

WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

November 2019 Meeting

10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, Nov 8, 2019

DATCP Office Building, Madison, WI

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

Introductions, agenda repair, May 2019 meeting minutes: Chair, Jim Zellmer called meeting to order; motion (Ken B. motion, Steve D. second) to approve Aug 2019 meeting minutes - approved

FY 2021 Joint Solicitation update: Jen Hauxwell (UWS) provided an update on the GCC fiscal year 2021 (FY 2021) Joint Solicitation (JS) groundwater research funding effort; JS request for proposals (RFP) deadline was the end of Oct; 18 proposals submitted, including 2 related to the economics of groundwater quality; Jen reported that approximately \$350,000 (UW and agency funding) would be available to potentially fund FY 2021 JS projects

Geospacial Data Management Subcommittee: Adam Freihoefer (DNR) provided presentation outlining possible goals, tasks, objectives of GCC Geospacial Data Management subcommittee; possible subcommittee goals include inventory of existing hydrogeologic, geologic and groundwater geospacial data, prioritized compilation of agency geospacial groundwater data needs, development of consistent data management guidelines/SOPs and “shareable” groundwater data catalog/map viewer; suggested was multiagency/partner participation on subcommittee with twice yearly meetings; motion (Ken B. motion, Sara W. second) to create subcommittee - approved

Technical Presentation: Sarah Yang (DHS) provided presentation titled *Understanding the Health Risk of PFAS in Drinking Water*; noted that most people have PFAS compounds in blood; exposure routes for PFAS include diet, dust, water ingestion; health effects include increased cholesterol, immune system response reduction, decreased fertility in women; most studied PFAS compounds are PFOA and PFOS; they have long ½ life in humans compared to other animals; babies most sensitive population and new info indicates PFAS can cross placenta and that breast milk is an exposure pathway; PFOA and PFOS have similar health effects and DHS has recommended 20 ppt NR 140 Enforcement Standard for combined PFOA + PFOS

Agency Updates:

DSPS: Brad Johnson reported short POWTS construction season this year due to wet spring/cold fall weather; agency on third release of Phase 1 of new online electronic plan review and licensing system, and are working through implementation issues; 2nd annual POWTS Conf. scheduled for Feb 26, 2020 at Madison Alliant Energy Center – Ken B to report on SWIGG study at Conf; agency also assisting with preparations for July 2020 Milwaukee Democratic National Convention

Governor's Rep: Steve Diercks reported difficulties with potato crop this year due to weather issues; WI Potato and Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) spending about \$350,000 annually on UW research projects, including research on plant disease, water quantity and water quality; water quantity research utilizing flux towers showing that irrigation water use may be reduced by 10%-20% - finds now being field tested

UWS: Jim Hurley reported that UW is waiting to hear about federal funding and that there may be more funds available this year for the WRI; funding for Sea Grant program is now OK and funded aquaculture research now underway; funded PFAS research now underway at UW; UW participating in WI Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) effort to update 2011 climate change impact report; rough draft of GCC video finished, will provide to GCC when completed; Jen

Hauxwell now UW WRI Assistant Director for Research and Student Engagement; UW partnering with DHS to fund Post Grad/Post Doc Fellow who will be working at DHS reviewing toxicology of PFAS compounds

WGNHS: Ken Bradbury reported that WGNHS publications are now available for ½ price; the springs inventory project report is now complete and available as an open-file technical report and database; Bayfield Co. Hydrogeologic Atlas now available; Wonewoc-Tunnel City contact interval (as source of natural groundwater contaminants) report also now available; groundwater flow model for western Chippewa Co. now completed; WI well geophysical logs now available on-line; working with USGS on Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) effort to identify and characterize undiscovered critical mineral resources

DOT: Bob Pearson reported that the agency is considering how to investigate possible PFAS contamination related to DOT construction dewatering, and potential presence of PFAS in soil at new property sites; wet weather this year has created construction challenges for the agency; continued agency outreach to promote use of liquid road salt application (to reduce groundwater chloride impacts); now working on northeast WI Houghton muck soil wetland mitigation site that appears to contain bog iron deposits

DATCP: Sara Walling reported that the agency is planning to fund 30 Producer-Led Watershed Protection farm groups this year, and has provided recommendations to groups for groundwater related research, agency provided recommendations to Legislative WQ Task Force in “3 Agency” letter; agency staff participating on Rep. Kitchens nitrate work group effort; agency staff assisting with DNR NR 151 targeted performance standards rulemaking effort; Sara representing DATCP on multiagency Wisconsin PFAS Action Council (WisPAC) – agency PFAS issues include biosolids land application on agricultural fields, potential for plant uptake of PFAS and possibility of PFAS contamination of milk; agency participating on WI Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) workgroup; next state agricultural chemical groundwater well sampling effort planned for 2021

DHS: Jon Meiman reported that DHS had provided recommendations to Legislative WQ Task Force including recommendation to fund more PFAS related work; agency participating on WisPAC multiagency PFAS Action Council; currently have staff on Fellowship assisting with PFAS toxicologic review efforts; agency participating on WICCI Climate Change Impacts workgroup

DNR: Jim Zellmer reported that information on PFAS occurrence and PFAS Technical Advisory Group on DNR PFAS website; that municipal wastewater treatment facilities being encouraged to voluntarily test biosolids for PFAS and to identify potential industrial PFAS sources discharging to treatment facilities; that PFAS related rulemaking in NR 809, NR 105 and NR 140 being proposed, and that surface water and fish sampling for PFAS now underway; that WisPAC PFAS Action Council meetings being held; that DNR GRN groundwater database system being updated to allow posting of large data sets; that agency meeting with stakeholders to address NR 812 casing depth issues; that NR 151 rulemaking scope hearings conducted; that annual teacher groundwater education workshops were scheduled for early 2020; that agency meeting with Waushara Co. to discuss high groundwater/flooding issues in county; that system to treat (approximately 20) private wells with nitrate > 30 mg/L in the Town of Armenia had been proposed, and that UW report on food processors wastewater denitrification study now available

GCC 2020 meeting dates/locations: discussion of possible meeting dates and locations; **Feb 2020 meeting to be held on Feb 14, 2020 (location TBD);** other meeting dates to be determined once all members have completed Doodle Poll; possible suggested locations for 2020 meetings: Lake Farm Co. Park (Madison), Horicon DNR Office, UW Arboretum facility (Madison), UW Stevens Point and UW Upham Woods facility (Dells)

Meeting adjourned: motion (Sara W. motion, Ken B. second) to adjourn - approved