

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Minutes of meeting held February 19, 2015, 10:00 – 12:00
U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center
8505 Research Way, Middleton, WI

Members Present: Russ Rasmussen (DNR); James Robertson (WGNHS); Jeff Phillips for Henry Anderson (DHS); John Petty (DATCP); Jim Hurley (UW-System), Steve Diercks (Gov’s Rep)

Others Present: John Walker, Director USGS Water Science Center; Ken Bradbury (WGNHS); Lori Bowman (DATCP), Roy Irving, Ryan Wozniak and Rob Thibodeaux (DHS); Jill Jonas and Mary Ellen Vollbrecht (WDNR);

1) **Welcome** – John Walker welcomed the GCC to USGS’ Water Science Center. USGS is an active federal partner of the GCC member agencies. Russ Rasmussen welcomed new GCC member Steve Diercks, the newly-appointed Governor’s Representative. Russ described Mr. Diercks cooperative work with DNR on agricultural water use issues. Steve described his background and water management interest from his farming operations in central Wisconsin.

2) **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes from the November 2014 meeting were unanimously approved (motion by Hurley, 2nd by Petty).

3) **Technical Presentation** –USGS Hydrogeologist Paul Juckem presented the objectives and activities of the USGS’ nationwide principal aquifer studies, in particular the monitoring and analysis being conducted in Wisconsin. Principal aquifers are regionally extensive aquifers or aquifer systems that have the potential to be used as a source of potable water. The Glacial and Cambrian-Ordovician aquifers in Wisconsin are under study to characterize the physical setting of the aquifer, in addition to its susceptibility and vulnerability to contamination. The data support water resources planning and management decisions.

4) **Review of 2015-17 GCC Strategic Priorities and Operations Plan** - Jill Jonas described the history of the Priorities and Operations Plan, a prepared by joint effort of DHS, DATCP and DNR and originally adopted by GCC in 2011. The 2013 review was simply an agreement that no change was needed at the time; the proposed update is also substantively minor. The edits remove dated references to the biennium when it was first adopted to keep it current; simplifies the annual calendar; and changes the title of the priority related to private well data to reflect the use of other data in the “dashboard” approach. The proposed update was unanimously approved (motion by Petty, 2nd by Hurley).

5) **Plans for 2015 Groundwater Report to the Legislature** – Mary Ellen Vollbrecht shared web analytics indicating that the interactive format of the Report to the Legislature is increasing its use in numbers and time spent. Mary Ellen asked for feedback from members about focus areas for updates to the 2015 report. Consensus was that the Benefits of Projects and Groundwater Quality sections are top priority for updating.

5) **Joint Solicitation Report** – Jen Hauxwell reported that 15 proposals have been submitted by researchers and reviewed by technical and agency review panels. The Groundwater Research Advisory Committee will make its recommendation after its meeting scheduled to follow the GCC meeting.

6) Agency Updates

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DATCP – John Petty alerted members that discussions are ongoing about potential recommendations from the regular 4-year review of the Livestock Siting Facility Siting Rule (Ch. ATCP 51 Wis. Adm. Code).

UWS - Jim Hurley discussed the potential impacts of state and federal budgets on the UW System including the need for a contingency-based groundwater research plan. Jim announced that UW would fund a Groundwater Fellow to be placed at DNR.

DHS – Jeff Phillips reported for Henry Anderson on DHS plans for continued work on community resilience, including water supplies, and on data interpretation for identifying pathogen sources.

WGNHS – Jamie Robertson highlighted that the model to evaluate water use scenarios for the Little Plover River is nearing completion. He indicated that the search is beginning for his successor as WGNHS' Director after his retirement this summer.

DNR – Russ Rasmussen reported on formation of a DNR work group on and outreach to Kewaunee County to help address concerns about groundwater quality.

Robertson moved (Hurley 2nd) and all were in favor to adjourn.

Next meeting: Friday, May 15 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM (Note time adjustment) at WGNHS.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen Vollbrecht