

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Draft Minutes of meeting held November 16, 2012, 10:00 – 12:00
At Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Members Present: Henry Anderson (DHS); Ken Johnson (DNR); James Robertson (WGNHS); Bob Pearson for Dan Scudder (DOT); John Petty (DATCP); Jim Hurley (UW-System), Eric Scott (DSPS); George Kraft (Governor's Appointee)

Others Present: Sharon Long (SLOH), Ken Bradbury (WGNHS); Chris Babiarz, Phil Moy (UW System); Lori Bowman, Stan Senger, Jason Lowery, Trevor Bannister (DATCP); Jill Jonas, Mary Ellen Vollbrecht and Eric Ebersberger (DNR)

1) General Business – The August 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously approved with minor corrections. An update on the Joint Solicitation was added to the agenda.

2) Technical Presentations

Microbial Source Tracking Tools and Trends - Dr. Sharon Long, State Laboratory of Hygiene, reviewed the development of Wisconsin's leadership role in methods of fecal source tracking. Beginning as a response to the 1993 cryptosporidium outbreak and continuing as follow-up to food and water security concerns following 9/11, the State Lab of Hygiene has developed a suite of approximately 30 different tools for fecal source tracking. Fecal source tracking allows water suppliers to address the source of contamination (rather than rely on treatment) and to evaluate clean-up. Dr. Long described the process for deciding which of the fecal tracking tools to use. Her current research involves rigorous quality control and assurance for newly developed fecal tracking methods that are faster and less expensive.

New Water Use Data – Eric Ebersberger, DNR's Water Use Section Chief, described data that is newly available about surface and groundwater withdrawals in Wisconsin. 91% of the 12, 580 registered users have reported their water use. 826 use surface water; 11,754 use groundwater. Basic information is available on-line (type "water use" in the search box at www.dnr.wi). Eric offers that Water Use staff can run reports of supply data for use by GCC agencies.

3) Role of GCC in Scientific Consensus

George Kraft led a discussion of options for the GCC to help move issues from debate to solutions where sufficient data exist. In general, members were open to a possible role in solidifying the state of scientific findings as distinguished from policy positions. The consensus was to table the broad proposal but remain open to a proposal about the GCC's role and how such findings might be used in the context of a specific scientific issue.

4) Biennial Review of Priorities in Light of Emerging Issues

All members were in agreement to keep the same list. Sand mining was discussed as an addition, resulting in a request for a technical presentation on sand mining impacts specific to groundwater at the next GCC meeting.

4) Agency Updates

DHS – Henry Anderson reported that interviews are underway and a new toxicologist should be on board soon (replacing Lynda Knobloch).

UWS – Jim Hurley reported that a good crop of research proposals have been submitted in response to the Joint Solicitation.

November 16, 2012 GCC meeting minutes

WGNHS – Jamie Robertson reported the beginning of a new project in Chippewa County examining the long-term effects of the combination of hydraulic fracture sand mining and increased agricultural irrigation.

DOT – Bob Pearson described the agency’s aggressive work on stormwater management, including the interagency agreement on salt storage. Video logging of the County Stadium well is underway. GCC members thanked Bob for his persistence in getting the valuable information from this well, increasing the value of the previous state investment in its construction.

DATCP - John Petty highlighted the new atrazine area maps that are now on-line. Beginning with new technology for testing and registration of pesticide applicators, ag chem programs are part of a large information technology transformation.

DNR –Ken Johnson reported on the next steps on the Waukesha’s Great Lakes diversion proposal. A number of steps by DNR and others are still required before an overall decision. .

5) Adjourn and Next Meeting – Henry Anderson moved (George Kraft 2nd) to adjourn. Dates for 2013 meetings will be selected through an email canvass.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen Vollbrecht