

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

Protecting One of Our Most Precious Resources

24 YEARS OF PROGRESS

APRIL 2013

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) strives to identify areas where new or existing groundwater programs could be enhanced, as well as to improve coordination among agencies involved in groundwater activities. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the TGPC is a coordinating mechanism for nine state agencies and the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts.



The Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is named as Chair of the TGPC and the Executive Administrator of the Texas Water Development Board is named as the Vice Chair. Other TGPC members include:

- The Executive Director of the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
- The Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- The Deputy Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
- The Executive Director of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
- A representative selected by the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
- The Director of Texas AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research)
- The Director of the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG)
- A representative of the Water Well Drillers and Pump Installers program at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

ENABLING LEGISLATION

The TGPC's enabling legislation allow the various state agency heads to designate personal representatives to conduct the business of the TGPC, and for the past 24 years, those representatives have ensured that the major responsibilities of the TGPC have been carried out, including:

- Providing a biannual report on its activities to the Texas Legislature with recommendations for new groundwater protection programs (http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/047_12.pdf);
- Publishing an annual *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report* describing the current status of groundwater monitoring programs of each member agency as well as groundwater contamination cases documented or under enforcement during the calendar year (http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/sfr/056/056_11_index.html); and,
- Developing, implementing, and updating a comprehensive *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf).



TGPC meeting on January 19, 2011. (left to right) Richard Eyster (TDA), Leslie Savage (RRC), David Gunn (TDLR), Kevin Wagner (AgriLife Research), Cary Betz (TCEQ), Janie Hopkins (TWDB), Alan Cherepon (TCEQ), Bruce Cutright (UTBEG), Ken Ofunrein (DSHS), David Van Dresar (TAGD), Donna Long (TSSWCB)

SUBCOMMITTEES

Along with its six Subcommittees (Agricultural Chemicals, Data Management, Groundwater Research, Legislative Report, Nonpoint Source, and Public Outreach and Education), the TGPC holds quarterly meetings that are open to the public. During these meetings, the bulk of the work is done by the Subcommittees, with the full TGPC providing the final approval to all products and activities of the Subcommittees.



TGPC display booth at the 2012 TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference. (left) Alan Cherepon (TCEQ)

FAQS FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION AND NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE USES

Over three dozen Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on a variety of hot topics (such as water ownership, *in situ* uranium mining, the capping and plugging of water wells, groundwater conservation districts, and Class II oil and gas disposal wells) can be found at the TGPC's FAQs webpage (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/FAQs.php>).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The TGPC's website functions as a clearinghouse of groundwater information with links and publications on a number of topics including pesticides, water wells, septic systems, groundwater contamination, pollution prevention, water conservation, classroom applications, and oil, gas, and mining issues. Additional details about the TGPC and its meetings, Subcommittees, and publications can be found at the TGPC's website (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/>).