) can supply hard copies of the document, as requested.

Upcoming Conferences

Details on upcoming conferences were listed in the “2008 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

Cary Betz (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:31 PM CST.