

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Minutes of meeting held on November 18, 2016, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
at Wisconsin DATCP Building, Madison, WI

Members Present: Pat Stevens (DNR) - Chair, Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Jim Hurley (UWS), Dr. Jonathan Meiman (DHS), John Petty (DATCP), Steve Diercks (Governor's Rep.)

Others Present: Steve Ales (DNR), Steve Elmore (DNR), Rob Thiboldeaux (DHS), Roy Irving (DHS), Lori Bowman (DATCP), Stan Senger (DATCP), Steve Martin (DATCP), Rick Graham (DATCP), Sara Walling (DATCP), Carol McCartney (WGNHS), Jen Hauxwell (UWS), Liesa Lehmann (DNR), Marty Nessman (DNR), Bill Phelps (DNR)

- 1) **Welcome** – Chair Pat Stevens called the meeting to order.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the August 2016 meeting were approved as drafted (motion by Hurley, 2nd by Bradbury).
- 3) **Technical Presentation** - Don Niles presented information on the Peninsula Pride Farms well owner drinking water assistance program. Peninsula Pride Farms, a producer/farmer led organization based in Kewaunee Co., with both dairy and crop farm operation membership, runs a program to provide safe water to private well owners with bacteriologically contaminated wells. Peninsula Pride's assistance program provides well owners with bottled water, well construction/sanitary condition evaluation and, in some cases, water treatment.
- 4) **NR 151 Rule Revisions** - MaryAnne Lowndes, DNR Watershed Management Program, provided an update of current NR 151 rule revision activities. The rule revisions propose to add targeted performance standards for manure land spreading in vulnerable areas of the state with shallow soils and carbonate bedrock. The rule revision's aim is to reduce the potential for bacteriological contamination of groundwater water supplies. The Dept. is currently conducting a series of monthly technical advisory committee meetings, and plans to hold public hearings in the summer of 2017 on proposed revisions.
- 5) **2016 GCC Report to the Legislature** – Steve Ales reported on follow up to an Aug. 2016 GCC meeting question regarding the number of internet views of the online GCC report that might be associated with water related news stories. Steve reported that analysis of this correlation is difficult but that there had been approximately 200 views at the end of Aug, when the report was released, and a significant number in early Sept. that may have been in response to Kewaunee Co groundwater contamination and lead in drinking water news stories.
- 6) **Agency Updates:**
 - DHS** - Meiman reported that the agency is continuing to deal with questions on lead in drinking water, and has developed some focused messaging on the issue. He also said that the agency was awarded a 3 year ATSDR Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) grant, intended to assist the agency with efforts to investigate and respond to public health related environmental exposures. The agency has created Flood Tool Kit in response to potential water supply well contamination associated with recent state flooding events, and is currently working on improvements to this tool.
 - WGNHS** – Bradbury reported that the agency has completed the Dane Co. groundwater model and report, and that these publications, along with a user's guide, are now posted on the WGNHS web site. He also said that the agency is working on groundwater related projects investigating radium in Dane Co. water supply wells and potentially toxic trace metals in Western WI sandstone

aquifer formations. WGNHS continues its current depth to bedrock project in the Town of Lincoln in Kewaunee Co., and has also been following up on public questions related Kewaunee Co. groundwater contamination issues.

UWS - Hurley reported that the groundwater research Joint Solicitation (JS) funding process is now underway, and that 16 proposals have been submitted this year for consideration. It's expected that approximately \$225,000 to \$345,000 might be available to fund FY 2018 JS projects. The UW is continuing to work with its legal staff on intellectual property concerns related to an open records request to view past non-funded JS proposals. Hurley said that the Water@UW event, providing information on UW water related projects, was held Oct. 28th at the Madison campus, and that a UW water related conference/workshop is planned for spring of 2017. He also reported that two UW Water Resources/Sea Grant funded graduate fellowships are now underway, one at the DNR working on water quality monitoring issues, and one working through Sea Grant on Great Lakes coastal engineering and management.

DATCP - Petty reported that the agency's statewide agrichemical groundwater survey, for 80 agriculturally related chemicals, has been completed and that results should be released early in 2017. He said that the herbicide isoxaflutole has been approved for use in 8 counties in WI, and that groundwater, surface water and drain tile monitoring studies are required as a condition of the approval. DATCP has completed its RevEx program budget review effort with recommendations made for some Ag. Chemical Cleanup Program fee restructuring. Petty said the agency has been working with EPA on occurrence of neonicotinoid pesticides in groundwater, and that there have been some low level detections in sampled irrigation water. Petty reported that Stan Senger has changed positions at the agency and that Stan's Section Chief position will be announced soon. Sara Walling reported that hearings on ATCP 51, livestock siting, rule revisions are planned for this coming spring.

Steve Diercks - Diercks reported that Central Sands irrigation water use is currently down 30 to 40 % from past levels. He said that the WI Potato and Vegetable Growers Association is working with a UW production specialist on hydrology issues, and that research projects are now under way evaluating vegetable crop water use. He said the WPVGA is working with the DNR, through the Water Stewardship Program, and the WI Land & Water Association on water use issues, and that DATCP has been collecting groundwater samples from some irrigation wells. He reported that GZA Geo Environmental is continuing its groundwater modelling work in the Central Sands.

DNR - Stevens introduced Steve Elmore, the new DNR Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau Director. He reported that the agency Groundwater Section Chief position would be announced soon, and that the Public Water Supply Section Chief Position has been posted. He said that rule revisions to update NR 812 were currently underway, and that the backlog of hi-capacity well approvals has been eliminated, but that there is a legal challenge to 9 hi cap approvals. Stevens said the agency is assisting with recommendations for a possible large scale manure digester in Kewaunee Co., and that the agency is also coordinating a Safe Drinking Water 14.5 million dollar effort to help fund replacement of lead service lines. He reported that new EPA lead/copper rules are scheduled to go into effect next year and that the DNR is working on recommendations related to a Legislative audit of the WPDES permit program.

7) Diercks motion to adjourn (Bradbury 2nd), all in favor.

Note, proposed GCC meeting dates for 2017 are: Feb 17, May 26, Aug. 25 and Nov. 10

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Phelps