

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Second Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2014

Meeting Date: December 4, 2013
Meeting No.: 40

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING ATTENDANCE2

MEETING HANDOUTS.....3

MEETING RECORD OF DECEMBER 4, 20134

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS 4

2. STATUS REPORTS 4

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – AgriLife Extension Water Well
Screening Events, Abandoned Water Well Closures, and TGPC Exhibit Booth ... 4

TWON Training Activities 4

TGPC Website Activity Statistics 4

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE 4

4. PRESENTATION – DRINKING WATER QUALITY OF PRIVATE WELLS IN
TEXAS PROGRAM 5

5. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION..... 5

TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition 5

Popular Press Articles 5

TWON Fact Sheets..... 5

What Are the Texas Evapotranspiration (ET) Networks ? FAQ..... 5

What is the Texas Groundwater Classification System ? FAQ..... 6

Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas update 6

6. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES..... 6

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS 6

8. PUBLIC COMMENT 6

9. ADJOURN 7

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)

Guy Fipps

Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)

Lauren Oertel

Chris Moore

Michael Hare

Jana Lloyd

Kristine Uhlman

Linda Ruiz McCall

David Gunn

Affiliation

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)

AgriLife Extension

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

TCEQ

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG)

UTBEG

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. December 4, 2013 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. September 10, 2013 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, December 2013
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, 11/27/2013
5. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity, September 5 – December 2, 2013
6. Drinking Water Quality of Private Wells in Texas
7. *TGPC Groundwater Education Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition*, September 10, 2013
8. Draft *What Are the Texas ET (Evapotranspiration) Networks ?* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)
9. D. Boellstorff feedback on draft *What Are the Texas ET (Evapotranspiration) Networks ?* FAQ
10. Drought 2013 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas as of November 26, 2013; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook November 2013 – February 2014; Public Water Supply Systems Affected as of November 27, 2013
11. *After a Disaster: Is Your Drinking Water Safe ?*, TCEQ publication GI-431 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-431.html>
12. *Disinfecting Your Private Well*, TCEQ publication GI-432 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-432.html>
13. *How to Sample Your Well Water and Understand the Results*, TCEQ publication GI-433 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-433.html>
14. Austin Community College (ACC) Spring 2014 schedule and details for the online Environmental Regulations Overview course (EPCT 1205)
15. 2013 – 2014 Water-related Conferences in Texas, December 2013
16. *Take Care of Texas*, TCEQ publication GI-430 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-430.html>

TGPC refrigerator magnets were also available on the handout table.

MEETING RECORD OF DECEMBER 4, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:38 PM CDST. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

2. STATUS REPORTS

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events, Abandoned Water Well Closures, and TGPC Exhibit Booth

The current Outreach Events Status Report (available on the POE Subcommittee webpage, <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees-POE-POE.php>, under “Additional Resources”) was reviewed:

- AgriLife Extension Water Well Screening Events
 - Four since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (468 samples)
 - One planned through February 2014
- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None scheduled at this time
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
 - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (73 estimated attendees)
 - One planned through December 2013

TWON Training Activities

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON schedule of completed, confirmed, obligated, and suggested water well screening events and workshops. There have been over 3,653 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011. TSSWCB funding for the TWON program has been renewed through Fiscal Year 2015.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

The Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC website for September 5 – December 2, 2013 was reviewed by the POE Subcommittee. The average website visit duration was just over two minutes, and the average pages per visit were just over four.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at 1:30 PM CST, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 3202A.

4. PRESENTATION – DRINKING WATER QUALITY OF PRIVATE WELLS IN TEXAS PROGRAM

Kristine Uhlman (UTBEG) gave a brief presentation to the POE Subcommittee regarding an online application to 1) identify and recommend interventions to address public-health issues associated with Unregulated Drinking Water Systems, and 2) develop a means to inform public-health practitioners, and the public, on issues associated with Unregulated Drinking Water Systems. POE Subcommittee members were asked to review the beta website and provide feedback to Kristine Uhlman.

5. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the approved the *TGPC Groundwater Education Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition* (“*Plan*”) that was posted on the TGPC POE Subcommittee webpage (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees-POE-POE.php>). Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and POE Subcommittee members were encouraged to think about and prepare to implement the *Plan*’s actions that would deliver the specified messages to the targeted audiences. The *Plan* will be reviewed as needed at future POE Subcommittee meetings.

Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) suggested doing a survey on the *Plan*’s four topics (Abandoned Water Wells, TSSWCB Water Supply Enhancement Program, TWON, and Texas Evapotranspiration Networks) with TAGD members.

Popular Press Articles

TWON Fact Sheets

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) thanked POE Subcommittee members for their feedback on three draft TWON fact sheets: 1) *Improving Petroleum Product Storage to Protect Groundwater Quality*, 2) *Improving Livestock Manure Storage and Treatment to Protect Groundwater Quality*, and 3) *Improving Livestock Holding Pen Management to Protect Groundwater Quality*. Diane Boellstorff also indicated that a draft TWON fact sheet related to fertilizers may be available for POE Subcommittee review before the next meeting.

What Are the Texas Evapotranspiration (ET) Networks ? FAQ

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) and Guy Fipps (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the draft *What Are the Texas Evapotranspiration (ET) Networks ?* FAQ. Chris Moore (RRC) proposed, David Gunn (TDLR) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the FAQ with the changes discussed at the meeting. The FAQ will be presented to the TGPC at the January 15, 2014 meeting, and after approval it will be posted on the TGPC FAQ webpage (<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/FAQs.php>).

What is the Texas Groundwater Classification System ? FAQ

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

Questions About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas update

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

6. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

David Gunn (TDLR) reported that the 001WWD Water Well Report form was being updated to remove the grid number field, using only latitude and longitude for geographic location.

The current drought maps were provided to the POE Subcommittee. As of November 26, 2013, 76 % of the state was in one of the five drought categories (down from 96% at the last POE Subcommittee meeting), with drought removal likely only in a small area in the eastern half of the state through February 2014. As of November 27, 2013, of the 4,654 active community water systems in Texas, 1,226 were affected by drought (either voluntary or mandatory), and 814 of these use groundwater (either exclusively or partially).

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Four recent TCEQ publications were announced:

- *After a Disaster: Is Your Drinking Water Safe?*, GI-431 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-431.html>;
- *Disinfecting Your Private Well*, GI-432 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-432.html>;
- *How to Sample Your Well Water and Understand the Results*, GI-433 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-433.html>; and,
- *Take Care of Texas*, GI-430 (August 2013), <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-430.html>.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reported that Austin Community College's new Environmental Regulations Overview online course (EPCT 1205) was now available for the Spring 2014 semester.

The current "2013 – 2014 Water-related Conferences in Texas" handout (found at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees-POE-POE.php> under the "Additional Resources" heading) was distributed to POE Subcommittee members.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURN

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:14 PM CDST.