

**TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
RECORD OF MEETING**

Third Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2017

Meeting Date: April 19, 2017  
Meeting No.: 118

Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F  
Room: 2210

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Committee Members

Kelly Mills

Janie Hopkins

Peter Pope

Deba Dutta

David Villarreal

### Affiliation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
(TCEQ)

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

### Agency Staff

Abiy Berehe

Leon Byrd

Bill Carter

Alan Cherepon

Cindy Hooper

Kimberly Horndeski

Peggy Hunka

Kathy McCormack

Michael Parr

Richard Peltier

Hayden Ross

L. Scott Underwood

Marcia Workman

### Affiliation

### Program

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Quality Planning Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA)

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Environmental Law Division

TCEQ

Remediation Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

TCEQ

Water Availability Division

### Interested Parties

Jennifer Wilson

### Affiliation

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

## MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on April 19, 2017
2. Record for Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting on January 18, 2017
3. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting, March 8, 2017
4. Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting, March 2017
5. *Groundwater Monitoring Wells* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)
6. Draft Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee, Subcommittee Charge, April 19, 2017
7. Drought 2017 – U.S. Drought Monitor, Texas, April 13, 2017; U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, March – June 2017, March 16, 2017; Public Water Supply Systems Affected, April 13, 2017; TCEQ List of Texas PWSs Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages, April 12, 2017
8. TCEQ Rules Update, 4/17/2017
9. *Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in Texas: 2016 Annual Report*, TCEQ publication SFR-066/16 (January 2017),  
[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/sfr/066-16.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/066-16.pdf)
10. 2017 Water-related Conferences in Texas, April 2017

The following items were also on display on the handout table:

1. TGPC Public Information Act Policy
2. *Priority Groundwater Management Areas and Groundwater Conservation Districts: Report to the 85th Legislature*, TCEQ publication SFR-053/10 (January 2017),  
[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/sfr/053-10.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/053-10.pdf)
3. TGPC refrigerator magnets

## MEETING RECORD OF APRIL 19, 2017

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kelly Mills (TCEQ), alternate representative for the TCEQ Executive Director, who is the Designated Chairman of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), called the meeting to order at approximately 1:06 PM CDT. TGPC members then introduced themselves. The representatives from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD), Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research), Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG), and Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) were not present at the meeting.

### 2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Groundwater Issues

Peter Pope (RRC) reported that the TGPC GWI Subcommittee had met on March 8, 2017 and 10 state and federal agencies and organizations were represented.

The current Agricultural Chemicals Task Force Status Report (available on the GWI Subcommittee webpage, <http://tgpc.state.tx.us/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-groundwater-issues-subcommittee/>, under the “Additional Resources” heading) was reviewed with the highlights listed below:

- Pesticide monitoring was planned for late spring or early summer 2017 (wells in the Panhandle, as well as cooperative monitoring with TWDB); and,
- Cooperative and Pollinator Protection monitoring results from 2016 had been entered into the TCEQ Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD) and sent to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Region 6 EPA.

The current TGPC Publications Status Report (also available on the GWI Subcommittee webpage) was reviewed with the highlights listed below:

- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2016* (TCEQ publication SFR-056):
  - TCEQ staff had started working on the report and it was anticipated to be complete by April 1, 2017.
- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 85th Legislature* (TCEQ publication SFR-047):
  - The report was published and distributed to the Texas Legislature on December 15, 2016.

Alan Cherepon (TCEQ) gave the GWI Subcommittee a presentation on the Interagency Pesticide Database (IPD).

The following current groundwater issues were briefly discussed:

- Water Supply Enhancement Program;

- Hydraulic Fracturing;
- Emerging Contaminants (i.e., Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs));
- Saline Groundwater Trends and Impacts in Texas;
- Agricultural Chemicals;
- Border Groundwater; and,
- Others (i.e., freshwater mussels).

The GWI Subcommittee performed an initial review of their *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Issues Subcommittee Charge*, as well as a second review of their draft *TGPC GWI Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 Activity Plan*. A final review of both documents will be done at the next meeting. Initial discussion of the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* (TCEQ publication AS-188) update also took place.

The next GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for June 7, 2017.

#### Public Outreach and Education

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) reported that the TGPC POE Subcommittee had met on March 8, 2017 and six state agencies and organizations were represented.

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

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) Water Well Screening Events
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - Six planned through April 2017
- TGPC Exhibit Booth
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the TWON schedule of completed, confirmed, obligated, and suggested water well one-day training events and workshops. There have been over 6,693 samples or attendees at TWON events since April 2011.

The Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC website for September 14, 2016 through December 11, 2016 was reviewed, along with the 2014 – 2016 yearly activity. The Top 100 TGPC Google Analytics Search Keywords were reviewed, and it was decided that a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) on abandoned septic tanks would be written.

The POE Subcommittee discussed changes to its Charge and minor edits were suggested.

A presentation on licensed water treatment specialists was given by Scott Shaffer (President, Texas Water Treatment Association). A draft FAQ on Licensed Texas Water Treatment Specialists was then reviewed.

The next POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for June 7, 2017.

### 3. PRESENTATION

Bill Carter (TCEQ) gave TGPC members a presentation on the groundwater connection to funding the treatment of urban stormwater. He discussed how the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grant program relates to groundwater, with an emphasis on urban storm water management activities eligible for Section 319(h) grant funding, and he provided a review of the Texas Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program, watershed planning and implementation, and Low Impact Development (LID) Best Management Practice (BMP) programs and the installations that are already funded.

### 4. BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

#### *Groundwater Monitoring Wells* Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)

Due to the lack of a quorum, there was no discussion or action on this topic at the meeting.

#### Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Charge Update

Due to the lack of a quorum, there was no discussion or action on this topic at the meeting.

#### *How Do Changing Groundwater Conditions Affect Freshwater Mussels ?* White Paper

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) reported that a draft white paper was distributed at the January 18, 2017 TGPC meeting, and members provided comments during the meeting. Those comments had been incorporated into an updated version which was being reviewed by the TGPC Chairman, and it would be provided to members prior to the next TGPC meeting so that they could review it with their management. Due to the lack of a quorum, there was no discussion or action on this topic at the meeting.

#### Current Groundwater Issues

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

#### Set Future Meeting Date

The next TGPC quarterly meeting was scheduled for July 19, 2017 at 1:00 PM CDT.

## 5. INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR GROUNDWATER-RELATED ACTIVITIES – STATUS UPDATE

### Groundwater Contamination Notice Coordination (Texas Water Code §26.408)

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) reported that the Impact Evaluation Team (IET) had met four times during the last quarter and reviewed seven groundwater contamination cases. Twelve notification letters had been mailed out, and two more letters would be sent out within the next 30 days for cases that had been reviewed the previous day.

### Groundwater Management Areas

There was no discussion of this topic at the meeting.

### Regional Water Planning

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) reported that:

- They were finalizing amendments to their Regional Water Planning Guidance; the updated document included guidance on determining groundwater availability for planning purposes, including the new provision to utilize a Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) Peak Factor, and it should be available on their website by the end of April 2017:  
[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2021/current\\_docs.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2021/current_docs.asp); and,
- They recently finalized their projection methodology for irrigation, manufacturing, and steam-electric power generation water demands; they were developing the draft water demand projections for use in the 2021 Regional Water Plans and 2022 State Water Plan, and the irrigation methodology would utilize a groundwater constraint.

### Groundwater Availability Modeling

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) reported that:

- Staff were working on MAGs for Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 (all but the Edwards-Trinity Plateau and Pecos Valley Aquifers), 8, 11, 13, and 16;
- Staff had completed three MAGs (9, 14, and 15), they were waiting for three (4, 10, and 12) to submit, and they had received petitions for GMA 14; and,
- Regarding Groundwater Availability Modeling (GAM) contracts:
  - Interim deliverables had been received March 20, 2017 for numerical flow and density flow models for the Rio Grande Valley Transport contract with GSI Environmental, Inc. (GSI);
  - The GMA 13 mapping project contract with UTBEG was in progress; they were working on a subcontractor amendment to evaluate the Queen City and Sparta Aquifers;

- They had received a fault study report on February 28, 2017 for the update to GMA 12 with INTERA; public comments were due by May 4, 2017, and a stakeholder meeting was scheduled for April 27, 2017;
- A kickoff meeting was scheduled for May 8, 2017 for the update to the GAM for the northern Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, and Sparta Aquifers, and a stakeholder meeting was scheduled for May 9, 2017;
- A kickoff meeting for the conceptual model of the Trinity Aquifer was held March, 27, 2017; and,
- They needed to schedule a kickoff meeting for the Subsidence contract.

## Nonpoint Source Pollution

Bill Carter (TCEQ) reported that:

- The EPA had recently approved the *Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in Texas: 2016 Annual Report*;
- The *Draft 2017 Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program* was on their website (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/nonpoint-source/mgmt-plan/index.html/#management-program-2017>) for comment; and,
- They expected that their NPS program would see a reduction in EPA funding of approximately 30 %.

Peter Pope (RRC) added that they were on their final year of a NPS grant contract, and in April 2017 they had turned on a system to reduce saltwater loading in the upper Colorado River. Contract funding would expire in December 2017.

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that there was a renewed focus in looking at how the NPS inputs from the sand and gravel industry, fertilizer, and manure might affect freshwater mussels.

## National Groundwater Initiatives

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) reported that the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network (NGWMN) Program Board had met in March 2017 in Denver to review proposals from potential data providers seeking funding to participate in the NGWMN, as well as to complete the award recommendations for FY 2017. Awards would be delayed until FY 2017 funding was resolved (i.e., though an approved budget or a continuing resolution). As a result, project start dates would be later than originally proposed.

David Villarreal (TDA) reported that they were reviewing how they would implement the Food Safety Modernization Act (e.g., how to sample and test microbial levels in source waters used for produce cleaning) on a large scale in Texas and how that data may drive subsequent action. They were investigating potential laboratories, and the data would be available soon.



Jennifer Wilson (USGS) reported that:

- They would be releasing GW Web Flow (an online groundwater model viewer) and GeoLog Locator (an online geophysical log archiving system) soon; and,
- Their 2017 National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program groundwater quality sampling was on-going with:
  - 25 wells in the Trinity Aquifer complete;
  - 25 wells in the Edwards Aquifer almost complete;
  - 25 wells in the Edwards-Trinity Plateau Aquifer planned for late May 2017; and,
  - 75 additional wells in the Edwards Aquifer planned in 2018.

## Drought Status

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) referred TGPC members to the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor and TCEQ drought-affected Public Water Systems (PWSs) maps, as well as the TCEQ List of PWSs Limiting Water Use to Avoid Shortages (aka, the “180-day list”). As of April 11, 2017, 15 % of the state was classified as D0 through D2, down 10 % from the last TGPC meeting, and the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook map forecast that drought development was likely in the Panhandle through June 2017. As of April 13, 2017, of the 4,651 active community water systems in Texas, 1,082 were affected by drought (either voluntary or mandatory) and 720 of those used groundwater (either partially or exclusively). As of April 12, 2017, 11 PWSs in the state could be out of water in 180 days or less (the same number of PWSs as at the last TGPC meeting).

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Rules Update

Leon Byrd (TCEQ) reported on current TCEQ rulemaking that was of interest to the TGPC:

- 2017-003-336-WS – Schedule of Cost Recovery Fees for Subchapter H Licenses;
- 2016-027-111-CE – Amend Prescribed Burning Rules;
- 2016-019-334-CE – Implementation of Federal PST Rule Updates; and,
- 2016-002-307-OW – Triennial Revision of 30 TAC Chapter 307, Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.

Additional information on a specific TCEQ rule can be found at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/whatsnew.html>.

### New Publications

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) announced three TCEQ publications:

- *Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in Texas: 2016 Annual Report*, SFR-066/16 (new January 2017),  
[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/sfr/066-16.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/066-16.pdf);

- *Priority Groundwater Management Areas and Groundwater Conservation Districts: Report to the 85th Legislature*, SFR-053/10 (new January 2017), [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/sfr/053-10.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/053-10.pdf); and,
- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 85th Legislature*, SFR-047/16 (new January 2017), [http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/sfr/047-16.pdf](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/047-16.pdf).

Janie Hopkins (TWDB) announced that their *Texas Aquifers Study – Groundwater Quantity, Quality, Flow, and Contributions to Surface Water* had been completed in December 2016 and it was available on their website at

[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/docs/studies/TexasAquifersStudy\\_2016.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/docs/studies/TexasAquifersStudy_2016.pdf).

Janie Hopkins added that their border aquifers report would be published soon.

#### Upcoming Conferences

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) referred TGPC members to the conferences listed in the “2017 Water-related Conferences in Texas” handout – the current version of this handout is always available on the TGPC’s POE Subcommittee webpage at

<http://tgpc.state.tx.us/tgpc-subcommittees/tgpc-public-outreach-and-education-subcommittee/> under the “Additional Resources” heading.

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) announced that the 2017 TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair (ETF) would be May 16 – 17, 2017 at the Austin Convention Center, and that the TGPC would again be sponsoring an exhibit counter in the main TCEQ Water kiosk; however, the ETF was requiring payment to enter the exhibit floor this year and free passes for TGPC members were not available. TGPC members were still welcome to contact Peggy Hunka if they planned to attend the ETF and would be available to staff a shift at the TGPC counter.

Peter Pope (RRC) noted that he would be giving a presentation at the 2017 ETF on their site remediation program.

#### 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### 8. ADJOURN

Kelly Mills (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:22 PM CDT.