

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE REPORT SUBCOMMITTEE

RECORD OF MEETING

First Meeting, Fiscal Year 2024

Meeting Date: March 20, 2024

Place: Videoconference

Room: N/A

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Subcommittee Members

Affiliation

Abiy Berehe (Chair)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Robert Bradley	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
James Harcourt	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Amy Jones	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC Government Relations)
TJ Helton (absent)	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
John Malito	University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG)
Justin Thompson	University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UTBEG)
David Gunn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
Rosario Sanchez Flores (absent)	Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research)
Julia Stanford	Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
David Villarreal	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Eric Lawrence	Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS)

Agency Staff

Affiliation Program

Katie Brice	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Al Cherepon	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Stephanie Escobar	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Cindy Hooper	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Peggy Hunka	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Kathy McCormack	TCEQ	Water Availability Division
Scott Underwood	TCEQ	Water Availability Division

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. [Legislative Report Subcommittee Agenda March 20, 2024](#)
2. [Recommendations to the 88th Texas Legislature SFR-047/22](#)

RECORD OF MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The TGPC approves all subcommittee products and designated TGPC members attending this subcommittee meeting participated as an employee or representative of their agency or organization, not as a designated TGPC member. Therefore, this subcommittee meeting was not subject to the Open Meetings Act and it was held 100% virtually. The public was also able to attend this meeting via teleconference or videoconference at no cost.

Abiy Berehe (TCEQ), Chair of the Legislative Report Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and made preliminary meeting announcements. Subcommittee members introduced themselves.

2. DISCUSSION AND EDITING OF THE DRAFT ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE: A REPORT TO THE 88TH LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Berehe (TCEQ) announced the reactivation of the Legislative Report Subcommittee then outlined the plan for preparing the *Report to the 89th Legislature*. There will be two subcommittee meetings: today's meeting and a second meeting on June 5, 2024. The objective is to update the *Report to the 88th Legislature* and submit the draft *Report to the 89th Legislature* to the main committee in July 2024. If there is a need for another meeting, we will discuss it after the July main committee meeting. Mr. Berehe referred members to the table of contents for *Recommendations to the 88th Texas Legislature*. Mr. Berehe went through the report and pointed out which sections will be updated by the other subcommittees. This subcommittee is responsible for updating the Recommendations section. Mr. Berehe then referred members to the Recommendations section: pages 7-14 from the *Recommendations to the 88th Texas Legislature*. This is the document this subcommittee will work on. We will send subcommittee members an electronic copy so that any comments after the meeting can be tracked and sent to Mr. Berehe or Scott Underwood (TCEQ). David Gunn (TDLR) pointed out a typo. Mr. Berehe initiated the review and update of pages 7-14:

26.401 Legislative Findings

No changes.

26.403 Creation and Members of TGPC

No changes.

26.405 Powers and Duties of TGPC

No changes.

26.406 Groundwater Contamination Information and Reports; Rules

No changes. David Villarreal (TDA) says GLO has a new commissioner, Dawn Buckingham, M.D. Mr. Villarreal suggested that the TGPC ask GLO again if they want to join the TGPC. David will try to get the leaders to agree in purpose and get positive movement. David Gunn (TDLR) points out another typo.

26.407 Protection and Enhancement Plans

No changes.

26.408 Notice of Groundwater Contamination

No changes.

II Abandoned Water Well Plugging and Education

No changes

III Evapotranspiration Network

Mr. Berehe (TCEQ) says this issue was addressed by the legislature. No need to retain this recommendation. Mr. Villereal (TDA) says WCAC may have some recommendations and we will see what they want to do. Julie Stanford (TAGD) says this recommendation should be a general effort and should be kept somewhere in the report just to re-enforce the ET Network. Justin Thompson (BEG) asked about the codification but lack of funding from the legislature. Mr. Berehe says to move the ET recommendation with the WCAC recommendations in a following section. Mr. Berehe says the two white papers may be included as a recommendation later if they look ready.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE COMPLETION OF THE DRAFT LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND PRESENTATION TO THE TGPC.

March 20, 2024-discuss previous report's recommendations and actions-first subcommittee meeting and actions taken by the 88th Legislative Session.

June 5, 2024-Work and finalize draft recommendations to the 89th Legislature-second subcommittee meeting.

Before the July 2024-TGPC meeting. Report status to main committee. Seek tentative approval and send out to member agencies for concurrence and management approval. TCEQ staff to make non- substantive changes.

September 2024-Third meeting (if needed).

October 2024- seek final report approval from TGPC then send report to TCEQ Agency Communications for publication.

December 2024- distribute report to elected officials.

4. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

After a scheduling discussion, Abiy Berehe (TCEQ) announced that the next meeting would be on June 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robert Bradley (TWDB) says Jeff Walker is retiring. Julia Stanford (TAGD) Summit in San Antonio is getting ready; they are calling for papers. Ms. Stanford also stated TAGD has a new

director named Adam Foster.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

7. ADJOURN

With the subcommittee's consensus, Abiy Berehe (TCEQ) adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.