TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Charge

# Date Approved

TBD

# Sponsor

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC)

# Co-Chairs

* Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
* Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

# Members

* Representatives from TGPC member agencies and organizations.
* Other state and federal agencies.
* Interested individuals,

# Subcommittee Purpose

The primary goal of the Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee is to develop and implement educational outreach programs for landowners concerned with groundwater protection and environmental health issues.

The POE Subcommittee also tries to facilitate communication and coordination among TGPC members who support landowner educational outreach projects related to groundwater.

In addition, the POE Subcommittee works to identify topics and areas for additional educational material, identify other stakeholders who may benefit from such material and outreach, and implement the identified outreach and education activities.

Support TWON by providing funding through the federal PPG grant for outreach and water well owner sampling efforts.

# Subcommittee Activities

* Develop educational materials.
* Coordinate outreach programs.
* Conduct special projects.
* Attend conferences and display educational materials and TGPC information and publications.

The POE Subcommittee should devote special effort to areas of the state with high levels of naturally occurring constituents of concern such as arsenic and radionuclides, and landowners with on-site wastewater treatment in rapidly growing suburban areas.

The Subcommittee will work in cooperation with TGPC members to develop educational materials and help develop outreach programs on the following topics:

* Plugging and capping abandoned water wells
* Communicating possible health impacts to owners of private well owners
* Home owner maintenance of on-site sewage facilities (OSSF)
* Sampling of domestic water wells
* Supporting the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) groundwater quality protection program.
* Develop FAQs or fact sheets on new and emerging contaminants of interest.

# Expected Results

The POE Subcommittee will show how it accomplished the Subcommittee Purpose and Subcommittee Activities.

Subcommittee deliverables include:

1. Educational Plan: which would consult with the current TGPC Legislative Report’s recommendations regarding public outreach and education.
2. Activity Report: Annual report on the previous year’s activities, to be presented to TGPC at its first quarter meeting of each fiscal year.

# Scope and Boundaries

The POE Subcommittee may utilize additional staff from appropriate agencies as needed to address specific procedures and to maximize expertise related to this charge. The Subcommittee will coordinate with the Groundwater Issues Subcommittee when needed to develop educational materials, publications, and outreach activities. The POE Subcommittee should coordinate with agency program areas, other agencies, and interested groups regarding the development of educational materials.

The POE Subcommittee will hold quarterly meetings and must maintain written records of all meetings; however, the POE Subcommittee is not subject to Open Meetings Act.

The POE Subcommittee may form task force work groups to address individual issues, as needed. These work groups will meet as necessary to support the POE Subcommittee.

# Reporting to the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

The POE Subcommittee will report on its activities at each regularly scheduled TGPC quarterly meeting.

# Projected Completion Date

The continuing assessment of the state’s educational needs to address public health issues and reduce contamination of groundwater is open-ended.