

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Minutes of meeting held February 17, 2012, 10:00 – 12:00
Aquatic Sciences Center Conference Room
Goodnight Hall, 2nd floor, 1975 Willow Drive, Madison

Members Present: Henry Anderson (DHS); Jill Jonas for Ken Johnson (DNR); James Robertson (WGNHS); Henry Anderson (DHS); John Petty (DATCP); Anders Andren (UW-System), George Kraft (Gov. Rep.).

Others Present: Chris Babiarz (UW System); Lori Bowman (DATCP); Phil Moy (UW-WRI); Mary Ellen Vollbrecht (DNR)

1) General Business – The November 4th, 2011 meeting minutes were unanimously approved (motion by Andren, 2nd by Robertson).

2) Technical Presentations

Professor Zhaohui Li (UW- Parkside) “Combination of Co-Precipitation with Zeolite Filtration to Remove Arsenic from Contaminated Water:” Professor Li explained the research methods and results used to document the removal of arsenic from groundwater and acid mine drainage using iron precipitation followed by zeolite filtration. At laboratory scale removal is effective dependent on acidity and oxygen conditions.

Aaron Conklin (Aquatic Sciences Center) "Social Media and Culture Change:" Aaron demonstrated the social media tools currently used by the Aquatic Sciences Center to deliver water science information to a wide variety of audiences. Resource commitment is needed to keep information and interactions current, but audience reached is much larger and more diverse than traditional newsletter and website tools.

3) Joint Solicitation

Chris Babiarz and Mary Ellen Vollbrecht summarized the recommendation for UW and DNR funding. Thirteen projects are recommended for funding with funds currently available for ten of the projects. UW and DNR will arrange funding and contracts for as many of the recommended projects as possible.

4) Agency Updates

UWS – Andren reported that a new ASC Director is expected to be named shortly.

DHS – Anderson reported that budget cuts to the State Lab of Hygiene may affect DHS’ ability to fund water sampling.

DATCP – Petty noted that recommendations on the handling of septage were debated at the recent Land and Water Conservation Board meeting. Bowman reported that updated format for maps (no changes to the actual areas) of the Atrazine Prohibition Areas under ATCP 30 will go the DATCP Board at its February meeting. Bowman recognized the effort of DNR Wastewater Engineer Jeff Brauer in developing a workable response for discharge permits for application of agricultural pesticides near water.

WGNHS - Robertson reported that WGNHS continues its analysis and advice on iron and sand mining. The Dane County groundwater model is nearly complete and substantial progress has been made on the "Hydroviewer" application developed for DNR’s Water Use Program to access hydrogeological data geographically.

DNR – Jonas reported that contested case hearing and judicial review petitions have been granted on DNR’s permit to Richfield Dairy in Adams County. Impacts of water use from the dairy’s high capacity

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well on nearby lakes and streams are one of the issues. In the next few months, we expect to invite partners to advise on subwatersheds for intensive nitrogen input reduction work to prevent reaching maximum unsafe level of nitrates in public water systems and nearby private wells, lakes and streams (preliminary MAP available).

5) Adjourn and Next Meeting - Andren moved (Anderson 2nd) to adjourn. The next meeting will be on May 4th at WGNHS

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen Vollbrecht