

WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

Feb 2019 Meeting

10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, Feb. 8, 2019

USGS Water Science Center

Members present: Jim Zellmer (DNR), Bruce Rheineck (DNR), Sara Walling (DATCP), Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Bob Pearson for Patricia Trainer (DOT), Rob Thiboldeaux for Jon Meiman (DHS), Jim Hurley (UWS), Travis Wagner for Brad Johnson (DSPS), Steve Diercks (Governor's Representative)

Introductions, agenda repair, draft Nov 2018 minutes: Chair, Jim Zellmer, called the meeting to order; Nov. 2018 meeting minutes approved as drafted, Ken B. motion, Steve D. second.

Consideration of potential 2019 meeting dates/locations: noted that proposed May meeting date should be 17th, not 16th, and proposed Nov meeting date should be 8th, not 9th; proposed 2019 dates/locations approved with corrections.

2019 GCC Meeting dates/locations:

May meeting	May 17, 2019 at WGNHS
August meeting	Aug. 16, 2019 at DNR – SCR/Fitchburg
November meeting	Nov. 8, 2019 at DATCP

Outreach and Partnership Subcommittee update: Bruce Rheineck (DNR) reported that the OP subcommittee now working on bacteria and well chlorination brochure and hope to have final draft at May GCC meeting, plan is to split off chlorination part of current document; OP subcommittee also planning to work on update of *Wisconsin's Buried Treasure* document – Bruce will send out for comment; Bruce also reported that work on the annual GCC Report to the Legislature was beginning and that this would be a good opportunity to emphasize Governor's "year of clean drinking water"; suggestions made to highlight agency success stories on GCC web page and to plan to reach out to the Governor's Office to inform them about GCC work on the state of the resource, education/research activities and GCC history and expertise: suggestion made to send letter to Governor informing him about GCC and activities and fact that agency funding and funding for groundwater research has been decreasing since the 1990s - DNR will draft letter and send to GCC for review/comment.

Research and Monitoring Subcommittee Joint Solicitation review update: Bill Phelps (DNR) reported that Subcommittee's Joint Solicitation review workgroup finished review of FY 2020 proposals and that subcommittee has added new members to fill current vacancies.

FY 2020 Joint Solicitation UWS update: Jen Hauxwell (UW) reported that UW "external peer reviews" of FY 2020 proposals completed; UW Groundwater Research Advisory Council (GRAC) to meet in afternoon to develop recommendations for FY 2020 project funding.

Technical Presentation: *Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology study* Ken Bradbury (WGNHS) gave presentation on the three county (Grant, Iowa, Lafayette) SWIGG study; study involves WGNHS, USGS, USDA and Clean Wisconsin; study area has carbonate bedrock aquifers with karst features and is susceptible to contamination from surface activities; UW-Stevens Point well viewer shows > 25% of sampled wells positive for coliform bacteria; SWIGG study goal is to better evaluate groundwater quality using private well sampling results; homeowners to collect samples for analysis at UW-Stevens Point for: total coliform bacteria, *E. coli* and nitrate; 1st round of sampling of 301 wells showed 34% coliform positive, 16% nitrate > 10 mg/L, 4% *E. coli* positive - levels are above (1997) state averages of 23% coliform positive, 7% nitrate > 10 mg/L, 3% *E. coli* positive; 2nd round of SWIGG sampling planned for April; subset of samples to be analyzed for human/bovine/swine fecal markers; study includes evaluation of soils and geology; SW WI karst/carbonate bedrock area different from NE

WI karst/carbonate area as less “brown water’ events; presence of Rountree Formation clay soils in SW may be factor, SW has greater depth to groundwater and older, more mineralized bedrock.

Agency Updates:

UWS: Jim Hurley reported that UWS is currently waiting to hear about future federal Sea Grant funds and now has 73 preproposals for possible Sea Grant funded projects; he said UW is currently in the process of hiring 4 to 5 water resources related positions, and that they are looking at funding 2 fellowships next year, 1 Sea Grant related and 1 Water Resources (water use, aquatic invasive species).

DSPS: Travis Wagner reported that agency Secretary and Deputy Secretary positions had been filled and that there were still some administrative positions open.

DATCP: Sara Walling reported that DATCP has a new Secretary, Brad Pfaff; agency is working on writing ATCP 50 technical standards for new NR 151 rule changes, including depth to bedrock determination - agency has technical advisory committee working on this; agency also working on livestock siting rule updates; neonicotinoid pesticide report now under review; agency staff participating on Rep. Kitchens Nitrate Work Group.

Governor's Rep: Steve Diercks reported that Lori Bowman (DATCP) and Bruce R. (DNR) gave presentation on water quality to Potato & Veg Growers Association; irrigation water being sampled to help evaluate Central Sands water quality; soils work underway to understand current cropping systems and reduce impacts; participating on Rep. Kitchens Nitrate Work Group.

DOT: Bob Pearson reported that the new DOT Secretary is Craig Thompson; agency is working with technical advisory committee on use of new equipment and application methods to reduce road salt impacts, Jefferson Co. now testing liquid only application; agency continues working on road construction wetland mitigation sites.

DHS: Rob Thiboldeaux reported that DHS is continuing review of the “Cycle 10” list of substances for potential groundwater standard recommendations; agency receiving frequent public inquiries about PFOS and PFOA - has work group researching literature and other state approaches to PFAS issues.

WGNHS: Ken Bradbury reported that agency is continuing its merge into the UW-System – to be completed in July; Survey is now hiring to fill four vacant positions; working on SWIGG study, statewide groundwater monitoring network, plan to have geophysical logs on-line this year; Groundwater Atlas of Bayfield Co. out for peer review; groundwater resource characterization of Chequamegon Forest units now on-line, assisting DNR with Central Sands Lakes Study.

DNR: Jim Zellmer reported Preston Cole appointed agency Secretary, Elizabeth Kluesner appointed Deputy Secretary, Todd Ambs appointed Assistant Deputy Secretary and Darsi Foss appointed Environmental Management Division Administrator; agency will be focusing on three “year of clean drinking water” issues: lead service line replacement, groundwater nitrate reduction and emerging contaminants; agency participating on Rep. Kitchens Nitrate Work Group; Central Sands Lakes Study now about 1½ years into 4 year study; agency continues work on Great Lakes Waukesha water diversion; public comment period now underway for NR 812 water supply well construction rule revisions and now drafting economic impact for NR 538 Beneficial Use rule revisions; agency continues to work on PFAS contamination sites (12 known sites); DNR, Wood Co. and Town of Armenia Growers Coalition have signed MOU – Growers Coalition has offered free water sampling to 1,300 homeowners, has provided some water treatment systems and is planning to hold monthly meetings.

Meeting adjourned: Steve D. motion, Sara W. second