

# **AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

## **TIME AND DATE:**

10:30 AM, April 18, 2012

## **LOCATION:**

TCEQ, Park 35, Building F, Room 2210, Austin, Texas

## **PURPOSE OF MEETING:**

The FY12 Third Quarter Meeting of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

## **ATTENDEES:**

### AGENCIES

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality [TCEQ]  
Texas Department of Agriculture [TDA]  
Texas AgriLife Research [TAR]  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service [TAES]  
Texas Water Development Board [TWDB]  
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts [TAGD]  
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board [TSSWCB]

### REPRESENTATIVES

Joseph L. Peters	Chair, Member, TCEQ, Austin
Richard Eyster	Member, TDA, Austin
Kevin Wagner	Member, TAR, College Station
Mark Matocha	Member, TAES, College Station
Janie Hopkins	Member, TWDB, Austin
David Van Dressar	Member, TAGD, La Grange
Richard Egg	Member, TSSWCB, Temple

### AGENCY STAFF

Alan Cherepon	TCEQ, Austin
Scott Underwood	TCEQ, Austin

### INTERESTED PARTIES

None in attendance for this meeting

## **MEETING SUMMARY:**

### **I. Opening Remarks**

The Chairman of the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee, Dr. Joseph Peters (TCEQ), called the meeting to order. All subcommittee members were in attendance. Dr. Peters welcomed everyone to the meeting and had the Subcommittee members introduce themselves. The meeting proceeded to the Task Force Reports.

### **II Task Force Reports**

**Site Selection Task Force:** Ms. Hopkins (TWDB), the Task Force Chair, provided an update on the TWDB's completed and planned sampling activities. Sampling will be the same as what Ms. Hopkins reported at the previous meeting, with most samples scheduled for the Ogallala and Edwards-Trinity Aquifers. Sampling was begun in April.

Additionally, Mr. Cherepon added that TCEQ will be sampling only in the Panhandle this monitoring season, the week of June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The monitoring will include On-Going monitoring in select Public Water Supply wells with known atrazine as well as cooperating with the Superfund program by sampling some private wells surrounding some sites near Dimmitt and Lubbock. Samples will be analyzed by immunoassay for atrazine and chlorpyrifos, and 15-20 samples will be analyzed by at least three laboratory methods for various pesticides of interest.

**Education Task Force:** Mr. Cherepon (TCEQ), a co-chair of this Task Force, reported that the Public Outreach and Education Task Force had no items related to pesticides. Dr. Matocha (TAES) the other co-chair had one item to report, that the Texas AgriLife Extension Service has prepared educational materials for the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Pesticides General Permit (PGP).

**PMP Task Force:** Mr. Cherepon (TCEQ), a co-chair of this Task Force, reported that EPA hosted a webinar on April 12th on changes it had made to the online **Pesticides Of Interest Tracking System (POINTS)** pesticide assessment database, as detailed in the grant guidance (the *Fiscal Year 2011-2013 Joint EPA OPP/OECA State/Tribal Cooperative Agreement Guidance*). Mr. Cherepon first read the changes to the grant, from previous years, from the guidance, which included specifics related to POINTS.

- Only POINTS reporting is now required for the POINTS Program, the End-Of-Year (EOY) water quality report no longer being required for this Program, but regions can still request the EOY report from the state if they desire.
- POINTS reporting is due by December 31<sup>st</sup> each year.
- Pesticide work conducted by or for the Office of Water is now classified as being conducted under the Pesticides in Water Program.
- Two measures have been added to POINTS Program: 1) Counting re-evaluations of pesticides of interest or concern that have been re-evaluated due to new data, technology, use changes, or benchmark changes, and 2) Counting pesticides of concern that have been re-evaluated and found to be no longer of concern.

- Updated grant work plans will not include any actual commitment by states to re-evaluate pesticides, but will enable the crediting of states for re-evaluating pesticides as work related to the program.

### **III. Information Exchange – Status Updates**

Mr. Cherepon had several items to share with the subcommittee. He has been active in helping to plan the upcoming Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP) water quality course in Helena, Montana the week of June 26<sup>th</sup>. Several items of interest were presented.

- Mr. Cherepon and Dr. David Villarreal (TDA) have both been nominated and accepted to attend this grant training, along with several other Region 6 state representatives.
- Mr. Cherepon has been a member of the course planning workgroup. Through weekly teleconferences and emails he has been endeavoring to steer the PREP training more to issues applicable to Texas.
- Surface water and sediment sampling are scheduled to be addressed in one of the PREP sessions, regardless of the fact that only four to five states actually include sediment sampling in their program due to their more serious pesticide problems.
- A small number of states are developing and using universal pesticide methods, which are designed to analyze a larger number of pesticides per method. These methods are being developed for the sake of economy which can be achieved by reducing the number of methods needed for the necessary analyses. EPA approves the use of these new universal methods on a state by state basis. One drawback to this approach is that precision, accuracy, and reporting limits are compromised. Methods designed for a smaller set of analytes – that is, a group of analytes more closely related to each other chemically – tend to yield higher precision and accuracy and lower reporting limits. The immunoassay analysis method is one example of this, being able to detect very low concentrations, since each kit is designed to analyze for one pesticide. The USGS is also developing universal methods.
- Attendees from each state will present their state’s approach to managing the FIFRA program, POINTS, and other issues related to pesticides and water quality.
- EPA headquarters isn’t getting pesticide monitoring data from all states (Mr. Cherepon reported that he has been sending Texas data to them for at least the past two to three years); there may be a communication disconnect between the regions and EPA headquarters.

As a part of the requirements for atrazine re-review, Syngenta has been sampling surface water at 78 sites across the country, including several sites in Texas. Because of favorable monitoring results (lower detections between 2007 and 2011), Syngenta has made a request for EPA to suspend monitoring of the 78 community water systems. EPA approved the decommissioning of 68 of these sites. None of the remaining ten monitoring sites are located in Texas; they are mostly located in Illinois and Ohio.

## **V. Announcements**

Mr. Cherepon announced that the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Austin. Also, Dr Peters announced that the annual international meeting of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers will meet in Dallas this year, July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Cherepon related that Dr. Villarreal (TDA) had mentioned that an invasive species conference would be coming up soon, possibly in San Antonio, and anyone interested should contact Dr. Villarreal for more information. Mr. Cherepon also mentioned that the next EPA Region 6 States/Tribes Pesticide meeting would be taking place in New Orleans, May 15<sup>th</sup> through May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **VI. Public Comments**

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

With no further announcements or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

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Recorded and transcribed by Alan Cherepon.

In their afternoon meeting, the decision was made by the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee that its FY12 fourth quarter meeting would take place on 7/18/12 at 1:00 P.M., in TCEQ Building F, Conference Room 2210. As per usual practice the Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee meeting will, therefore, take place on the same date and in the same room at 10:30 A.M.