PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Third Quarter Meeting, Fiscal Year 2016

Meeting Date: March 1, 2016    Place: TCEQ Campus, Bldg F
Meeting No.: 49    Room: 3202A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members                        Affiliation                             
Diane Boellstorff (Co-Chair)                Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) 
Guy Fipps                                   AgriLife Extension                     
Peggy Hunka (Co-Chair)                      Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) 
Alan Cherepon                               TCEQ                                  
Chris Muller                                Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)    
Chris Moore                                 Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)      
Ashley Wendt                                Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) 
Sarah Schlessinger                         Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) 
Linda Ruiz McCall                          Bureau of Economic Geology of the University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG) 

Agency Staff                                Affiliation                             Program                             
Cary Betz                                   TCEQ                                  Water Availability Division          
Abiy Berehe                                 TCEQ                                  Water Availability Division          
Leon Byrd                                   TCEQ                                  Water Availability Division          
Marcia Workman                              TCEQ                                  Water Availability Division          

Interested Parties                          Affiliation                             
Barrett Clark                               Zara Environmental LLC                 
Peter Sprouse                               Zara Environmental LLC                 

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee Meeting Agenda, March 1, 2016 
2. TGPC POE Subcommittee Meeting Record, December 2, 2015 
3. Outreach Events Status Report, March 2016 
4. Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) events list, February 28, 2016 
5. Google Analytics reports on TGPC website activity, December 1, 2015 – February 25, 2016 
6. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Publications List 
7. TSSWCB Water Supply Enhancement Program package (fact sheets, tables, maps, and report titles) 
8. Draft What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG)? 
9. Draft What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG)?
10. Draft *What Does it Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities?*
12. National Groundwater Awareness Week in the *Take Care of Texas Newsletter*
MEETING RECORD OF March 1, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension), Co-Chair of the TGPC POE Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 AM CST. POE Subcommittee members were introduced. Al Cherepon noted that he was listed as a Subcommittee member rather than staff.

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://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 October 2015

- AgriLife Extension Abandoned Water Well Closure Education
  - None since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting
  - None scheduled at this time

- TGPC Exhibit Booth
  - Two since the previous POE Subcommittee meeting (84 estimated attendees)
  - Five planned through August 2016

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 5,700 samples or attendees at these events since April 2011.

TGPC Website Activity Statistics

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) the Google Analytics activity report on the TGPC website for December 1, to February 25, 2016. The average website visit duration was 2:04 minutes down 0:01 seconds, and the average pages/visit was down to 2.05 pages/visit from 2.17 in December. The GovDelivery
emails regarding the quarterly TGPC meeting generated a spike in website activity.

3. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next TGPC POE Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday June 22, 2016, at 9:30 AM CST, in TCEQ’s Building F, Conference Room 2210.
4. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND APPROVE DOCUMENTATION

*TGPC Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan, 2nd Edition*

**Topic Updates**

Three of the four topics in the current *Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan* (“Plan”, http://tgpc.state.tx.us/POE/TGPC_POE_GW_EduOutreachPlan10Sep2013.pdf) were discussed at the meeting:

- Abandoned Water Wells – No update.
- TWON – Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reported there was no new information other than what was already discussed.

**Popular Press Articles**

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the warehouse inventory of printed AgriLife Extension publications used for TWON and TGPC outreach events. The POE Subcommittee discussed using the reproduction allocation in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 TCEQ and AgriLife Extension POE Contract to print/reprint the following AgriLife Extension publications:

- *Hydrogen Sulfide in Drinking Water* (L-5312) and,
- *Understanding and Maintaining your Septic System* (L-5491).

Sarah Schlessinger (TAGD) proposed, Linda Ruiz McCall (UTBEG) seconded, and all remaining POE Subcommittee members approved the above popular press articles be reprinted using funds from the 2016 TCEQ and AgriLife Extension POE Contract.

**TWON Fact Sheets**

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) discussed progress on an update to the AgriLife factsheet titled, *Solving Drinking Water Problems in the Home*, which has a table of treatment options. There are a few new treatment options since the last update that need to be added to the table.

**Draft What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG)?**

Diane Boellstorf (AgriLife Extension), led a discussion on *What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG)*? Sarah Schlessinger (TAGD) provided
feedback, along with several other POE Subcommittee members. It was decided that since the author was not at the meeting the Subcommittee could not vote on this FAQ until the next meeting.

Draft What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG)?

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the draft What Planning Activities are Conducted by Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG)? FAQ update and Linda Ruiz-McCall (BEG) provided feedback, along with several other POE Subcommittee members. It was decided that since the author was not at the meeting the Subcommittee could not vote on this FAQ until the next meeting.

Draft What Does it Cost to Conduct Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Activities?
Draft What is the Status of the Regional water Planning Group (RWPG) Process?

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) reviewed the draft of the two FAQs listed above. No comments or suggestions were made.

The last two FAQs were approved for posting on the website.

5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT GROUNDWATER ISSUES

Peter Sprouse and Barrett Clark of Zara Environmental gave a presentation on the benefits of using abandoned wells as monitoring or scientific wells. It was decided that the POE Subcommittee could develop some guidance on keeping a well open while meeting the state requirements for surface completion and proper capping. A suggestion was made that a survey be sent to Groundwater Conservation District asking about their current regulations regarding scientific or monitoring wells.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Hunka (TCEQ) passed around a picture of the RRC National Groundwater Awareness poster was set up in their lobby. Chris Miller (RRC) said that he would get on social media and promote National Groundwater Awareness week.

The list of 2015 – 2016 Water-related Conferences in Texas was available for POE Subcommittee members.
6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. ADJOURN

Diane Boellstorff (AgriLife Extension) adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:50 AM CST.