

WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL
August 2018 Meeting

10:00 am – Noon, Friday August 17, 2018 | DNR Southeast Region Office – Glacier’s Edge Room | 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd. Fitchburg, WI

Introductions, agenda repair, and consideration of minutes from May 18, 2018 meeting

- Attendees: Linnea Rock (DNR), Bill Phelps (DNR), Bruce Rheineck (DNR), James Zellmer (DNR), Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Steve Diercks (Gov. Rep.), Bob Pearson for Pat Trainor (DOT), Roy Irving (DHS), Jon Meiman (DHS), Rob Thiboldeaux (DHS) Sarah Yang (DHS), Brad Johnson (DSPS), Lori Bowman for Brian Kuhn (DATCP), Travis Wagner (DSPS), Jen Hauxwell for Jim Hurley (UWS), Steve Ales (DNR), Stephanie D. (WRI fellow)
- Minutes from May 18, 2018 meeting - approved

FY 2020 Joint Solicitation Request for Proposals – Jen Hauxwell (UW)

- The RFP was released July 31. UW (\$150K), DNR (\$75-150K), DATCP (\$150K). send questions to Jen H.
- Funding has been set since the 1980s in groundwater law Ch. 160.

Outreach and Partnership Subcommittee Update – Bruce Rheineck (DNR)

- Team is continuing to meet. Plan to revamp brochures about groundwater contaminants: formatting and information being edited. Bacteria, nitrate, etc. brochures will follow the private wells brochure. The subcommittee should have a draft for the next GCC meeting.

Approval of GCC Report to the Legislature – all

- Agency updates have been incorporated. Past reports have been added as PDFs to the website. Land-use changes are included as a recommendation. Funding over time was not added to this report.
- More information about nitrate levels has been added; including data on nitrate contamination in wells around the state, point below nitrate contamination, and costs for all private well owners drilling replacement wells (\$440m). Map viewer on website to show private wells over nitrate standard by county. Map with land-use and exceedance rates included in the report to the legislature.
- Discussion about possibility of creating a tool for tracking nitrate (etc.) data for use by practitioners.
- Proposal to do a press release about the report to the legislature.
- Discussion about treatments for nitrate in well water and how it works. Under NR 812, a licensed well driller/pump installer must use a DSPS approved device must be used to treat wells.
- Bruce will add current report as a PDF to the website.
- Possibility of adding information about nitrate contamination by county to the outreach efforts; education to help home owners drill to a safe well depth.
- Number of private sewer systems is around 800,000. Bruce will re-evaluate the number used in the report.
- Must be delivered to legislature by Friday, Aug. 31. All: submit comments to Bruce Rheineck by Friday, Aug. 24. Vote via poll from Bruce Aug. 27-28.

Agency Updates – all

- UWS: fellowships –2 sea grant fellowships, great lakes fisheries fellowship, coastal engineering fellowship, surface water fellowship, WRI fellowship (Stephanie D. attended meeting). There will be funding for another fellowship soon, UWS will be looking for partners in the Fall. GCC article in ASC journal.
- DHS: drinking water tool kit published online. Advisory letters for local public health to use published online. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/resources.htm>. Liesa Lehmann (DNR) may have an email distribution list that DHS can use to advertise these resources. Continued work on Cycle 10. Technical

guidance on how to handle lead is going through internal DHS review. Revised algal bloom reportable conditions list in July. DCF has contracts for state agencies to translate documents to Spanish and Hmong.

- DSPS: major update to POWTS codes effective. HQ moved to Hill Farms. Blizzard in April delayed construction season significantly. Display at Farm Tech Days is a major effort for public outreach.
- DOT: no significant changes since last meeting.
- DATCP: staff changes: new hydrogeologist (working with atrazine modelling), land/water bureau staffing changes -- Sara Walling moved to University, Keith Foye (bureau director) is retiring in Oct. and DATCP is currently recruiting. Pesticides reporting will be provided to EPA. 5-year groundwater and drain tile studies. Town of Armenia – nitrate and pesticides samples being collected, report on historical data; went back recently and resampled 15 wells that had high concentrations of nitrates; results show nothing over standards in pesticides but the usual cocktail of 20 different pesticides (7-19/well); meeting with EPA to discuss results. Many lawsuits against Monsanto around the country. Pesticide Dicamba damaging crops.
- WGNHS: staff changes: Madeline G., Jay Z., and Bill B. left recently, will be replacing soon. Hard rock mining website: <https://wgnhs.uwex.edu/mineral-exploration-in-northern-wisconsin-web-app/>. Renewed interest in mining in WI. Grant from USGS to expand groundwater monitoring network. Grant, Lafayette, Iowa counties – effort to investigate pathogens, motivated by new CAFO laws. Central Sands Lakes Study.
- Gov. Rep.: Water quality data to look for solutions is being put together; UWS can help broadcast this.
- DNR: staffing changes: External Services (Watershed Management bureau) new division administrator Joe Liebau; new deputy administrator Ann Kipper; new bureau director Mike Thompson. Racine Water Diversion was approved (7m gallons from Lake MI), challenge from Midwest Environmental Advocates. NR 812 well and pump codes – close to completing economic impact statement; public comments early Dec.; promulgation of rule Jan 2020. NR 151 went into effect in July. Work in Juneau County continues, private company installing RO systems and providing bottled water. Central Sands Lake Study first year of 4 has been completed (more information on DNR website: search Central Sands Lake Study). DNR partnered with UW to study how wastewater denitrifies; Paper will be released soon.

Technical Presentation: *PfAs DNR Update* – Steve Ales (DNR)

- Large risk to infants. DNR does not have much experience with these sites and these compounds yet; looking mainly in NE WI and seeing soil, surface water, and groundwater contamination. Spills law provides DNR with statutory authority when a hazardous substance has been spilled into the environment. Military sites are affecting large municipal systems in WI. We do not yet have a groundwater standard. We have a regulatory framework under NR 700 codes to investigate sites. The site in NE WI will be seeking a discharge permit due to surface water contamination. Husky Refinery explosion is an example of when PFAs containing products are necessary. Remediation program has developed a list of likely industries where the substances are used. Shallow drilled/driven point wells common in study area in Marinette; private well results are non-definitive because they are not following the same rigorous protocol. DNR is going to EPA in September to collaborate with other EPA region 5 states. VPLE (voluntary party liability exemption) Remediation and Redevelopment program works with sites to investigate and remediate – DNR is looking at all open VPLE sites to see if PFAs is an issue; the program will then look at other open sites where PFAs could be a compound; the third step would be looking at closed sites. Fish advisory will soon become part of this discussion as well as endangered species, wildlife, ecosystems, etc.

Adjourn; Next Meeting: November 9, 2018, in the Board Room at DATCP: 2811 Agriculture Dr. Madison, WI 53708-8911