

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Minutes of meeting held on Feb. 10, 2017, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
at the U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center, Middleton, WI

Members Present: Pat Stevens (DNR) - Chair, Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Jim Hurley (UWS), Dr. Jonathan Meiman (DHS), John Petty (DATCP), Brad Johnson (DPS), Bob Pearson - for Dan Scudder (DOT)

Others Present: Bruce Rheineck (DNR), Lori Bowman (DATCP), Cheryl Buchwald (USGS), Roy Irving (DHS), Jen Hauxwell (UWS), Bill Phelps (DNR), Jay Zambito (WGNHS) and Chuck Dunning (USGS)

- 1) Welcome** – Chair Pat Stevens called the meeting to order and introduced Brad Johnson, new GCC member representing the Dept. of Safety and Professional Services.
- 2) Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the Nov. 18, 2016 meeting were approved as drafted (motion by Hurley, 2nd by Petty).
- 3) Technical Presentation** – Jay Zambito, with the WI Geological & Natural History Survey, presented information on his research into the presence of trace metal bearing sulfide minerals in western Wisconsin. Research suggests that these mineral bearing zones may be associated with the Wonewoc/Tunnel City formation contact, and that oxidation in these zones may be a factor in the release of trace metals to groundwater.
- 4) National Groundwater Monitoring Network** – Chuck Dunning, with the United States Geological Survey, presented information on the national network and the state WI Observation Well Network. The intent of the systems is to monitor the long term effects of changes in aquifer recharge and storage, climate variability and regional impacts of groundwater development. Monitoring network results are used to evaluate groundwater management strategies and as inputs to regional scale groundwater flow models. Network monitoring data is accessible on the web.
- 5) FY 2018 Joint Solicitation update** – Jen Hauxwell, with UW Aquatic Sciences/Sea Grant, reported that review of the 16 submitted FY 2017 Joint Solicitation groundwater research proposals had been completed and that the Groundwater Research Advisory Council (GRAC) would be meeting to discuss their recommendations for possible UW System/state agency proposal funding. She indicated that she hoped to be able to get GCC input on priorities for next year’s research proposals by August.
- 6) Agency Updates:**
 - DHS** - Meiman reported that the agency is now going through an accreditation process. He also said the agency is continuing to deal with questions from the public on lead in drinking water and possible well contamination related to surface water flooding events. He said that they are continuing to work with the DNR on implementation of the new revised total coliform rule.
 - WGNHS** – Bradbury reported that the agency now has a strategic planning process underway and that, as part of that process, an external partnership survey was conducted which indicated that externals liked the products the agency provides and would like more, but would like those products to be completed and published in a shorter time frame. He also reported that the Survey is continuing to work with the Town of Lincoln in Kewaunee Co. to complete their depth to bedrock mapping project.
 - UWS** - Hurley reported that the UW Sea Grant research proposal effort is underway and that selected projects will start up in February, 2018. He also reported that Sea Grant strategic planning is underway and that they are waiting for release of the federal budget to see how program funding

might be effected. He reported that upcoming events are the AWRA conference in March and a Milwaukee, water themed, community story telling program to be held on February 21.

DATCP - Petty noted that there is a provision in the proposed state budget for a study to evaluate moving the CAFO regulatory program from DNR to DATCP. Lori Bowman reported that the agency has finished their yearlong RevEx review effort of fee structures and clean-up program funding. She also reported that the agency is in the final stages of filling their Environmental Quality Section Chief position, and that they are also working with Bayer Crop Science, on both groundwater and surface water monitoring studies required as a condition of approval for use of the herbicide active ingredient isoxaflutole in the State.

DNR - Stevens reported that agency realignment was being implemented and that there were no major changes to Environmental Management Division programs. He also reported that the Fox River PCB and Ashland Superfund site cleanup projects are underway and that the agency is working with EPA to address concerns related to WPDES program implementation. He also noted that Bruce Rheineck is the new DG Program Groundwater Section Chief and that the DG program is continuing in its efforts to address the lead service line issues and to implement new federal public drinking water regulations.

DSPS – Johnson reported that a new agency Secretary will be appointed soon. He also said that there are no budget changes anticipated that would affect the current WI Fund program to assist low income families with septic system replacement. He also said that a march meeting is planned to discuss possible revisions to the SPS 383 research subchapter.

7) Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Fri., May 26, 2017 at TBD

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Phelps