

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Minutes of meeting held November 10, 2017
at the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection office
2811 Agriculture Dr., Madison, WI

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

Others Present: Jen Hauxwell (UWS), Stan Senger (DATCP), Trevor Bannister (DATCP), Rick Graham (DATCP), Bill Batten (WGNHS), Dave Johnson (DNR), Roy Irving (DHS), Sara Yang (DHS), Rob Thiboldeaux (DHS), Tim Grundl (UWM)

1) Welcome – Chair Pat Stevens called the meeting to order.

2) Approval of Minutes – Meeting minutes from the August 25, 2017 meeting were approved.

3) FY 2019 Joint Solicitation update – Jen Hauxwell reported that 11 proposals were submitted, an all-time low. She shared a graph indicating a downward trend in submissions. She said approximately \$ 200,000 to \$ 500,000 is estimated to potentially be available for new project funding this year. Some discussion focused on making an effort to recruit younger researchers.

4) Technical Presentation – *Anthropogenically driven change observed in the shallow aquifer of Waukesha County* - Tim Grundl (UW Milwaukee) Tim's talk focused on long term monitoring of wells along the Fox River. The water quality in wells close to the river has a trend, with sodium and chloride levels in wells close to that seen in the river water. He is now working on evaluating microbial differences in wells close to the river, versus more distant "background" wells.

5) GCC Outreach & Partnership Subcommittee – At the August meeting the need for consistent and easily understood information materials for the public was discussed. Pat and everyone agreed that it would be a good idea to bring in the co-chairs and have a discussion related to work on consistency needed. There was some discussion on how to fill the 5 subcommittee vacancies. It was decided to contact the agencies with vacancies and ask them to appoint committee members. Ken pointed out that it is an opportunity for professional growth. GCC members were asked to think about and frame issues for the next meeting.

6) 2018 GCC meetings- The meeting schedule for 2018 was set as the following:

February 16, 2018 at USGS in Middleton. Jen will reserve the room. (SLOH as a backup.)

May 18, 2018 at WGNHS

August 17, 2018 at DNR

November 9, 2018 at DATCP

7) Agency Updates:

UWS - Hurley related that WRI and Sea Grant are under a continuing resolution as far as funding for now. GRAC has extended invites to 3 new members. Sea Grant is visioning the future in regards to water resources, part of which hopes to build coordination between Sea Grant and WRI. They have

been working with the National Water Center in Tuscaloosa AL on a national water model that will include groundwater. Jen mention that they have funding for ½ the salary for a post doc for one year if anyone has a need.

WGNHS - Bradbury reported that they are involved with strategic planning USGS water program. He talked a bit about the UW system merger and that there are still a lot of questions and details to be worked out. They have State Map projects starting in Buffalo and Pepin counties, and continuing projects in Dodge and Trempealeau counties. New open file reports have just been released for the Kewaunee County-Town of Lincoln study, the monitoring well network and the springs inventory. They are finishing a project in western Waushara that will be helpful to the work they are beginning for Act10 and the Central Sands Lakes Study.

DATCP – Bowman reported that DATCP has a new Secretary, Shelia Harsdorf. She explained that Budget items will mean changes to the Ag cleanup program, with an increase in money available and elimination of the greenfield program for pesticide storage. She also noted that reorganization within DATCP means going back to a similar set up like they had 16 years ago. She then mentioned the CAFO move to DATCP, but things seem unclear at this point.

DSPS - Johnson reported that DSPS will be moving to Hill Farms next spring and he could set up a meeting there if desired. He also said they are trying to reestablish relationships with UW academic and research after losing contacts to retirement. In the current budget the Wisconsin Fund for assisting low income families with replacement of failing systems is funded, but this fund will be dissolved in 2021.

DHS – Meiman reported that DHS has formed a group to work on lead in water. Their charge is to develop recommendations on testing and mitigation concepts. They are working on a white paper on microbial source tracking (MST) sampling. They are also working on drinking water health advisory letter templates for local health departments. This will also include guidance and resource libraries for various contaminants.

Governor's Rep. – Andy Dierks mentioned that the Potato and Vegetable Growers Association (PVGA) Water Task Force is actively engaged in restoration work on the Little Plover River. They are also beginning to work on the Act 10 Central Wisconsin Lakes Study. he related that of the \$300-400,000 they spend on research each year more of it is going to water related issues.

DNR – Stevens Reported that the department has begun work on the Act 10 Central Wisconsin Lakes Study and more information will be available on the website next month. He said that meetings will be coming soon on the potential move of CAFO regulation to DATCP. He reported that the recent District Court case on high capacity wells is being worked through in legal and DOJ. He also reported that the DG stakeholders just had their second meeting. All Bureaus in the division have these groups to solicit ideas and comments about the direction of the programs. Comments on the NR 151 rule revisions are in and the Department is working on responses to those comments. Lastly, Pat mentioned that a new study on molybdenum in Southeastern WI was released and the source appears to be geologic in origin and not from coal ash.

8) Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: February 16, 2018 at USGS office in Middleton

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Dave Johnson