

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

Meeting Date: February 10, 2000
Meeting No.: 42

Place: TNRCC, Building F
Room: 2210

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING ATTENDANCE	2
MEETING HANDOUTS	3
MEETING RECORD OF FEBRUARY 10, 2000	3
I. Call to Order and Introductions	3
II. Subcommittee Reports -	3
Agricultural Chemicals	3
Data Management	4
Nonpoint Source	4
Water Well Closure	4
III. Presentation	4
Groundwater Availability Modeling for Texas- TWDB	
Groundwater Linkages to Water Availability Modeling - TNRCC	
IV. Business - Discussion & Possible Action	6
Texas Comprehensive State Groundwater Protection Program Process ..	6
Concurrence Status - Texas State Management Plan for the Prevention of	
Pesticide Contamination of Groundwater	6
Set Future Meeting Dates	6
V. Information Exchange for Groundwater Related Activities/Status Update	6
Committee Publications	6
EPA Groundwater Report to Congress	7
Priority Groundwater Management Area Status Update	7
VI. Announcements	7
TNRCC Rules Update	7
VII. Public Comment	8
VIII. Adjourn	8

MEETING ATTENDANCE

TGPC Members	Affiliation
Mary Ambrose	TNRCC
Richard Ginn	RCT
Janie Hopkins	TWDB
Wayne Jordan	TAES
Donnie Dippel	TDA
Steve Wiley	TDLR
John Jacobi	TDH
Rebecca Smyth	BEG

TSSWCB and TAGD representatives absent at roll call.

Agency Staff	Affiliation	Program
Cary Betz	TNRCC	Technical Analysis
David Parmer	TNRCC	Strategic Environmental Assessment Group
Danny Lien	TNRCC	Surface Water
Johanna Devereaux	TNRCC	Surface Water
Kirk Kennedy	TNRCC	Surface Water
Frank Fuller	TNRCC	Policy and Regulatory Division
Alan Cherepon	TNRCC	Technical Analysis Division
Kelly Mills	TNRCC	Technical Analysis Division
Steve Musick	TNRCC	Technical Analysis Division
Robert Mace	TWDB	
Ken May	TNRCC	Public Drinking Water
Bruce Lesikar	TAEX	
Charlie Upchurch	TDA	
Murray Walton	SPCB	
Deborah Danford	TDA	

Interested Parties	Affiliation
Jim O'Connor	SAWS
Chris Thibodaux	BS/EACD
Ken Kramer	Sierra Club
Eric Strom	USGS
Julia Marsden	League of Women Voters

(19 in audience)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda
2. *EPA Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1429 Ground Water Report to Congress, Executive Summary*
3. *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 1998*
4. *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 1999* solicitation memo
5. *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 1999* questionnaire
6. *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 1998* text for modification
7. *Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Assessment Report and Management Program - 1999*
8. Senate and House Interim Subcommittee Charges
9. TNRCC Rules Tracking Log
10. Final Comprehensive State Groundwater Protection Program Guidance

MEETING RECORD OF FEBRUARY 10, 2000

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Mary Ambrose, Designated Chairman of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), called the FY2000, Second Quarter Meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Rebecca Smyth represented the BEG. Janey Hopkins represented the TWDB. TSSWCB and TAGD were not represented.

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, February 10, 2000, for its second quarter meeting, at 10:15 a.m. The Agchem members were updated on Task Force activities:

Site Selection - TWDB reported that their FY 2000 groundwater sampling/monitoring will focus on the aquifers in the Texas Panhandle and will begin in March. TNRCC staff are pursuing the opportunity to coordinate some pesticide sampling with the TWDB well sampling effort. A round of atrazine immunoassay sampling by TNRCC staff took place in early December as a preliminary investigation on atrazine detects in a number of Panhandle area Public Water Supply wells.

Education - TAEX reported that new water education committees will be established in response to statewide producer concerns about water supply and quality issues identified at their Water Conference last year. Coordination of PMP outreach issues will be pursued.

Atrazine BMP - Task Force membership was discussed due to the reassignment or retirement of some present members. It was agreed that an ad hoc membership approach would be used as need for the Task Force and its services arises.

Subcommittee members were also briefed on the preliminary investigation of Panhandle area PWS detections including sampling, general land use identification and basic data on potential sources. Of the four sites investigated, TNRCC staff recommended contamination response investigation for two sites, the cities of Tulia and Dimmit. It was further recommended that the Site Selection Task Force provide feedback to the staff on additional data needs for completing the investigation.

Agchem members were also briefed on EPA Region 6 Pesticides and Toxic Substances staff acceptance of the PMP and their request for formal state submittal of the plan. Members agreed to this process and working with TNRCC staff on agency concurrence letters. This will be discussed in detail later in this meeting.

Data Management - Cary Betz reported that the subcommittee had not met during the previous quarter. The *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 1998* has been printed, and each Committee member has received a copy in their handout package. A solicitation letter for updated text for the *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 1999* was also included in the package for each participating entity, along with a questionnaire for the report. The RCT and the TAGD were provided electronic copies of their databases on diskette for revision. Program areas within TNRCC received a solicitation for text and data earlier in the month

Water Quality Inventory (305b) report remains in the planning and coordination stage.

Non-Point Source - James Moore, representative of the TSSWCB and Chair of Subcommittee, was not present at this meeting. Mary Ambrose introduced publication *Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Assessment Report and Management Program -1999*, included in their handout packets. Discussion of groundwater concerns in Texas begins on page 1-16.

Abandoned Water Well Closure Task Force - Bruce Lesikar, chair. Subcommittee did not meet. Final comments on the video were received from TDLR and TNRCC. One item remaining is the label for the video. TAEX and TNRCC have discussed linking the video to the Tex-Assist program and producing 500 copies, with a copy to be provided to each County Agent.

III. Presentation

Dr. Robert Mace, Texas Water Development Board presents Groundwater Availability Modeling (GAM) - discussion of the processes used to determine groundwater availability, and the status of the TWDB's program.

Program justification is to provide reliable, timely data on groundwater availability for the citizens of Texas, to insure adequacy of supplies or recognition of inadequate supplies throughout the 50 year planning horizon. TWDB feels the best tool for this is a digital, numerical groundwater flow model. The steps involved in creating these models include development of the conceptual model, or how flow in the aquifer works; the second step

is taking that understanding and putting it into a computer; and the third step is calibration, adjusting and optimizing the parameters. Once this is accomplished, then predictions can be made.

Even though many of the State's aquifers have already been modeled, the need still exists to perform additional modeling to accommodate changes in technology and incorporate additional or better data. Also, the understanding of how some of the models work has been lost over time through loss of personnel familiar with them. One of the goals of this program is to thoroughly document how these models work so that they may endure.

TWDB is modeling the Trinity Aquifer in the Hill Country, the aquifers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and the Edwards Trinity Plateau Aquifer. Additionally they are reaching out to encompass work done by others including the northern Ogallala Aquifer, the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer and part of Gulf Coast models done by regional water planning groups; and the Hueco-Mesilla Bolson Aquifer in the El Paso area, and the Gulf Coast Aquifer in the Houston area done by the United States Geological Survey.

Additionally, funding has been received from legislature to select contractors for work on the southern Ogallala, the entire Carrizo-Wilcox, and the Gulf Coast aquifers. The TWDB plans to model the northern portion of Edwards Aquifer, part of the Trinity not in the Hill Country, the Seymour Aquifer, and the Pecos River Alluvium in fiscal year 2002.

These models cannot be used to determine the effects of any particular well or other feature, as the scale for the groundwater flow equations is roughly one mile square, but they will give a good regional picture of what is going on in an aquifer. Models also accommodate surface/groundwater interaction, but recharge is spread out over the entire area, not tied to specific stream locations.

Kirk Kennedy, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission presents Water Availability Modeling (WAM) - discussion of the processes used to determine surface water availability, and the status of the TNRCC's program.

Senate Bill 1 mandated that TNRCC determine water availability for 22 of the 23 river basins in the state. The process for modeling water availability consists of two main components - determining a "naturalized flow" and the other is actually running through a simulation process. Groundwater interaction has been incorporated into the "naturalized flow" component, including an adjustment for man's activities imposed on the model used to determine base flows for water rights permitting, for two basins over the Edwards Aquifer - the Guadalupe/San Antonio (Edwards Aquifer Authority regulated quantities imposed over the entire area) and Nueces river basins. Agency guidance to contractors includes consideration of channel losses or other groundwater/surface water interaction as a component for all availability models. Additionally, several recharge features over the Edwards are permitted, and are included in the model.

At present, availability modeling for six of the 22 river basins are complete, with the rest scheduled for completion prior to FY 2002. The Rio Grande basin is not included because

funding for this model was withheld during the last Legislative session.

Part of the considerations of the WAM are the effects of reuse of treated industrial and municipal effluent; the effects of water right cancellation; and the effect of past and present permitting actions of the agency adjacent to bays and estuaries. The agency must also provide information to all water rights holders as to how much water is available during drought years.

The question was raised about inter-basin transfer of groundwater being accounted for in the models, for example the Carrizo-Wilcox. The agency is aware of the possibilities, but until some data is made available, there is little that can be done to incorporate it into the models.

IV. Business - Discussion & Possible Action

Update on CSGWPP process: Frank Fuller, TNRCC - Policy and Regulations Division is working on completing the core assessment of the CSGWPP. Mr. Fuller will be contacting TGPC members with questions to be able to complete his task. He hopes to have a draft completed in time for the next meeting, for the Committee members' review and comment. Handout: *Final Comprehensive State Ground Water Protection Program Guidance*.

PMP Concurrence Status: Steve Musick, TNRCC, ACS Chair, reports receiving an informal communication from EPA Region VI staff, indicating that they are ready to concur with the Generic PMP, but desire a more formal submission to their Regional Administrator. The Generic Pesticide Management Plan (PMP or SMP) was originally submitted in the spring of 1996 to Pesticides Section at EPA Region VI, and again to the Multimedia group at EPA in 1998 after revisions. The 1998 version had the approval of the TGPC, and the approval of the various participating agency representatives, in writing, as part of the submittal. Agchem Subcommittee members will be seeking letters of concurrence for the final version of the SMP from Executives of the major participating agencies. These letters will be included with a new submission package, with cover letter by the Executive Director of the TNRCC. Mr. Musick understands that EPA is desiring a "fast time-track", as they are concerned about announcing the concurrence with this plan prior to the draft SMP rules becoming final, which is scheduled for this summer.

Next meeting date: Thursday, May 4, 2000 1:00 p.m.

V. Information Exchange for Groundwater Related Activities/Status Update

Joint Report - mailout to county judges, public health officials and participating agencies is anticipated within next few weeks. Some copies are available at back of room.

Committee's report to the Legislature will be a major subject for the next meeting. Committee members were asked to be prepared to outline major issues and designated subcommittee representatives.

EPA's Ground Water Report to Congress. Copy of Executive Summary is provided to

Committee members in handout package. Full report is large, and we have not received some of the Appendices from EPA. Report is generally what we anticipated EPA producing, identifying that groundwater is an important resource throughout the United States, and that quality is generally good, with some impacts from both point and non-point sources. States are responding to groundwater concerns, but are moving slowly, according to EPA. EPA is also concerned that the resource is not adequately characterized. EPA is being pro-active, seeking more funding from Congress and the administration, and is aware of the disparity between money spent on surface water protection as opposed to groundwater.

The Executive Director of the TNRCC and Executive Administrator of the TWDB conducted the annual Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) meeting (required under Chapter 35, Water Code) on January 6, 2000 and approved the FY2000 PGMA program workplan. Recommendations prepared jointly by TNRCC and TWDB staff were discussed and approved without changes. In summary, staff recommendations were that no new areas be identified for study until information is developed through the regional water planning process and that efforts which were begun in FY1999 should be completed. Ongoing efforts include:

- 1) work in the five update study area,
- 2) TNRCC efforts in the designated PGMAs and in northern Bexar County, and
- 3) educational programming.

New FY2000 efforts include providing technical assistance (as requested) related to Senate Bill 1911 (76th Legislature, 1999) temporary districts and providing information to support the interim studies of the Senate and House Natural Resources Committees.

VI. Announcements

Copies of Senate and House Interim Subcommittee charges were included in the handout packet for information purposes. These charges include groundwater management and district issues, and water well closure funding.

TNRCC Rule Tracking Log included in handout packet. Members were advised to note particularly the proposed Class V Injection Well Rule published January, 28, 2000, a revision of existing agency rules. Also, new Chapter 230, Platting Requirements for Groundwater Supply adequacy, accepted for proposal January 26, to be published in the Texas Register February 11, 2000, and comments accepted through March 13, 2000. Commission consideration could be as early as mid-May. Bandera, Kendall, Hayes, Blanco and Comal already have such requirements in place. Chapter 284 rules are to be repealed - this action will repeal rules pertaining to onsite wastewater systems that were originally adopted when this program was part of TWC. Water Code provisions giving TWC authority to adopt and enforce these rules was repealed when program was transferred to TDH. When the program moved back to TNRCC, Chapter 285 was adopted, and a subsequent rule review determined that Chapter 284 needed to be repealed.

Surface Water Protection Committee meeting, March 23, 2000, Temple Texas

2000 Groundwater Protection Council Annual Policy Meeting, March 26-28, Madison Hotel,

Washington, D. C.

April 14, tour of Pecos River Salt Cedar Control Project sponsored

National Water Quality Monitoring Council conference April 25-27, 2000, Hyatt Regency Austin, Texas.

Southwest Focus Ground Water Conference 2000, sponsored by National Ground Water Association. May 17-18, 2000, Hilton Austin North and Towers, Austin Texas.

Texas Water Monitoring Congress September 18-20, 2000, Jake Pickle Center , Austin

Dr. Jordan requested a presentation on the gasoline additive MTBE as well as perchlorate for the next meeting, describing what we know about the problem in Texas. TNRCC staff will check on getting a speaker from the agency.

VII. Public Comment

Well plugging video will be shown following adjournment.

VIII. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,