

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

RECORD OF MEETING

Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2021

Meeting Date: March 10, 2021
Place: Virtual Teleconference
Meeting No. 69

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Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)
Peggy G Hunka (Co-Chair)
David Van Dresar
David Villarreal
Claire Satterwhite
Rebecca Storms
Jessica Price
Lynne Fahlquist

Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Other Agency Staff

Joel Pigg
Guy Fipps
Leah Martinsson
Julia Stanford
Abiy Berehe
Alan Cherepon
Grant Gibson
Cindy Hooper
Kathy McCormack

Affiliation / Program

AgriLife Extension
AgriLife Extension
TAGD
TAGD
TCEQ / Water Availability Division (WAD)
TCEQ / WAD
TCEQ / WAD
TCEQ / WAD
TCEQ / WAD

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, March 10, 2021
2. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record, December 9, 2020
3. Outreach Events Status Report
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) Training Activities Schedule
5. Google Analytics reports on TGPC website activity
6. Final Draft Update to *Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells*

MEETING RECORD OF MARCH 10, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Peggy Hunka Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held via a videoconference using the Microsoft Teams platform.

STATUS REPORTS

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events

The current Outreach Events Status Report was reviewed, and is available on the POE Subcommittee webpage, <https://tgpc.texas.gov/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/> under the “Additional Resources” heading:

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) Water Well Screening:
 - Due to Covid-19 restrictions no events were held in the last quarter. In the process of planning for the next quarter. There are still restrictions from A&M but are looking at the summertime for screenings in the area west of Fort Worth.
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
 - There were no booth events for this quarter.

TWON Training Activities

Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON training schedule and as with the one-hour events, there have not been any one-day events in the last quarter. AgriLife Extension is planning on rescheduling events that had been planned prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic social distancing requirements and hopes to be back on schedule soon.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Peggy Hunka reviewed the Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC web page for the period December 1 through February 28, 2021. A comparison to the previous quarter of FY2021, was also discussed. Interest was seen in drilling a water well, and groundwater and drinking water, along with interest in meetings.

Virtual Booth

Peggy Hunka suggested the idea of a task force to help develop a virtual booth. The TCEQ would be responsible for producing the booth. Julia Stanford (TAGD) asked if this was for a specific event. P. Hunka replied that it was not, but something to have available if conferences were going to continue to offer virtual booth opportunities. J. Stanford said this year they will be having an in-person conference but would still be using the app where a virtual booth could be displayed, and that the virtual component to conferences will probably persist in the future.

ANNOUNCE FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 1:30 PM CST. At this time the videoconference format is expected to remain for the next meeting.

REVIEW, DISCUSS AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Topic Updates (see: https://tgpc.texas.gov/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf):

Abandoned Wells

No report

Texas Evapotranspiration Networks

Guy Fipps (AgriLife Extension) reported that the ET FAQ does need to be updated. One of the big changes is that the Texas Mesonet is now operational. The Texas ET Network is tapping into the Texas Mesonet now and using 26 of those stations. With the 62 ET Network stations and the 26 Texas Mesonet stations there is almost statewide coverage. David Villarreal (TDA) asked if it was a FAQ or a white paper. G. Fipps responded that it is the FAQ.

Septic Tanks

No report.

Publications

Publications Report

Given at the Groundwater Issues subcommittee so was not repeated.

AgriLife Extension Reprints

There are no reprints needed at this time.

FAQs and Fact Sheets:

- Discussion on FAQ for preparing water wells before a flood
 - Alan Cherepon reported that he had prepared a draft and had sent it to several subcommittee members for review and comment. This morning the GWI covered the impact of storm events and how to prepare wells and things to consider. Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) stated that the white paper being written for the GWI Subcommittee doesn't include public water wells. There was a discussion on possibly adding frozen wells and fire as other natural disasters that can affect a private drinking water well.
- Discuss FAQ for real estate transactions and water wells
 - J. Pigg reported on the draft and said he has sent it to several committee members. A subcommittee member asked whether the draft is going to be a FAQ for the subcommittee or a Fact Sheet for AgriLife Extension. It is a good topic for both outlets. The FAQ may be the best starting point.
- Discuss Possible new FAQs and Fact sheets

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.