

# Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

*Protecting One of Our Most Precious Resources*

26 YEARS OF PROGRESS

DECEMBER 2015

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) strives to identify areas where new or existing groundwater programs could be enhanced, as well as to improve coordination among agencies involved in groundwater activities. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the TGPC is a coordinating mechanism for nine state agencies and the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts. TGPC members are as follows:



- The Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) – Chair
- The Executive Administrator of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) – Vice Chair
- The Executive Director of the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
- The Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- The Deputy Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
- The Executive Director of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
- A representative selected by the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD)
- The Director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research)
- The Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin (UTBEG)
- A representative of the Water Well Drillers and Pump Installers program at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

## ENABLING LEGISLATION

The TGPC's enabling legislation (House Bill 1458) allows the various state agency heads to designate personal representatives to conduct the business of the TGPC, and for the past 26 years, those representatives have ensured that the major responsibilities of the TGPC have been carried out, including:

- Developing and updating a comprehensive *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* ([http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/188.pdf));
- Studying and recommending to the Legislature groundwater protection programs for each area in which groundwater is not protected by current regulation ([https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/sfr/047-14.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/047-14.pdf)); and,
- Publishing a report documenting the status of groundwater contamination cases and groundwater monitoring programs (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/sfr/056/056-14-index.html>).



TGPC meeting on July 16, 2014. (left to right) David Villarreal (TDA), Chris Moore (RRC), David Gunn (TDLR), Cary Betz (TCEQ), Janie Hopkins (TWDB), Kevin Wagner (AgriLife Research), Alan Cherepon (TCEQ), Bridget Scanlon (UTBEG), Angela Kennedy (DSHS), David Van Dresar (TAGD), and T.J. Helton (TSSWCB).

## SUBCOMMITTEES

The meeting schedule for the TGPC and its three Subcommittees (Groundwater Issues, Legislative Report, and Public Outreach and Education) can be found at the TGPC's website (<http://www.tgpc.texas.gov>). The Subcommittees provide documents and recommendations for final consideration and approval by the TGPC. The public is welcome at all TGPC meetings.



TGPC display booth at the 2015 TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference

## FAQS FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION AND NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE USES

Over 40 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on a variety of hot topics (such as water ownership, *in situ* uranium mining, the capping and plugging of water wells, groundwater conservation districts, and Class II oil and gas disposal wells) can be found at the TGPC's FAQs webpage (<http://tgpc.state.tx.us/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The TGPC's website functions as a clearinghouse of groundwater information with links and publications on a number of topics including pesticides, water wells, septic systems, groundwater contamination, pollution prevention, water conservation, classroom applications, and oil, gas, and mining issues. Additional details about the TGPC and its meetings, Subcommittees, and publications can be found at the TGPC's website (<http://www.tgpc.texas.gov>).

