

**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

RECORD OF MEETING

Fourth Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2023

Meeting Date: June 14, 2023

Place: Virtual Videoconference

Meeting No. 78

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Subcommittee Members

Affiliation

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Joel Pigg (Co-Chair) | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) |
| Peggy G Hunka (Co-Chair) | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) |
| Jessica Price | Department of State Health Services |
| David Villarreal | Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) |
| David Gunn | Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) |
| Rebecca Storms | Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) |
| T.J. Helton | Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) |
| Christopher Heiligenstein | Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) |

Other Agency Staff

Affiliation / Program

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| John Smith | AgriLife Extension |
| Abiy Berehe | TCEQ / Water Availability Division (WAD) |
| Alan Cherepon | TCEQ/ WAD |
| Grant Gibson | TCEQ / WAD |
| Cindy Hooper | TCEQ / WAD |
| Kathy McCormack | TCEQ / WAD |
| Scott Underwood | TCEQ / WAD |
| Jason Godeaux | TCEQ / WAD |

MEETING HANDOUTS FOR JUNE 14, 2023

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda June 14, 2023
2. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record, March 8, 2023
3. Outreach Events Status Report
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) Training Activities Schedule
5. Google Analytics reports on TGPC website activity
6. Draft FAQ “How is Pesticide Contamination of Private Water Wells Prevented?”
7. Draft FAQ “What Did TCEQ’s Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in Groundwater?”
8. Drought Map for previous quarter
9. Upcoming water conferences

MEETING RECORD OF JUNE 14, 2023

The TGPC approves all Subcommittee products, and designated TGPC members attending this Subcommittee meeting participated as an employee of their agency or organization -- not as a designated TGPC member. Therefore, this Subcommittee meeting was not subject to the Open Meetings Act and was held 100% virtually. The public was able to attend this meeting via teleconference or videoconference at no cost.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Attendees were introduced. The minutes were provided to the members by email for review prior to the meeting.

STATUS REPORTS

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events

The current Outreach Events Status Report was reviewed, and is available on the [POE Subcommittee webpage](#)¹ under the “Additional Resources” heading:

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) Water Well Screening Events
 - John Smith (AgriLife Extension) reported there were seven events in April and May with seven more events planned for July and August.
- TGPC Exhibit Booth:
 - TCEQ’s 2023 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference was held May 16-17, 2023 at the Austin Convention Center. There were approximately 515 attendees that came by and viewed the TGPC booth. We will have a booth at the TCEQ Public Drinking Water conference and the TAGD Groundwater Summit in August.

TWON Training Activities

Joel Pigg (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON training schedule. During the previous quarter, TWON staff held two one-day events and one one-hour event. Staff collected 193 samples. There have been over 2,028 samples or attendees at TWON events since May 2021.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) reviewed the Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC web page, which showed that in the previous quarter there was a 1% increase in the number of users and a 6% decrease in the average number of pages viewed per session. Organic searches showed that 2,624 users arrived using a web search, with Google being used most often.

¹ <https://tgpc.texas.gov/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/>

ANNOUNCE FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023, by Teams Videoconference at 1:30 PM.

REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan topic updates

Abandoned Wells

David Gunn (TDLR) reported the abandoned water wells bill (SB 2291) that was introduced this session did not make it out of committee.

Texas Evapotranspiration Networks

No report

Septic Tanks

No report

Publications

AgriLife Extension Reprints

There are no reprints needed at this time.

FAQs and Fact Sheets:

The draft FAQs titled How Is Pesticide Contamination of Private Water Wells Prevented?, and What Did TCEQ's Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in the Groundwater? were reviewed. Notes on broken links were discussed. It was decided that after correcting the broken links and editing for "plain language," these FAQs are ready to be presented to the main committee and then published.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rebecca Storms (TWDB) reported that TWDB is revamping some webpages including the [Groundwater and Private Water Well FAQ webpage](#),² where one of the most common questions is "Where do I get my water well tested?" Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) stated that a link to the TWDB FAQ webpage was added to the TGPC FAQ webpage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

² <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/faq/faqgwm.asp>