

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Minutes of meeting held on August 25, 2017, 10:00 am – 12:15 pm
at the WI Geological and Natural History Survey
Research Collections and Education Center (Mount Horeb, WI)

Members Present: Bruce Rheineck for Pat Stevens (DNR) - Chair, Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Jim Hurley (UWS), Roy Irving and Jeff Phillips for Dr. Jonathan Meiman (DHS), John Petty (DATCP), Brad Johnson (DSPS), Bob Pearson for Patricia Trainer (DOT)

Others Present: Jen Hauxwell (UWS), Madeline Gotkowitz (WGNHS), Bill Batten (WGNHS), Bill Phelps (DNR)

1) Welcome – Chair Bruce Rheineck called the meeting to order.

2) Agency Updates:

DSPS - Johnson reported that the new DSPS Industry Services Division Administrator is Christopher Joch and that the new Field Services Bureau Director is Brandon Piper. He also said that an environmental impact analysis for the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) code, SPS 383, is underway and that the Agency is now in the process of auditing county sanitary programs.

WGNHS - Bradbury reported that state geologic mapping projects in Dodge and Trempealeau counties, and parts of the driftless area, are now funded and underway. He also said that a project mapping quaternary geologic deposits in western Waushara Co. should be finishing up this summer. Bradbury reported that the Survey is continuing work on the Spring Green nitrate project and is also involved with a wetland hydrology project in Door Co. and with a project for the US Forest Service to provide groundwater and hydrogeologic information on the five federal forest units in Wisconsin.

DOT - Pearson reported that the Agency is working on a project with WGNHS to investigate drinking water contamination at a DOT rest area, and with the Dane Co. Land Conservation agency on development of best management practices for road deicing. Pearson also mentioned that he is participating in a study with the National Transportation Research Board (TRB) titled “Limitations of the Infiltration Approach to Stormwater Management in the Highway Environment” and when completed (2018) he will share the study with DNR and others.

DATCP – Petty reported that DATCP Secretary, Ben Brancel, had retired. He also said that ten wells were added to Agency's groundwater monitoring system in the Central Sands, and that additional analysis was currently being done on Agency collected private water supply well samples. Petty reported that he had represented DATCP at the Upper Mississippi Association's 2017 Dubuque Summit on Mississippi River associated water resources and land use management issues.

DHS – Phillips reported that DHS has been dealing with flood issues, including drinking water/water supply issues, in southeast and southwest WI, and has developed a Flood Response Dashboard for use by local health departments and that the brochures they developed were well received. He said that the Agency has been working with Federal Regulators on nuclear reactor accident drills at the Point Beach nuclear facility, and is also currently working with local health agencies to provide environmental health training for new staff. He said DHS public health staff are currently conducting a study of the health impacts of detection of microbial genetic material in water samples.

UWS - Hurley provided an update on UW funded Joint Solicitation groundwater research projects – four new FY 2018 projects are now being funded, as well as two continuing FY 2017 projects. He said that

federal funding for Sea Grant and UW Water Resources Institute programs has been restored to last year's levels and that review of this year's Sea Grant research proposals is almost completed. He also reported that two water resources graduate Fellows are currently being funded and working with state agencies.

DNR - Rheineck reported that Joe Jancy, US EPA Region 5 liaison to DNR Public Drinking Water program, is retiring. He also reported that a September public hearing is scheduled for revisions to ch. NR 151 that address animal waste land application in areas of the state with carbonate bedrock and shallow soils. He said that rulemaking is underway to update well construction standards in ch. NR 812 and that public hearings will likely be held in the spring of 2018 on those rule revisions. He said that studies of pathogens in Kewaunee Co. groundwater have been completed and that a final report of that research is currently being drafted. A state NR 738 process to provide bottled water to homes with animal waste contaminated wells is now in place and that, per June 2017 legislation, the DNR will be conducting a study of specified Central Sands region lakes and watersheds to evaluate the effects of high capacity well pumping on those water bodies. He also reported that the DNR has designated Eric Ebersberger as the Agency lead on FoxConn Technology Group environmental issues.

- 3) The need for current and consistent messaging about common groundwater problems was raised** – discussions of DHS flood response and DATCP private well sampling brought up the value of consistent and easily understood information materials for the public. Several members suggested updating the GCC Outreach & Partnership subcommittee membership and tasking the subcommittee reviewing and updating of existing agency groundwater/drinking water informational materials.
- 4) GCC (FY 2017) Report to the Legislature** – Bruce Rheineck reported that this year's GCC Report to the Legislature is very close to completion and that GCC members should review the latest draft and provide Bruce with any additional edits.
- 5) FY 2019 Joint Solicitation update** – Jen Hauxwell said that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for fiscal year 2019 (FY 2019) funded projects went out in early August, with a due date of November 1, 2017. She said approximately \$ 200,000 to \$ 500,000 is estimated to potentially be available for new project funding this year.
- 6) November 2017 GCC meeting** - John Petty reported he had reserved the Board Room at WI DATCP Office for the Nov. meeting.
- 7) Approval of Minutes** – May 26, 2017 meeting minutes were approved as drafted (motion by Bradbury, 2nd by Hurley).
- 8) Technical Presentation** - Esther Stewart with the WGNHS provided a presentation on her research study on the distribution and variability of Wisconsin Precambrian bedrock and its impacts on groundwater quality and quantity.
- 9) Meeting adjourned**
- 10) Tour of the WGNHS Research Collections and Education Center core repository facility** was provided by Ken Bradbury.

Next Meeting: Nov. 10, 2017 at the DATCP Office (2811 Agriculture Dr., Madison, WI)

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Phelps