

Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC)
Meeting Minutes: August 31, 2006 10:00 – 1:00
Teleconference from DNR GEF 2 Room 511
101 South Webster, Madison

Committee members in attendance: Ron Kuehn, Andy Graham, Jill Jonas for Todd Ambs, Lawrie Kobza, Bob Nauta, Mike Carter, Jodi Habush Sinykin, Dan Duchniak

Welcome: Kuehn noted that Co-chair DuWayne Johnsrud has respectfully resigned from the committee.

Discussion of Comments on Draft NR820:

Jonas thanked the committee members for the significant feedback and reminded them of the Natural Resources Board September meeting. She reviewed the DNR rule development requirements, including the detailed public comment and hearing process. She stated that certainly GAC consensus on the proposed rule would be preferred. If that wasn't possible, she asked the committee to frame the issues to a level with which they were most comfortable receiving public comment.

The GAC made no changes to the following sections: NR820.11, NR820.13, NR820.31, NR820.32.

NR820.10

It was agreed to change to "impacts from groundwater drawdown and pumpage".

NR820.12

It was decided that the following would be deferred for later discussion:

- the definition of "Spring" will be the statutory definition. The GAC will consider refining it further. Chair Kuehn asked that GAC members develop specific questions for consideration by the springs work group and submit the questions to him.
- "Water Loss" will be referenced to the statutory definition of "interbasin diversion" (281.35(1)(g), Stats.), to avoid confusion over basin size.
- further definition of "Significant Adverse Environmental Impact" will not be added.
- the definitions of "High Capacity Property" and "One Property" will be as already defined in NR 812.

Note: The committee asked for a discussion of cumulative impacts at the October meeting.

NR820.20

Jonas reviewed the designation of groundwater management areas. The areas in the draft rule correspond to those shown the committee at its inception.

GAC concurred:

- the determination of a GMA must meet the statutory definition. Jefferson County and other areas will not be included.
- reference to "U.S. Public Land Survey Townships" rather than using the term "Towns".

NR820.21

This section is removed because the GAC will address Groundwater Management Plans in its report to the legislature due no later than December 31, 2006.

NR820.22

This section is removed because the GAC will address Approvals of High Capacity wells in a GMA in its report to the legislature due on January 1, 2007.

NR820.30

Jonas reviewed the need for a screening process that considers different types of wells proposed within a GPA. She used the example of potential impacts from a domestic residential well versus an irrigation well located within a GPA.

The GAC agreed :

- the screening process should be revised to include appropriate triggers for determining need of further environmental review.
- to delay requesting authorization to conduct hearings on the proposed rule until the October Natural Resources Board.
- to add Outstanding Resources Waters and Exceptional Resource Waters to 820.30(4)(d).

NR 820.33

The GAC agreed that Section NR 820.32 would not apply to proposed high capacity wells that are water supplies for public water systems operated by a public utility.

General

- The GAC agreed to defer a discussion of dispute resolution to the October 5 meeting.
- Jonas acknowledged the need for a new section that addresses mitigation and requested input from the GAC.

Next Steps:

Revisions to the draft code will be distributed to the committee in early September for review. The GAC agreed to hold a teleconference in late September after having had the opportunity to comment on the revisions.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:40.