

## WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

May 2019 Meeting

10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, May 17, 2019

Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey

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

**Introductions, agenda repair, draft Feb 2019 minutes:** Bruce Rheineck called the meeting to order; Feb. 2019 meeting minutes approved (Sara Walling motion, Steve Diercks second).

**FY 2020 Joint Solicitation funded groundwater research projects** – Jim Hurley reported that UW is in the process of finalizing their contracts for the FY 2020 JS projects they are funding.

**GCC Report to the Legislature and GCC website** – Bruce Rheineck reported that work has begun on 2019 GCC Report with tentative deadline for agency updates of June 21<sup>st</sup>. Agencies can use SharePoint to update their sections, or a pdf can be e-mailed. Robin Wagner (DNR) can be contacted for any problems accessing SharePoint. Discussion of Report “dashboard” highlight pages – suggestion to not have more than 4 highlight pages; consensus is to keep “nitrate” page, maybe add “Drinking Water” highlight page with links to Leg WQ Task Force & “Year of Clean Drinking Water” efforts; maybe “GCC Agency highlights” page with links to each agency’s web page, maybe “GCC page” covering GCC history & purpose, groundwater law and GCC outreach efforts. Also suggested to make GCC website landing page “GCC overview page”, instead of “Report to Legislature” page, and to add visuals to the page, and suggestion to highlight the link to final research reports (on the GCC Research & Monitoring page), as the link doesn’t appear to be as easy to find as it could be, and maybe add link to each project pdf, on “final reports” page, to any project power point presentation available for the project.

**Legislative Water Quality Task Force meeting w/GCC** – Bruce R. suggested possible invite of Water Quality Task Force Cochairs to meet to discuss Task Force activities and possible GCC contribution; suggested is meeting at “downtown” location in late June; Task force Cochairs can only meet Tue – Thur, so proposed is June 18-20 or 23-27; GCC members in support of meeting; Bruce will send out doddle poll to see which dates might work best for GCC members.

**WI State Fair – possible GCC presence** - discussion of possible GCC display/presence at Fair, potentially focusing on annual Report to Leg and funded research, pointed out that fairgoers are often drawn to more entertaining activities than educational ones, and that there might not be enough time this year to put an effective display together, Bruce R. suggested that the GCC might want to develop its brand and logo for use in future presentations, displays, etc.: current GCC letter head includes logo from WI Buried Treasure doc.: consensus to develop GCC logo/brand possibly using Buried Treasure logo as “starting point”, also consensus to not try to put together GCC display for Fair this year but maybe in the future; Farm Tech Days and groundwater/drinking water events at the Capitol suggested that other places GCC might consider a presence/display.

**Technical Presentation:** Jeff Helmuth (DNR) presented overview and update of Central Sands Lakes Study (directed by Legislature in 2017 Act 10), required is study of 3 specified Central Sands lakes: Long, Plainfield and Pleasant; as hi-cap pumping in Central Sands is steadily increasing, goal of study is to assess connection between pumping and lake levels; Central Sands is area of > 50’ glacial sand and gravel deposits above bedrock; 2 of 3 study lakes are in glacial meltwater tunnel channel deposits; study lakes located on divide between L. Mich basin and Miss. River basin; study includes modelling, field study, assessment of ave. seasonal lake water levels and significant water level reduction, and potential recommendations for special measures to the Leg.; modelling data is currently being collected and Modflow based study model near completion; 30 day hi-cap pump test planned for Aug. 2019; past lake levels being evaluated using historic air photos; study online web site has updates.

**Agency Updates:**

**DATCP:** Sara Walling reported that DATCP is receiving more funding requests through their Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program; have finished contracts for 3 Joint Solicitation funded projects; DATCP neonicinoid report ready to be sent to EPA; agency staff participating in WQ Task Force hearings and on Rep. Kitchens Nitrate Work Group; in process of hiring LTE hydrogeologist.

**Governor's Rep:** Steve Diercks reported that growers have been working with the Little Plover Conservancy Group, and that some irrigation water testing is currently being done to help improve crop nutrient management planning efforts; growers have also been coordinating with UW researchers on irrigated land research studies.

**DHS:** Roy Irving reported that the agency staff are continuing evaluation of both the Cycle 10 and 11 lists of substances for possible groundwater standard recommendations; staff also working on health risk evaluations at the Marinette PFAS sites and on "Choose Safe Places" child day care facility environmental hazards evaluation effort that includes drinking water assessment; DHS coordinating with EPA on lead water testing at schools and day care facilities; retirement of agency senior toxicologist and GCC subcommittee member, Rob Thiboldeaux.

**DNR:** Bruce Rheineck reported that Jay Nielsen now EM Division Emerging Contaminants Coordinator - will focus on PFAS contamination; Bridget Kelly now RR Program PFAS Coordinator; PFAS website posted; multiagency PFAS Task Force created; DNR Lab Certification Program working on PFAS terminology and lab methods standardization; 2 PFAS compounds on Cycle 10 list and 34 PFAS compounds on Cycle 11 list; Pam Porter now Policy Advisor to the Secretary; Year of Clean Water tasks classified into short term "doable", and longer term "dreamable"; NR 812 rule revisions to be presented to DNR Board in May, could potentially go into effect in early 2020; NR 140 web site being created, to include process for standards development, current Cycle lists and updates on rulemaking.

**DSPS:** Brad Johnson reported that Johnny Winston appointed DSPS Industry Services Division Administrator; new electronic system for plan review and permitting now being implemented, with pilot underway, phase II planned for June and phase III implementation anticipated for fall; as of Oct 2019 POWTS maintenance to be tracked through county POWTS inventory system; state budget passed removed sunset date for DSPS Wisconsin Fund - POWTS replacement funding program; Ed Taylor, Hayward DSPS Wastewater Specialist retiring, replacement being hired.

**UWS:** Jim Hurley reported that interviews had been completed, and candidate selected, for UW Groundwater Policy Fellow to work in the DNR Water Use program; recruitment will begin this fall for three UW2020 Grant (WARF) funded Water at UW positions: groundwater/surface water hydrologist, ecologist and water economist; UW COE facility now has new water analysis instrumentation in place for improved water quality testing.

**DOT:** Bob Pearson reported that other state DOT experiences with PFAS chemicals to be discussed and presented at national DOT conference; WI DOT sees need to consider potential PFAS water and soil contamination in the Marinette area on DOT infrastructure and construction management projects.

**WGNHS:** Ken Bradbury reported that WGNHS report evaluating Chippewa Co. impacts from frac sand mining and irrigated agriculture has been completed; Fond du Lac Co. depth to bedrock map now available; Survey has hired hydrogeologist, Moe Muldoon; bedrock geologist and geoscience coordinator also hired; Waupaca water supply well Post-Doc project completed; WGNHS participating in Leg. Water Quality Task Force hearings and assisting with DNR Central Sands Lake Study.

**Meeting adjourned**