

Meeting Minutes  
Drinking Water and Groundwater Study Group Meeting  
October 16, 2018 9:30 a.m.  
Natural Resources Building - GEF 2 Room G09 - 101 S Webster St, Madison

Attendees:

Chris Groh – Wisconsin Rural Water Association *	James Wedekind – TRC
David Webb – Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene *	Joe Grande – Madison Water
Jeff Kramer – Wisconsin Water Well Association *	Christopher Barnes
Lawrie Kobza – Municipal Environmental Group *	Denise Schmidt – PSC
John Steinbrink – AWWA – Wisconsin Chapter*	Laura Olah – CSWAB
Rick Wietersen – WALDAB *	Kyle Burton – DNR
Susan Hedman – Clean Wisconsin *	Cathy Wunderlich - DNR
Steve Geis – DNR Lab Certification Program	Bruce Rheineck – DNR
Marty Collins – WI State Lab of Hygiene	Liesa Lehmann – DNR
Jeff Beiriger – WI Water Well Association	Dave Johnson – DNR
Mike Sullivan – Oak Creek Water	Steve Ales – DNR
	Carlyn Brown – DNR

\*Drinking Water and Groundwater Study Group member (DGSG)

The [agenda and presentation can be found on the DGSG website](#)

### Funding of Private Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacements

As of February 2018, s. PSC 196.372 allows public water system rates to be used for private (customer owned) lead service line replacement. This code allows up to 50 percent of the customer service to be replaced at no cost to the owner (grant) and the remaining portion of the service can be replaced utilizing a loan to the customer that cannot be forgiven (must be paid back).

DNR can fund private lead service line replacement through the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) by issuing a variance under ch. NR 166, Wis. Adm. Code, to the restriction of funding private water service replacements under the SDWLP.

If a community is applying for SDWLP State Fiscal Year 2020 funds for lead service line replacements or other drinking water projects, they must submit an “Intent to Apply” (pre-application) by October 31, 2018. SDWLP funding applications are due by June 30, 2019. SDWLP have not historically been fully utilized, however there are several large projects anticipated in the next few years that may exhaust the annual funding allotment.

Public water systems are required to report annually the number of publicly and privately-owned lead service lines they have to the Public Service Commission (PSC). This reporting allows Wisconsin to understand and report federally the magnitude of infrastructure in need of replacement and associated construction costs.

### Public Service Commission vs DNR Approval Overview

The projects that are required to be reviewed by both agencies are similar, but the content of what is being reviewed is different. PSC reviews for customer fairness and equity and DNR reviews for public health and safety.

Although not required under Wis. Adm. Code, both agencies encourage water utilities to participate in a joint agency pre-application meeting ahead of a project submittal. This allows the utility and their consultant to provide a summary of the engineering report, the scope and need of the project and anticipated costs. All participants are able to ask questions, provide comments and get an understanding of the proposed project. PSC

does a good job of documenting questions that come up during the pre-application meeting which is useful to look back on during their application review process. Both agencies keep copies of the presentation provided at the meeting, however there isn't a formal written summary of the pre-application meeting put in the file. Hedman mentioned that including summaries of pre-application meetings in the PSC docket is helpful because it often can clear up questions about why a decision was made and avoid the need to file formal data requests as part of the PSC proceeding.

## **NR 812 Revision Update**

Kobza asked if the public can see the public comments and responses to the questions after a public comment period ends, but before it goes to the Natural Resources Board.

- Lehmann said the public can review the comments and responses when the materials are posted for the Natural Resources Board, and can register to speak or provide comments at the Natural Resources Board meeting.

## **Remediation and Redevelopment - 292.11 (aka Spill Law)**

RP = Responsible party

PRP = Potentially responsible party

RR= Remediation and Redevelopment program at DNR

Kobza asked what should a municipal do in a situation when a public water supply well is near the source of the spill?

- RR has a self-implementing site investigation process. The responsibility lays with RP or PRP.
- RR has a responsibility to look at the situation. If the municipal has data that they can contribute to the investigation they should bring it to RR staff.

What if you have a well in a capture zone? From a remediation standpoint, RP must minimize harmful effects on receptors.

Johnson reinforced the importance of having a well head protection plan and knowing where the water is coming from.

Kobza also noted that RR has the authority to enforce stricter regulations, but this is not always happening. Municipal water systems are having to cover the cost to clean up the water.

## **Nitrate and arsenic sample results evaluation**

Wietersen asked Johnson if he has found any regions in the state where arsenic hasn't been found.

- Typically areas with washed clean sands. But we don't want to exclude certain areas from arsenic sampling so we will continue sampling statewide.

2018 Groundwater Coordinating Council Report

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/groundwater/documents/GCC/Report/FullReport2018.pdf>

When chlorinating a well in an arsenic sensitive area it would be several weeks before you would see an affect.

## **Roundtable**

### **Clean Wisconsin**

- Hedman mentioned that Grant, Iowa and Lafayette counties are leading an effort to collect nitrate and bacteria samples in private wells.

### **American Water Works Association (AWWA) - Wisconsin Chapter**

- Steinbrink suggested a future agenda item: Diversions (Waukesha, Racine and Pleasant Prairie)

### **Wisconsin Rural Water Association**

- Groh, no updates at this time.

### **Municipal Environmental Group**

- Kobza, no updates at this time.

### **Wisconsin Water Well Association**

Kramer noted that bringing awareness to nitrate in private wells is important.

### **Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**

In a response to staff turnover, the lab is looking at more efficient ways to look at non-chemical samples.

The lab distributed over 1,000 test kits to southwest Wisconsin and Dane county after the floods.

The lab has a new researcher that specializes in technical and environmental PFC information.

### **Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards**

Wietersen asked Johnson what was the span of years where manure spreading tripled.

- 1994 – 2013

## **Hot topics**

Laura Olah gave a presentation on behalf of Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger; PFAS Chemicals: Tragedy and Challenge.

DNR has an internal workgroup discussing PFAS.

Last spring EPA took nitrate samples in Armenia. Currently DNR is working closely with Wood and Juneau counties and the Armenia Growers collation is working with well owners to install treatment and providing bottled water.

The [agenda and presentation can be found on the DGSG website](#) – Meeting minutes recorded by Carlyn Brown, DNR