

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

RECORD OF MEETING

First Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2024 Meeting

Date: September 13, 2023

**Place: Virtual Videoconference
Meeting No. 79**

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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 (DSHS)
David Van Dresar	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
David Villarreal	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Casey Stevens	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Robert Bradley	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
T.J. Helton	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Linzy Foster	United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Other Agency Staff

Affiliation / Program

Eric Lawrence	DSHS
John Smith	AgriLife Extension
Leah Martinsson	TAGD
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ / Water Availability Division (WAD)
Grant Gibson	TCEQ / WAD
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ / WAD
Scott Underwood	TCEQ / WAD

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda September 13, 2023
2. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record, June 14, 2023
3. Outreach Events Status Report
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) Training Activities Schedule
5. Google Analytics reports on TGPC website activity
6. TGPC POE Groundwater Education Outreach Plan 2006
7. TGPC POE Groundwater Education Outreach Plan 2013
8. TGPC POE FY2023 Annual Activity Report
9. Draft FAQ “How is Pesticide Contamination of Private Water Wells Prevented?”
10. Draft FAQ “What Did TCEQ’s Monitoring Program in Urban Areas Find in Groundwater?”
11. Drought Map for previous quarter
12. Upcoming water conferences

MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 13, 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

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ), 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 two events in August with eight more events planned for September and October.
- TGPC Exhibit Booth:
 - TCEQ’s 2023 Public Drinking Water Conference was held August 8 – 9, 2023 in Austin and on August 29 – 31, 2023 the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts held their annual Groundwater Summit in San Antonio, Texas. We estimate that 233 people came by and viewed the TGPC booth at these two conferences.

TWON Training Activities

John Smith (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON training schedule. During the previous quarter, TWON staff held two one-day events and two one-hour event. Staff collected 159 samples. There have been over 2,593 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 4% decrease in the number of users and a 5% decrease in the average number of pages viewed per session.

ANNOUNCE FUTURE MEETING DATE

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

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

REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Review and discuss the TGPC POE Subcommittee Charge and Activity Plan

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) gave a brief overview of the current Charge and Activity Plan and asked for suggested revisions such as not limiting the discussion to the Outreach Plan topics but instead discussing outreach and education opportunities and combining the TWON and events report into one report. Another suggestion was to report Google Activities to the TGPC quarterly meeting.

Review the POE Activities Report for Fiscal Year 2023

The POE Activities Report was reviewed and approved by the committee for presentation to the TGPC quarterly meeting in October.

TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan topic updates

Abandoned Wells

Casey Stevens (TDLR) reported that TDLR sent out 40 abandoned well notices to landowners with an additional 30 letters being mailed by October 1, 2023.

Texas Evapotranspiration Networks and 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 returned for further review and additional edits. Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) reported that most of the 43 FAQs have not been updated in five or more years and that we will be reviewing all FAQs for Plain Language edits and updates to website links. Subcommittee members will be receiving emails with the FAQs related to their program areas for updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robert Bradley (TWDB) reported that TWDBs groundwater division has developed a newsletter called the Groundwater Gazette starting in October 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.