

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Third Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2005

Meeting Date: April 27, 2005
Meeting No.: 64

Place: TCEQ Campus, Building F
Room: 2210

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

TGPC Members

Mary Ambrose
Janie Hopkins
Leslie Savage
Ambrose Charles
Lee Parham
Allan Jones
Richard Egg
Barry Miller
Claren Kotrla
Bridget Scanlon

Affiliation

TCEQ
TWDB
RCT
TDA
TDLR
TAES
TSSWCB
TAGD
DSHS
BEG

Agency Staff

Abiy Berehe
Cary Betz
Leon Byrd
Alan Cherepon
Jennifer Delk
Frank Fuller
Joe Peters
Richard Eyster
Bruce Lesikar
Chris Higgins

Affiliation

TCEQ
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TDA
TCE
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Program

Water Supply Division
Water Program
Water Supply Division

Interested Parties

Ann Ardis
Lynne Fahlquist
Jim O'Connor
Tyson Broad

Affiliation

USGS
USGS
SAWS
Sierra Club

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda
2. TGPC Record of Meeting, Second Quarter, FY2005
3. Nonpoint Source Task Force Meeting Minutes, April 8, 2005
4. U.S. Geological Survey Contact information
5. U.S. Geological Survey in Texas
6. [*Geologic Framework and Hydrogeologic Features of the Glen Rose Limestone, Camp Bullis Training Site, Bexar County, Texas*](#) (USGS WRIR 03-4081)
7. [*Demonstration-Site Development and Phytoremediation Processes Associated with Trichloroethene \(TCE\) in Ground Water, Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base Carswell Field, Fort Worth, Texas*](#) (USGS Fact Sheet 2004-3087, August 2004)
8. [*Overview– Development of a Geodatabase and Conceptual Model of the Hydrogeologic Units Beneath Air Force Plant 4 and Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base Carswell Field, Fort Worth, Texas*](#) (USGS Fact Sheet 2004-3063, June 2004)
9. [*Quality of Water in the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers, South-Central Texas, 1996-98*](#) (USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2004-5201)
10. [*Development of a Geodatabase and Conceptual Model of the Hydrogeologic Units Beneath AFP4 and NAJ-JRB Carswell Field, Fort Worth, Texas*](#) (USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2004-5062)
11. [*Water-Level Variations and Their Effects on Tree Growth and Mortality and on the Biogeochemical System at the Phytoremediation Demonstration Site in Fort Worth, Texas 1996-2003*](#) (USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2004-5107)
12. Draft Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 2004
13. Public Information Act Policy
14. Chapter X: Recommendations for Action from the [*Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy*](#) - (TCEQ AS-188, February 2003)
15. Summary of Recommendations to the 79th Legislature
16. TGPC Rule Log Update on April 27, 2005
17. Announcement for the NWQMC Fifth National Monitoring Conference
18. Announcement for ITRC Internet-Based Training Courses
19. TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair Announcement

MEETING RECORD OF April 27, 2005

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Mary Ambrose, Designated Chairman of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), called the FY2005, Third Quarterly Meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., CDT.

II. Subcommittee Reports

Agricultural Chemicals - Joe Peters, TCEQ. The Subcommittee held its FY 2005 third quarter meeting on April 27, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.

The members were updated on Task Force (TF) activities:

Site Selection: TWDB, reported that due to personnel problems they may not achieve 500 samples this year. She also reported that the TWDB was doing some cooperative monitoring with the USGS.

Educational: TCE, reported on the various educational activities with which Texas Cooperative Extension was involved recently. Activities included radio programs, Master Rancher programs, and several others.

Presentation: TCEQ Drinking Water Protection Team, gave an update on the Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program with an emphasis on its agricultural aspects. At the core of the SWAP program is custom software which is used to perform the assessments. To date they have performed more than 6000 assessments. They continuously endeavor to improve the software's capabilities.

Under the Subcommittee's Business items:

The subcommittee discussed a draft monitoring plan which outlined the monitoring activities which TCEQ will be undertaking this year. May 16th through 20th TCEQ will be traveling to the city of Amarillo to screen all their public water supply (PWS) wells for atrazine and metolachlor. July 11th through 15th TCEQ will make our yearly on-going monitoring trip to the panhandle to sample wells in Tulia, Dimmitt, Friona, Hereford, Plainview, and Wilderado. During this trip TCEQ tentatively plans to capture samples for analyses by the USGS laboratory in Oklahoma for the metabolites of atrazine and metolachlor.

TCEQ will continue with the Cooperative Monitoring Program with the TWDB.

Information Exchange:

Updated Pesticide Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) has been submitted to EPA for approval. Two basic changes. New QAPP will now allow for

expedited sampling procedure for immunoassay screening and will also allow for the use of another laboratory which will be necessary to analyze for metabolites of atrazine and metolachlor.

EPA Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision (iRed) Atrazine vs Texas PMP Monitoring & Analysis Comparison; Syngenta Method AG-625 for analysis of atrazine by a modified Beacon Immunoassay Kit: EPA has approved an immunoassay method, AG-625, for use in iRed monitoring. However, some problems have surfaced with the use of AG-625. There is an attempt to correct the problems with the method so that it can continue to be used. This is a different method than the SDI/Abraxis method that TCEQ has been using, which is an also an EPA approved method, 4670.

Discussion of possible subcommittee input for the next National Pesticides/Water Quality meeting May 3-5 on behalf of the State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) - Water Quality/Pesticide Disposal Committee meeting concerning performance assessment. EPA is assessing the future of the pesticide/water quality program with in the Office of Pesticide Programs and the Office of Water. They are seeking various methods of assessing performance to evaluate the success of their water quality program. The subcommittee discussed possible inputs that members could provide for an assessment for which EPA is seeking help. A list of accomplishments in the pesticide monitoring program was offered at the meeting as well as a listing of all the reporting that is done for the FIFRA groundwater monitoring program.

Data Management - Cary Betz, TCEQ. The Data Management Subcommittee held its FY 2005 second quarter meeting on April 8, 2005 at 8:30a.m.

The subcommittee held a strategy session to determine the best course to proceed on development of recommendations on the design of an ambient groundwater monitoring system for the state that will meet the needs of all TGPC member agencies. The subcommittee will hold its next meeting in June, and specific staff from TGPC members will be requested to assist at that meeting.

Public Education and Outreach - Jennifer Delk, TCEQ, Co-Chair. The Subcommittee held its FY 2005 second quarter meeting on April 8, 2005 at 1:40 p.m.

The members were updated on Subcommittee activities:

Abandoned Well Closure Fact Sheet - The Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells had been completed and published through TCEQ in February. The report is available in electronic format through the TCEQ publications Web site.

On-site Wastewater Fact Sheets - The Selecting and Permitting fact sheet has been completed and is at the printer. The fact sheet is currently available in electronic format in both English and Spanish. The Operations and Maintenance fact sheet regarding

maintenance contracts is still being revised. The Graywater fact sheet is still in draft form and review process should start by the end of April.

Well Plugging Closure Events- Well plugging demonstrations occurred in Erath, Robertson, Fayette and Burnet Counties. There will be three plugging events next quarter. Robertson and Nacadoches Counties in June and the Lipan-Kickapoo groundwater conservation district (Concho, Tom Green, and Runnels Counties) in July.

Fact Sheets on Radionuclides, Arsenic, Nitrate/Nitrite, and Perchlorate.- TCE added information on treatment to the toxicology information that Michael Hare put together.

Priority Groundwater Management Area Fact Sheet- The first draft of the Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) Fact Sheet is now available. The goal is to have the final draft ready and printed by the end of the summer.

Under the Subcommittee's Business items:

The Subcommittee discussed the format, publication and distribution of the facts sheets in progress. The fact sheets on perchlorate, nitrate, arsenic and radionuclides will be added to the "Water and the Earth's Resources" facts sheet series published through Texas Cooperative Extension. The format would be similar to the existing publications in the series and a map would be added to show concentrations of the contaminants. The fact sheets are currently in review and drafts will be distributed at the agent training on May 9th. The facts sheets will be published by TCE and will be available in English and Spanish.

Groundwater Research - Bridget Scanlon, BEG, Co-Chair. The Subcommittee held its FY 2005 third quarter meeting on April 27, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

The Subcommittee is in the process of drafting white papers on for distribution to the legislature on brackish water, supporting studies for the groundwater availability model (GAM) program, and supporting the TWDB water quality program.

Presentation on California's GAMA program. Ambient groundwater monitoring which includes age dating of all public water systems in California and measuring low-level volatile organic compounds to assess public water system vulnerability to contamination.

Discussed adding member agency projects to the TGPC Web site to avoid duplication of efforts and to encourage collaboration between agencies.

Nonpoint Source Task Force - Cary Betz, TCEQ. The Subcommittee held its FY 2005 second quarter meeting on April 8, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Attendees heard an update on the State of Texas Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Plan, and received a copy of the NPS Annual Report produced by TSSWCB this year.

Kevin Wagner briefly went over the report, and highlighted to the group that 4% of funds from the TSSWCB budget was spent on groundwater. He also pointed out some activities by other agencies, such as the Railroad Commission with their well plugging in Santa Rosa Springs. It was suggested that for next year's report, the Extension education needs to be included. Attendees were advised to begin thinking about potential contributions or suggested changes for the next report.

Subcommittee members were also advised on the status of the Clean Water Act Section 319 FY05 Grant. In FY05, there are no projects included in the TSSWCB package that address groundwater specifically.

Discussion of agency NPS activities and initiatives centered mostly on Senate Bill 3, however, the RCT's discussed their three 319 projects – well plugging in the following locations: 1. Upstream of E.V. Spence, (near Beals Creek); 2. Downstream of E.V. Spence; 3. Petronilla Creek.

TCE reported several educational activities held for agricultural producers. BMP training in atrazine, nutrient management and water well plugging have been topics of instruction. Several publications on onsite wastewater treatment and other topics have been developed [see Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee report].

Many changes at the Texas State Chemist office were also reported, and there was a brief discussion on the recent court ruling in Waco that implied that phosphorus is a hazardous waste.

The NPS subcommittee will next meet in September, and begin discussions on the next annual NPS report.

IV. Business - Discussion & Possible Action

Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 2004 - Abiy Berehe, TCEQ. A draft of the *Joint Groundwater Monitoring Report, 2004* was included as a handout to the committee. The report will be completed in the next few weeks pending receipt of data from the Railroad Commission. Once the report is completed it will be published in hard copy and in electronic format and will be available on the TCEQ publications Web site. A link to the report will be posted on the TGPC Web site. Copies will be mailed out to County Judges and local health departments as part of a follow up to contamination reports submitted throughout the year.

This year's report contains 629 cases from TCEQ. New for this year's report will be data from TCEQ's Total Maximum Daily Load Program and data from HB 3030 reporting.

In the future, the committee would like to make the report more searchable by providing a web interface that would allow customers to query specific information from the data tables.

TGPC Web Accessibility Policies - Jennifer Delk, TCEQ. A Public Information Act policy was distributed to the committee for review. The committee's approval is needed to make changes to the Web site to gain compliance with 1 TAC Chapter 206. The committee approved the policy with a minor change (the General Services Commission is now the Texas Building and Procurement Commission).

Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy- Discuss Strategy Implementation Issues - Frank Fuller, TCEQ, called the committee's attention to chapter 10 of the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy (Strategy)*. The purpose of this discussion was to get a status update on short-term goals that were set in the strategy. The short-term goals were to be completed in 5 years and the Strategy was written in 2003. Frank suggested creating a table of what each agency was doing in support of the *Strategy* as a follow up to the roundtable discussion to facilitate future *Strategy* implementation updates.

Short term goals the committee has made progress on include: Strengthening lines of communication with regional water planning groups; Expanding the groundwater quality monitoring parameters to be analyzed to include organic and synthetic materials; Forming a research subcommittee to identify interagency research needs and provide a coordinated approach for discussion with federal agencies for funding; Establishing links on the TGPC Web page to key groundwater information residing at state agencies and educational institutions; and creating a subcommittee to increase public outreach.

A short-term goal that the committee feels is most important is completing scanning and indexing hard-copy water well drillers reports and making them accessible through the existing system. TDLR has made a concentrated effort to push the water well industry towards using the electronic database reporting vs hard copy reports. TDLR created a relational database which is administered with the TWDB. All hard copy reports from summer 2003 onward are entered into the database well plugging reports from 2002 onward have also been entered.

The cost to scan and index all of the hard-copies and provide the information on the web would be \$330,000 for the biennium. The committee made a recommendation that the Legislature provide funding for this project. At this time there has been no report on the status of this recommendation. A separate meeting will be held to discuss alternative funding for this project.

Update on Recommendations to the Legislature

Lee Parham said that the plugging fund was heard by House Natural Resources committee and was voted favorably out. The bill is waiting to be heard by the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Some of TWDB's appropriation requests may be a part of Senate Bill 3. There is also a section in Senate Bill 3 that says that the state would support land stewardship and brush

control is a part of that. It doesn't mention brush control or funding for brush control directly.

Set Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting: Thursday , August 11, 2005, 1:00 p.m., Room 2210, Building F, TCEQ Campus.

V. Information Exchange for Groundwater Related Activities/Status Update

Status - Water Quality Inventory ("305(b)") Report -2004. Cary Betz, TCEQ. Water Quality Inventory 305(b) Report. Scheduled to be sent to EPA in mid-May. The Groundwater section of the report should be completed and ready for submission next week.

Status - State NPS Management Plan Development - Cary Betz, TCEQ. EPA has tentatively approved the Texas State NPS Management Plan to go forward. The next step is to post it in the *Texas Register* for a 30-day public comment period, and currently staff is securing approval from the Commission and TCEQ Executive Management for this. Once all public comments have been addressed, the Management Plan will be presented to the TSSWCB Board and TCEQ Commissioners for final approval to forward the Plan to the Governor's Office for his signature. Once the document is signed by the Governor, it will be sent to EPA for their formal approval.

There was a concern early on that FY05 funds may be delayed due to the Management Plan being late; however, this has been resolved with EPA and should not be a problem. TCEQ will likely post the document in the *Texas Register* in June.

Pesticide Management Plan (PMP) inclusion in the State NPS Management Plan- Joe Peters, TCEQ. The Groundwater PMP was mentioned in this year's State NPS Management Plan. Since the Groundwater PMP is recognized as part of the plan, the committee can look to the 319 grant as a potential funding source if we receive any nonpoint source projects.

Regional Water Planning Update - Texas Water Development Board. Janie Hopkins, TWDB. The regional water plans are due on June 1, 2005.

Groundwater Availability Modeling (GAM) Update - Texas Water Development Board. Janie Hopkins, TWDB. The Northern Gulf Coast predictive model will be available soon. Presidio Bolson Aquifer GAM is in progress. Lipan and West Texas Aquifers have been completed. The Carrizo Aquifer model was revised as a result of the completion of the Sparta and Queen City minor aquifer GAMs.

Groundwater Awareness Week. Mary Ambrose, TCEQ. Groundwater Awareness week was held March 13-19, 2005 this year. The event is sponsored by the National

Ground Water Association to stress yearly water testing and well maintenance. The TGPC placed an announcement on their Web site to support event.

Reports on National Meetings. Mary Ambrose, TCEQ.

Groundwater Protection Council Meeting, Washington, D.C. March 20-22, 2005

Some of the issues recognized at the national level were:

CO₂ sequestration through injection wells for disposal. The council anticipates a disposal problem with FutureGen converting coal to hydrogen for fuel cells and then injecting CO₂ into the ground. Questions to be answered are: What are the appropriate target zones?, How long can you isolate this from the environment?, and What are the side effects?

Aquifer Storage and Retrieval. There are quite a few states that are running into problems with aquifer storage and retrieval. They are pumping oxygenated water into an aquifer and the oxidation is mobilizing arsenic. They have to treat the water for arsenic before they move it to another system.

Stormwater disposal wells. EPA wants to make sure that stormwater is not going to cause shallow contamination. People have been modifying sink holes to take stormwater. Modification of sinkholes for storage classifies them as Class V injection wells.

Targeted public health protection by lengthening the underground storage tank (UST) program. The source water program is trying to target inspections of petroleum storage tanks (PSTs) in source water areas. A federal initiative in all states where the UST program is a federal program. Driven by the fact that PSTs have the highest potential for contamination of public drinking water supplies nationwide.

National Water Monitoring Council Meeting

The Council is designing a national water quality monitoring program which includes groundwater. This came out of recommendations from *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century: Final Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy*. There are currently three work groups. The first is determining where the monitoring sites should be located. The second is locating existing monitoring sites (federal, state and local), figuring out the lifespan of the site and the Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) component. The third is designing a QA/QC plan for all sites in the monitoring program. The groups should complete the design for the conceptual program by January 2006.

The next conference will be held May 7-11, 2006.

VI. Announcements (All Members)

Rules Update - A summary of the TCEQ rule tracking log was distributed to members. There are six rules summarized in the tracking log that bear interest to the committee. Questions concerning a specific rule should be directed to the Project Manager listed beside the rule.

New Publications

TCEQ, RG-347, February 2005, [Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells.](#)

TCEQ, GI-326, March 2005, [Municipal Settings Designations: A Guide for Cities.](#)

TCEQ, RG-426, April 2005, [Handbook for Drought Contingency Planning for Wholesale](#)

[Public Water Suppliers.](#)

TCEQ, RG-424, April 2005, [Handbook for Drought Contingency Planning for Retail Public Water Suppliers.](#)

Universities Council on Water Resources, [Water Resources Sustainability](#), Water Resources Update, Issue 127, February 2004.

Science and Technology to support Freshwater Availability

[Good Neighbor Environmental Board: Water Resources Management on the US-Mexico Border, 8th Report to the President and Congress on the United States](#) (EPA 130R05001).

TSSWCB, [Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in Texas: 2004 Annual Report.](#)

USGS, 2005-3022, [Assessing the vulnerability of public-supply wells to contamination from urban, agricultural, and natural sources.](#)

USGS, 2004-3096, [A small-diameter sample pump for collection of depth-dependent samples from production wells under pumping conditions.](#)

USGS, 2003-4166, [Framework for a ground-water quality monitoring and assessment program for California.](#)

TCE, B-6077, April 2005, [On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems: Selecting and Permitting.](#)

TCE, B-6077S, April 2005, [On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems: Selecting and Permitting \(Spanish\).](#)

TCE, L-5459, January 2005, [Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Constructed Wetland Media.](#)

TCE, L-5460, January 2005, [Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Liquid Chlorination.](#)

Upcoming Conferences

[TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair](#), May 2-6, 2005.

Interstate Technical Research Council [Internet-Based Training Courses.](#)

EPA Region 6: [Metals in the Environment: New Perspectives on Metal and Metalloids in Water, Soil, Sediment, and Air](#), May 10, 2005.

VII. Public Comment

No public comment.

VIII. Adjourn

Chair, Mary Ambrose, adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:10 p.m., CDT.