

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
First Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2013

Meeting Date: September 20, 2012
Meeting No.: 35

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (TAMAES)
Charles Swanson	TAMAES
Kathy McCormack (Co-Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ
Chris Muller	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Peter Pope	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Michael Hare	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Jana Lloyd	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Loren Warrick	TSSWCB
David Van Dresar	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Ned Meister	Texas Farm Bureau (TFB)

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. September 20, 2012 Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
2. June 12, 2012 TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record
3. Outreach Events Status Report, September 2012
4. Texas Well Owner Network events list, 9/18/2012
5. Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity statistics, June 11 – September 16, 2012
6. AAtrex 4L pesticide label
7. “Texas Groundwater Information” and “TGPC FAQ survey responses from SWCDs” (TSSWCB emails, January 25, 2012, June 18, 2012, June 25, 2012, and August 3, 2012)
8. List of SWCDs Responding to TGPC FAQ Survey and Summary of TGPC FAQ Survey with SWCDs
9. 2012 – 2013 Water-related Conferences in Texas, September 2012

MEETING RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ), Co-Chair of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:32 PM CDST. TGPC POE Subcommittee members were introduced. There were no concerns with the record of the previous meeting.

2. STATUS REPORTS

Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events – TAES Water Well Screening Events, TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures, and TGPC Booth

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

- TAES Water Well Screening Events
 - Three since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (253 samples)
 - Three planned through October 2012
- TAES Abandoned Water Well Closures
 - None since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting
 - None planned at this time
- TGPC Booth
 - Three since the previous TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting (140 estimated attendees)
 - Two planned through December 2012

Photos of the TGPC exhibit booth at the 2012 TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference, as well as photos of TGPC handouts at the TAGD Texas Groundwater Summit, were passed around the table.

TWON Training Activities and Handbook

Diane Boellstorff (TAMAES) reviewed the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) schedule of water well screening events and indicated that the TWON Handbook was in the final proof stage and should be available by the next POE Subcommittee meeting. Diane Boellstorff reported that Kristine Uhlman is now with the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) and Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Resources (INRI) Water Conservation and Technology Center (WCTC), and that Drew Gholson (formerly with Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District) is the new TWON Coordinator.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

The Google Analytics report on TGPC website activity for June 11 – September 16, 2012, including statistics on the website’s visitors, visit duration, page depth, browsers, visitor flow, traffic sources, entrance keywords, and landing pages was provided to the POE

Subcommittee. Website visitation over the last quarter peaked after the GovDelivery email announcing the TGPC meeting on July 18, 2012.

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reminded POE Subcommittee members to respond to the TGPC Website Redesign Survey by September 21, 2012.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at 1:30 PM CDST, in TCEQ's Building F, Conference Room 2210.

4. PRESENTATION – An Introduction to the Pesticide Label and the Law

Michael Hare (TDA) provided the POE Subcommittee with a brief review of the history, intent, requirements, and structure of pesticide labels. Using the AAtrex 4l pesticide label as an example, he explained the various sections and indicated that the function of the label is to be an expression of the science that was required in order to register the pesticide.

5. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

Popular Press Articles

Review and Update of Existing TGPC Frequently Asked Questions

Updates of one or two pesticide-related FAQs will be discussed at the next meeting.

TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy

One topic related to the *TGPC POE Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy* (“*Implementation Strategy*”), http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/TGPC_POE_EduOutreachPlan_Impl_Strat03Oct2007.pdf) was discussed.

TGPC FAQs Follow-up Survey with TSSWCB

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) reviewed the 13 online survey responses received from Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) regarding the TGPC's FAQs. Information in some of the existing FAQs should be helpful to several SWCDs:

- *Water in Texas – Who Owns It ?*
- *Have Radionuclides Been Detected in Texas Groundwater ?*
- The series of FAQs on Oil and Gas

Discussion of Current Groundwater Issues

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) mentioned a new National Ground Water Association (NGWA) and Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) public outreach and education brochure (<http://www.gwpc.org/gwpcngwa-release-hf-brochure-water-well-owners>) regarding water quality testing in wells near oil and gas development. Peter Pope (RRC)

indicated that FracFocus (<http://fracfocus.org/>) provides similar information. David Van Dresar (TAGD) noted that homeowners should test the quality of their well water once per year. Ned Meister (TFB) pointed out the public's ongoing concerns with the effects of fracing, and an inclusive, accessible statewide database of groundwater quality would be welcome. Diane Boellstorff (TAMAES) reported that the RRC had recently proposed rules related to on-lease recycling of produced water and/or hydraulic fracturing flowback fluid.

Diane Boellstorff (TAMAES) commented that the recent TAGD Texas Groundwater Summit was a very worthwhile conference and encouraged POE Subcommittee members to attend next year's event.

NGWA Public Awareness Toolbox

The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Public Awareness Toolbox was not discussed at the meeting.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Al Cherepon (TCEQ) announced the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Summit – the National and International Conference on Groundwater on April 28 – May 2, 2013 in San Antonio.

Charles Swanson (TAMAES) announced that there would be two irrigation conservation conferences in January or early February 2013 in the McAllen and Hondo areas. More details will be available soon.

Peter Pope (RRC) announced that their biennial Oil and Gas Regulatory EXPO would be held on December 6 – 7, 2012 in Austin.

The current “2012 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout (found at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/POE/POE.htm> under the “Additional Resources” heading) was also available for POE Subcommittee members.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN

Kathy McCormack (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:05 PM CDST.