

Meeting Minutes  
Drinking Water and Groundwater Study Group Meeting  
January 10, 2019 9:30 a.m.  
Natural Resources Building - GEF 2 Room G09 - 101 S Webster St, Madison

**Attendees:**

David Webb – Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene\*  
Lawrie Kobza – Municipal Environmental Group\*  
John Steinbrink – AWWA – Wisconsin Chapter\*  
Lane Ruhland – WMC\*  
Paul Junio – Northern Lake Service\*  
Rick Wietersen – WALDAB\*  
Sarah Yang – DHS\*  
Susan Hedman – Clean Wisconsin\*  
Steve Geis – DNR Lab Certification Program  
Marty Collins – WI State Lab of Hygiene  
Tony Steffon – City of Fond du Lac  
Amy Bliss – WI Housing Alliance  
Eric Uram – Headwater LLC

Jocelyn Hemming - WI State Lab of Hygiene  
Renee Exum – Michael Best and Friedrich  
James Wedekind – TRC  
Denise Schmidt – PSC  
Donald Gallo - Axley  
Steve Elmore - DNR  
Kyle Burton – DNR  
Cathy Wunderlich - DNR  
Bruce Rheineck – DNR  
Adam DeWeese – DNR  
Adam Freihoefer – DNR  
Jeff Helmuth – DNR  
Carlyn Brown – DNR

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

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

## Internal updates

Burton was asked to define the following public water systems:

- Municipal (MC) systems are owned by a city, town, village, or other government entity.
- Other-than-municipal community (OTM) systems include mobile home parks, subdivisions, apartment buildings and condominium complexes.
- Non-Transient Non-community (NN) systems include places of business, schools, etc. on their own well. Transient non-community (TN) systems include motels, restaurants, taverns, campgrounds, parks and gas stations.

Member Junio asked how the preliminary NN lead and copper monitoring schedules were going to be disseminated.

- DNR water supply specialists are working directly with NN systems. Final monitoring schedules will be available on the DNR website.

Member Hedman asked how long seasonal start-up systems have to submit their start-up forms.

- Forms must be filled out and returned to the DNR within 10 days of the system opening. Systems that fail to submit the form will be in violation of the total coliform rule. The violation results in increase monitoring from annual to monthly.

Member Hedman asked if municipals are seeing homeowners drop out of the lead testing program post Flint.

- Yes, states all over the nation are dealing with the same challenge, where home owners don't want public records relating to lead associated to their homes.

After a PFAS discussion among members, a presentation will be given at the April 4, 2019 meeting.

Elmore has no DNR leadership updates at this time.

### **New (CY19) PSC annual report elements due in April 2020 on source water treatment**

Member Wietersen asked if DNR and PSC will track capital projects to differentiate the project driver, such as contaminant treatment driven vs. a need for additional capacity, infrastructure replacement, etc.

- Yes, the objective is to ascertain capital and operational costs statewide associated with treatment of contaminants.

Member Kobza asked that DNR and PSC reach out to utilities ahead of time before finalizing the report format. She recommended to reaching out customer services groups in the industry (i.e. Water Well Association, Rural Water).

### **Central Sands Lake Study**

DNR will be leading a study to evaluate and model the potential impacts of groundwater withdrawals on three specific lakes in the Central Sands region. USGS and WGNHS will be partners in the effort. Website:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/HighCap/CSLStudy.html>

How will recharge be simulated?

- Satellite imaging spectroradiometry and a USGS soil water balance model will be used for initial recharge estimates.

How many wells will be used in the modeling?

- DNR has a good data set of high capacity well pumping data. Over 2,000 wells will be included in the model.

Is there a moratorium for high capacity wells in this area?

- No.

Will DNR be considering cumulative impacts?

- DNR is not considering cumulative impacts in its high-capacity well reviews at this time.
- The Central Sands Study will consider cumulative impacts in its evaluation of pumping impacts on the study lakes.

### **Roundtable**

#### **Department of Health Services**

- DHS continues to work on the groundwater standards.
- DHS submitted a notice of intent to apply for the EPA WIIN Grant: Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program
- New DHS Per- and Polyfluroalkyl Substances website. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>

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

- Webb has hired Dr. Hemming to a key position to his SLOH team.

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- There are many facets to the science of PFAs (i.e. technique, method, matrix, limits of detection). Junio and Webb are starting a conversation to work together with the lab community.
- The lab recently distributed an emergency lab test kit. It was good to exercise the process.
- It is Radon Awareness month.

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

- Wietersen noted this study group is informational.

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

- Steinbrink would like future updates on lead and copper and the new DNR administration.

#### **Clean Wisconsin**

- Hedman noted that it is good to know Wisconsin has successfully tested the process for distributing emergency test kits.
- Updated members on the well contamination study in Southwest Wisconsin (Grant, Iowa and Lafayette Counties). Noted recent announcement from the legislature that a water quality task force will be assembled – and expressed hope that the task force would include all stakeholders involved in well contamination issues.

#### **Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce**

- Ruhland is looking forward to future updates on PFAS, the Central Sands Study and the Southwest Wisconsin Private Well Study.

#### **Municipal Environmental Group**

- Kobza passed along comments to DNR from the large system Municipal Environmental Group meeting. Overall systems are looking to DNR for direction.
  - What are the expectations for systems to do lead and copper corrosion control testing, optimizing corrosion control, removing lead service lines and how does it fit with orthophosphates, how does everything work together, where are we ultimately going in terms of lead and copper?

#### **Department of Natural Resources**

- Burton noted the retirements of two DNR Public Water Engineers.
- The comment period is open for NR 812 <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/nr812.html>
- In response to Hedman's update on the Southwest Wisconsin Private Well Study, Elmore mentioned DNR has not been invited to be part of the legislative water quality task force yet, but the department is discussing solutions internally.

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