

**TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE**  
**RECORD OF MEETING**  
**First Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2000**

Meeting Date: November 4, 1999  
Meeting No.: 41

Place: TNRCC, Building B  
Room: 201A

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

TGPC Members	Affiliation
Mary Ambrose	TNRCC
Richard Ginn	RCT
Janie Hopkins	TWDB
Wayne Jordan	TAES
James Moore	TSSWCB
Donnie Dippel	TDA
Barry Miller	TAGD
Steve Wiley	TDLR
John Jacobi	TDH

Bureau of Economic Geology - Alan Dutton absent

Agency Staff	Affiliation	Program
Cary Betz	TNRCC	Technical Analysis
Craig Caldwell	TNRCC	Water Permits and Resource Management Division
Alan Cherepon	TNRCC	Technical Analysis Division
Sally Gutierrez	TNRCC	Strategic Assessment Division
Kelly Mills	TNRCC	Technical Analysis Division
Steve Musick	TNRCC	Technical Analysis Division
Jim Thomas	TNRCC	Technical Analysis Division
Thomas Weber	TNRCC	Technical Analysis Division
Debbie Danford	TDA	
Ambrose Charles	TDA	
Jeanette O'Hare	TDA	
Charlie Upchurch	TDA	
Monty Dozier	TAEX-NRCS	

Interested Parties	Affiliation
Jim O'Connor	SAWS
Chris Thibodaux	BS/EACD
Ann Ardis	USGS
Lloyd Woosley	USGS

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda
2. Record of Meeting - Fourth Quarter Meeting, August 12, 1999
3. TNRCC Rules Tracking Log

### MEETING RECORD OF NOVEMBER 4, 1999

#### **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Mary Ambrose, Designated Chairman of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), called the FY2000, First Quarter Meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The representative from BEG was unable to attend. Janey Hopkins represented the TWDB.

#### **II. Subcommittee Reports -**

##### **Agricultural Chemicals**

Ms. Ambrose asked Steve Musick, TNRCC, to give a report on the Agricultural Chemical Subcommittee's activities. Mr. Musick said that the Agricultural Chemical Subcommittee met this morning, November 4, 1999, for its first quarter meeting. The Subcommittee heard Task Force Reports including the atrazine groundwater monitoring plan for FY 2000, the status of the latest negotiations with EPA on the state's Generic SMP and the final report on the contamination response for the City of Friona water wells. The FY 2000 sampling plan was discussed and accepted by the Subcommittee and will focus on the High Plains (Ogalalla Fm) aquifer where public water supply wells detections of atrazine have occurred in five cities. Negotiations with EPA Region 6 Pesticides staff have been completed and a response to their concerns has been prepared for submittal by the ACS. The final report of the Data Evaluation Task Force was discussed and accepted by the Subcommittee. The report concluded that detections of atrazine were most likely due to point sources within the city of Friona related to use and management of pesticides. Recommendations for followup actions, continued monitoring and education were included.

Members heard a presentation from the U.S. Geological Survey in Austin on the results of their pesticide sampling for both the Trinity Basin and South-Central Texas NAWQA projects. The members were updated on public water supply well atrazine detections in the Texas Panhandle. The members also discussed an evaluation of the Friona response to contamination and improvements to the process for future application.

##### **Data Management**

Cary Betz reported that the Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report for 1998 was in the print process, with an anticipated delivery of early December. The

process for soliciting information from participating entities will begin in late December for the 1999 report. Preparations for the 2000 Water Quality Inventory Report were underway, but no specifics were available at this time.

### **Non-Point Source**

James Moore, representative of the TSSWCB spoke for Beade Northcut, Chair of the NPS Subcommittee, reporting no activity during the quarter.

### **Abandoned Water Well Closure Task Force**

Craig Caldwell, TNRCC, reporting for Bruce Lesikar, Chair, reported that the Task Force had not met during the quarter, but work on the Abandoned Well Closure Video was substantially complete, and a preview of the video is scheduled for later in the meeting. Ms. Ambrose indicated that she would be discussing remaining duties of this task force with Bruce Lesikar, chair.

## **III. Presentation**

South-Central Texas NAWQA -

Ann Ardis, Hydrologist with the USGS in Austin, presented an update on the South-Central Texas study for the National Water Quality Assessment

The Edwards Aquifer in the San Antonio area is the major water resource in south-central Texas. This highly productive carbonate aquifer, designated as a sole-source aquifer by the EPA in 1975, is the principal water supply for more than 1.5 million people. The sole-source designation serves as official recognition that contamination of the aquifer would create a significant hazard to public health. The unconfined, highly permeable recharge zone of the aquifer is very susceptible to contamination from human activities associated with rapidly increasing population growth and urban development there. Streams and the Trinity aquifer in the "catchment area" north and west of the recharge zone, a largely undeveloped area where the water that enters the aquifer in the recharge zone originates, also are susceptible to contamination associated with encroaching development. In addition, the needs for water supply from the Edwards aquifer are in direct competition with the habitat needs for five federally listed endangered or threatened species associated with Comal and San Marcos Springs, the principal natural discharge features of the Edwards Aquifer.

The objective is to describe the status of and, where possible, trends in the chemical and biological constituents of streams and the Edwards and Trinity aquifers in the upper part of the the upper parts of the Nueces, San Antonio, and Guadalupe River Basins; and to provide a sound scientific understanding of the primary natural and human factors (particularly land use) affecting those constituents. While the whole study unit comprises

the entire Nueces, San Antonio, and Guadalupe River Basins; however, the initial High Intensity Phase of the study (1994-2000) focuses only on the upper parts of those basins.

The procedure is to gather and analyze the existing information on the chemical and biological constituents of streams and the Edwards and Trinity aquifers. Sample and analyze the surface water, streambed sediment, and tissues associated with different land uses, and ground water in the Edwards and Trinity aquifers. The surface-water, sediment, and biological sampling will be done during different seasons and under different flow conditions to better understand seasonal and flow effects on stream quality. Synoptic ground-water sampling will be done in the Edwards and Trinity aquifers to assess overall quality, and in the recharge zone of the Edwards aquifer, to assess the relation between ground-water quality and urbanization.

#### **IV. Business - Discussion & Possible Action**

Update on CSGWPP process:

Steve Musick was requested to update the status of the Comprehensive State Groundwater Protection Program Process. Mr. Musick reported the funding of a contract with BEG to develop supporting data for the core program assessment. The BEG looked at EPA's CSGWPP guidance and evaluated the Petroleum Storage Tank program of the TNRCC. A draft core assessment document was presented to TNRCC prior to August 31, 1999, and is currently under staff evaluation. It will be presented to committee at later date.

Next meeting date:

Thursday, February 10, 1:00 p.m.

#### **V. Information Exchange for Groundwater Related Activities/Status Update**

Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report is in the Publication Process - 1 month out. Chair will set up meeting for mid-November to discuss problems in getting the Joint Report ready for 1998, to see if we can do something to expedite for 1999.

EPA Groundwater report to Congress under the Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1429 - summaries of state groundwater programs are to be included as an appendix. Final version of EPA report not yet available.

PGMA update - TNRCC. Steve Musick, TNRCC, provided an update on PGMA program activity:

Five update PGMA study areas are to be reviewed to determine if there have been any significant changes that would warrant a change in the designation status. Mr. Musick reported that the TPWD had submitted reports for all five update study areas and the TWDB had submitted reports for four of the five areas.

TNRCC-initiated activities are ongoing in Upton and Midland counties in the Reagan, Upton, and Midland County PGMA. The TNRCC will review the groundwater management options that are available for the PGMA area in Upton and Midland counties and prepare a report. The report will be distributed and discussed at a public meeting for more stakeholder input at a public meeting. The public meeting has not been scheduled at this time.

Mr. Musick also reported that there had been several petitions to the TNRCC to expand the Hill Country PGMA to include the portion of northern Bexar County overlying the Trinity aquifer. He reported that the TNRCC was currently working on the PGMA report and recommendations. TWDB, TPWD, and TAEX have assisted in the project.

Abandoned water well closure video update - A second draft of abandoned well closure video was unveiled. Video still has a "couple of holes" relative to plugging with bentonite slurry. The video was shown and comments were given by the committee.

## **VI. Announcements**

TNRCC rules update - Class V, shallow injection well rule update, going through internal sign-off, ready to take to the Commission for approval to publish by 15 December. Chapter 230 Rules for platting subdivisions, including adequate groundwater certification, have been developed with input by advisory groups. Public notification of sewage spills bill ready for publication. Working on minor revisions and quadrennial review for Chapter 294 rules related to Underground Water Management Areas.

Interim Committee - Senate Natural Resources announced a schedule of hearings to consider a number of different charges, including groundwater management and conservation district issues.

TNRCC, TAGD and TWDB worked together to provide a revision to the Districts Operation Manual. Written document and CD ROM are both available, and have been distributed to Agriculture Extension Service.

National Water Quality Monitoring Council meeting in April 2000, Austin, Texas.

EPA's Underground Injection Class V final rule publication planned before end of calendar year.

SFIREG - joint meeting next week.

Water Well Driller's and Pump Installer's fee have been raised.

TDH has assumed determination of, and reporting to the TWDB on impacts to public water supplies from sewage systems, under the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP). These reports are necessary to demonstrate a need exists that will allow funding under EDAP for improvements to systems.

TNRCC Organizational Structure - handout included. Agency has been restructured along functional lines, including establishment of Offices of Permitting, Remediation and Registration (OPRR), Compliance and Enforcement (OCE), and Environmental Policy, Analysis and Assessment (OEPAA). Support for the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee is now under OEPAA, Technical Analysis Division.

**VII. Public Comment**

Lloyd Woosley, USGS, introduced name of Eric Strom as a newly hired groundwater resource person for USGS.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Chair Mary Ambrose adjourned meeting at approximately 3:00 p.m., CST.

Respectfully submitted,