

**Summary of Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC)  
Groundwater Issues (GWI) Subcommittee Meeting  
March 20, 2024**

The TGPC GWI Subcommittee last met via videoconference on March 20, 2024, and 13 state agencies and organizations were represented.

The current Agricultural Chemicals Task Force Status Report (available on the TGPC GWI Subcommittee webpage, <https://tGPC.texas.gov/tGPC-subcommittees/tGPC-groundwater-issues-subcommittee/>, under the “Additional Resources” heading) was reviewed with the following highlights:

- The revised Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Quality Management Plan (QMP) was approved by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 on December 7, 2023;
- In December 2023, the Pesticides of INterest Tracking System (POINTS) Pesticide Assessment Database was updated for Texas for FY 2023 and uploaded to the U.S. EPA Central Data Exchange-FIFRA Grant Database (CDX-FGD); and,
- A U.S. EPA Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide (FIFRA) End-Of-Year grant meeting for FY 2023 was held at TCEQ in Austin on January 9, 2024, with Amy Camacho (new U.S. EPA Region 6 Director), Robert Snowbarger (new U.S. EPA Region 6 Coordinator), Eric Nystrom (U.S. EPA Region 6 Grant Liaison), and Alan Cherepon (TCEQ).

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

- *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report – 2023* (“*Joint Report*”, SFR-056)
  - Work on the 2023 *Joint Report* was in progress and the report was expected to be published by June 1, 2024.
- *Activities and Recommendations of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 89th Legislature* (“*Legislative Report*”, SFR-47)
  - The TGPC Legislative Report Subcommittee was reactivated during the Second Quarter FY 2024 TGPC meeting. They were meeting on March 20, 2024, to begin work on the *Legislative Report* for the 89th Legislature.
- Groundwater Assessment (AS-465/24) for the 2024 *Texas Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)* (“*Texas Integrated Report*”)
  - The Groundwater Assessment was being prepared and would be published before June 1, 2024; and,
  - The published report would be provided to TCEQ’s Water Quality Planning Division for inclusion in the 2024 *Texas Integrated Report* submittal to the U.S. EPA.
- *Priority Groundwater Management Areas and Groundwater Conservation Districts, Report to the 89th Texas Legislature* (“*PGMA/GCD Legislative Report*”, SFR-53)
  - Work on the next edition of the *PGMA/GCD Legislative Report* would be initiated in the summer of 2024.

The following current groundwater issues were discussed:

- Oil and Gas Produced Water;
- Emerging Chemical and Biological Contaminants;
- Environmental Justice and Groundwater Access and Quality;
- Groundwater Quality Monitoring;
- Evapotranspiration Networks; and,
- Others (i.e., a new report from The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment about springs in Texas, and how the recent wildfires in the Texas panhandle had the potential to impact groundwater quality).

Progress was being made on two white papers, *Children's Health and Groundwater Quality at Child Care Operations Using Private Water Wells* and *Groundwater Quality Protection Through Monitoring*, and updated and initial drafts, respectively, were planned for the next meeting.

The next TGPC GWI Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for June 5, 2024.