

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Minutes of meeting held on May 13, 2016, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Madison, WI

Members Present: Steve Ales (DNR), Jeff Phillips (DHS), Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Steve Diercks (Gov's Rep), Bob Pearson (DOT), John Petty (DATCP), Jennifer Hauxwell (UWS)

Others Present: Carolyn Voter (WRI Grad Fellow), Adam Freihofer (DNR), Ian Anderson (DNR), Rob Thiboldeaux (DHS), Stan Senger (DATCP), Pete Schoephoester (WGNHS), Bill Phelps (DNR)

- 1) **Welcome** – Chair Steve Ales, filling in for Pat Stevens, called the meeting to order.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes from the February 2016 meeting were approved as drafted (motion Petty, 2nd by Diercks).
- 3) **Progress Report on Update of GCC Report to the Legislature** – Water Resources Institute Graduate Fellow Carolyn Voter provided an update on her progress on the 2016 GCC Report to the Legislature. Carolyn reported that the updates she is working on are focused on three sections of the Report, the Groundwater Quality and Benefits from Projects sections, and the Report “dashboard.” Carolyn presented update examples of four Report dashboard maps: quality, quantity, scientific information and public awareness, and GCC members provided suggestions for possible additions and revisions. Carolyn plans to have a draft of the Report completed soon and distributed for review by GCC members prior to the August 5 meeting. She welcomes comments at Carolyn.voter@wisconsin.gov.
- 4) **Discussion of recommendations for 2016 Report to the Legislature** – GCC members suggested that the report include information targeted at the general public, such as “where your drinking water comes from” and “how to get information on your drinking water quality” (from sources such as local utility’s Consumer Confidence Report).
- 5) **Technical Presentation** – WI Potato and Vegetable Growers Association presentation *Looking for Solutions to Water Issues in the Central Sands* of groundwater research by Dr. Jeff Wyman (UW WPVGA Water Task Force Liaison) and Steve Diercks (GCC Gov’s Rep]. Dr. Wyman provided a power point presentation on WPVGA Water Task Force activities related to the issues and challenges associated with use of Central Sands groundwater for irrigated crop production and efforts to identify possible solutions to these issues/challenges. Dr. Wyman reported that the Task Force is currently collecting depth to groundwater information from 479 active irrigation wells to create a groundwater level database and has also installed groundwater monitoring wells in three specific, identified “high risk” areas - along the Little Plover River, in the vicinity of Long Lake and in the vicinity of Pleasant Lake. Dr. Wyman reported that the WPVGA has engaged consulting firm, GZA GeoEnvironmental, to provide additional hydrological expertise on Central Sands groundwater issues and has also identified a number of irrigation efficiency techniques for possible evaluation and implementation.
- 6) **Agency Updates:**
 - DOT** – Pearson reported, as follow up to question from last GCC meeting, that there are approximately 122,177 total miles of highway and county roadways in the state, of which approximately 12,000 miles are part of the interstate highway system.

DATCP – Senger reported that statewide private water supply well survey for possible groundwater impacts associated with agrichemical use is underway. Four hundred total wells will be sampled. To date, about half the sampling has been completed (about 200 wells) and they are on schedule to complete sampling by August. Petty reported DATCP approval of herbicide products containing the active ingredient isoxaflutole in eight southern Wisconsin counties. The manufacturer of isoxaflutole, Bayer Crop Science, has agreed to all state restrictions placed on isoxaflutole products, including “kill switch” threshold levels for both surface water and groundwater.

UWS - Hauxwell reported that nine groundwater research projects are to be funded under Joint Solicitation during the coming fiscal year (3 funded by UW and 6 funded by DNR) and that UWS will also be continuing to fund 4 on-going projects, newly funded projects are to begin in July 2016.

DHS – Phillips reported that Dr. Jon Meiman has been appointed to replace Dr. Henry Anderson as DHS Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health Chief Medical Officer; Thiboldeaux reported that the agency is currently very involved in drinking water lead issues.

WGNHS – Bradbury reported on completion of a number of Survey publications including new Door Co. glacial geology map/publication, report on Niagara Escarpment geologic processes/biota, report on Oneida Co. Pleistocene geology, Bayfield Co. groundwater/wells report; current agency projects in progress: geologic map of Waushara Co., Trempealeau Co. frac sand report, Kewaunee Co. projects, Spring Green nitrate project (Madeline Gotkowitz), Mukwonago Nature Conservancy project (Dave Hart).

DNR – Ales reported that Adam Freihoefer is the new Chief of the Water Use Section and Bureau Director Jill Jonas will be retiring June 9th. He also noted: updated lead information on DNR’s web page; upcoming Kewaunee County actions include meeting with dairy producers group and workshops with stakeholders; new US EPA health advisories likely out soon for perfluorochemicals (PFOA and PFOS) which were detected in three Wisconsin public water systems during recent nationwide EPA sampling; Attorney General rendered an opinion on agency authority to regulate high-capacity wells; a decision on Waukesha’s request for diversion of Great Lakes water is under review by the interstate organizations with a final decision expected this summer.

7) Petty moved to adjourn (Diercks 2nd), all in favor.

Next Meeting Scheduled for: **Aug. 5, 2016 at the DNR**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Phelps, Hydrogeologist