

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Minutes of meeting held on May 26, 2017, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
at the WI Geological and Natural History Survey office, Madison, WI

Members Present: Pat Stevens (DNR) - Chair, Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Jim Hurley (UWS), Dr. Jonathan Meiman (DHS), Lori Bowman for John Petty (DATCP), Steve Diercks (Governor's Rep.), Brad Johnson (DSPS)

Others Present: Bruce Rheineck (DNR), Jen Hauxwell (UWS), Rick Graham (DATCP), Stan Senger (DATCP), Roy Irving (DHS), Bill Phelps (DNR)

- 1) **Welcome** – Chair Pat Stevens called the meeting to order.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** – Feb. 10, 2017 meeting minutes were approved as drafted (motion by Hurley, 2nd by Bowman).
- 3) **Technical Presentation** – Rick Graham, with DATCP, presented the results of the 2016 DATCP agricultural chemical statewide private well sampling project. Rick reported that collected well samples were analyzed for 102 ag chemical compounds and that approximately 41% of samples had a detection of at least 1 compound, with atrazine total chlorinated residues (TCR) detected in approximately 23% of samples. He said that the average concentration of nitrate in samples was 5.6 mg/L, and that 8.2 % of samples had nitrate concentrations above the 10 mg/L public health based groundwater standard.
- 4) **GCC (FY 2017) Report to the Legislature** – Bruce Rheineck reported that work is underway on this year's GCC Report to the Legislature and that he'd be contacting GCC members to coordinate updates to their agency Report sections. Bruce said drafts of the Report will either be posted on a DNR sharepoint web site or be e-mailed to GCC members for their review.
- 5) **FY 2019 Joint Solicitation update** – Jen Hauxwell, with UW Aquatic Sciences/Sea Grant, said that she will be asking that GCC members provide Agency Joint Solicitation (JS) research priority updates by June 30. She also said that this year's JS request for proposals (RFP) should be out by August 1st and that this year's deadline for proposal submittal will be November 1.

6) Agency Updates:

UWS - Hurley reported that UW Sea Grant research projects review is underway (selected projects will start up in Feb., 2018). He also reported that under the new (FY 2018) federal budget no funding is currently proposed for the Sea Grant Program or the Water Resources Institute. WRI is currently working with legislators to get funding for both programs restored. He also provided an update on the open records request for copies of Joint Solicitation proposals. Copies of funded JS proposals will be provided, with "intellectual property" information redacted as necessary.

Governor's Rep. updates – Diercks reported that two evapotranspiration (ET) research projects, one on crop land, one on forest land, are being funded.

WGNHS – Bradbury reported that UW Extension is being reorganized and the COOP Extension Division may become a "Center" (within an "Institute"). The WGNHS will be maintained. He also

reported that the Little Plover River project is finished and the project report is available, the Kewaunee Co. Town of Lincoln mapping project is being finished up and that the Trempealeau and Dodge County mapping projects are currently on hold due to funding issues. He said that changes were being made to statewide groundwater network operations, with the USGS taking a more active role and the WGNHS taking a more managerial role.

DHS – Dr. Meiman reported that DHS is funded with 85% federal money and that it is unknown what changes might take place under the FY 2018 federal budget. He said that lead in drinking water is still an active issue for the Agency, and that DHS is working with the federal Center for Disease Control to develop a “white paper” on the issue. He reported that existing “boil water” fact sheets are being updated to reflect new Revised Total Coliform Rule provisions. He also said that surveillance briefs on state groundwater and private well water quality were being prepared, and that DHS was working with the county Health Departments, DNR and UW-Stevens Point to gather data for that effort.

DATCP – Bowman reported that the Bayer isoxaflutole herbicide groundwater study is underway with all study sites now in place. She said that the Agency had an EPA grant to expand their groundwater monitoring network to evaluate groundwater quality at depth. She also reported that there was some reduction in their federal EPA funding for the coming year, and that they weren’t sure what funding changes might take place under the FY 2018 budget. She said that the RevEx program fee and funding review effort was funded in the State budget. She also said that the Agency is currently working on a summary report on neonicotinoid pesticides.

DSPS – Johnson reported that counties are currently working on an inventory of existing private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) and that a POWTS maintenance/tracking/inspection program is expected to be in place by Oct. 2019. He reported that there was a meeting last month of the DSPS Technical Advisory Committee that deals with plumbing product use, construction and implementation and that a June meeting of the POWTS Code Advisory Committee was planned.

DNR - Stevens reported that a four year study of the effects of high capacity well pumping groundwater use is to be conducted, and that a workplan for this study is being prepared. He said that changes to the federal budget could have a significant impact on DNR federally delegated programs. He also said that the NR 812 well construction code is currently being revised and that the Agency is also working on revisions to manure landspreading regulations, under NR 151, for areas of the state with carbonate bedrock and shallow soil depths. He reported that the NR 738 program to provide bottled water to homeowners whose wells were found to be contaminated with animal waste was now in place and also that the first meeting of the Drinking Water and Groundwater Program stakeholder Study Group is scheduled for July 12.

7) Adjournment: motion by Diercks, Bowman 2nd, all in favor - meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Fri. Aug. 25, 2017 at WGNHS Mt. Horeb core repository facility

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Phelps