

WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

February 2020 Meeting

10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, Feb. 14, 2020

USDA Forest Products Lab, Madison, WI

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

Introductions, agenda repair, Nov 2019 meeting minutes: Chair, Jim Zellmer called meeting to order; motion (Steve D. motion, Lori B. second) to approve 11/8/2019 meeting minutes - approved

FY 2021 Joint Solicitation update: – Bill Phelps (DNR) reported that the GCC Research and Monitoring subcommittee had completed reviews of this year's JS proposals and had held their review meeting on Jan 24; Jen Hauxwell (UWS) reported that this year 18 JS proposals were submitted from 48 investigators, representing 14 organizations, that UW Peer reviewers had provided 77 reviews on this year's proposals and that the UW Groundwater Research Advisory Council (GRAC) would be meeting to discuss recommendations for FY 2021 UW funding

GCC Video: – Bonnie Willison (UWS) has completed the UW GCC video and video was screened for GCC members; copy also being provided to the Legislature

Technical Presentation: Kelsey Prihoda (UW Superior - Lake Superior Research Institute) presented the results of her FY 2019 JS groundwater research project investigating groundwater quality in northwest WI. The project evaluated levels of fluoride, arsenic, iron, manganese, aluminum and lead in samples collected from private water supply wells in 11 northwestern WI counties; sampling results showed relatively low levels of fluoride and aluminum, higher levels of manganese, lead and arsenic, and relatively high levels of naturally occurring iron, often above the established WI groundwater quality enforcement standard level for iron; results of study sampling have been GIS mapped and are available in the final project report

GCC Geospatial Data Management Subcommittee - Bruce Rheineck (DNR) reported that subcommittee approved by GCC and that GCC Members should submit names of agency staff to serve on subcommittee to Adam Freihoefer; next step, begin gathering agency geospatial data info.

Outreach & Partnership Subcommittee Update: – Bruce Rheineck (DNR) reported that the subcommittee had completed an update of the private well testing fact sheet, suggestion made that link to certified labs be added, motion to approve fact sheet (Sara W. motion, Brad J. second) - approved; the subcommittee will next work on short health fact sheets for nitrate, bacteria and arsenic, suggested that fact sheets be provided in other languages, such as Spanish; subcommittee also now working on GCC logo and branding

Update on Legislature's Water Quality Task Force activities – Representative Katrina Shankland (Task Force Vice-Chair) provided an update on Task Force activities; hearings have been completed and water quality related bills being proposed, including bills related to: well compensation grant program, extending DSPS septic system repair grant program, state office of water policy, lead in drinking water and PAH sealant prohibition; additional funding also proposed for WGNHS, UW-Stevens Point and counties (for private well testing); discussion with Rep. Shankland about need for more funding for GCC groundwater research projects and about possibility of Capitol GCC meetings with Legislators

Agency Updates:

DATCP: Sara Walling reported that the agency had provided testimony on Water Quality Task Force bills related to water quality improvement program through reduction/optimization of agricultural nitrate, and increasing funding for county conservation staffing

DHS: Sarah Yang reported that DHS is continuing their program testing for lead at childcare centers; that info. had been added to the Agency nitrate health web page; that work on recommendations for Cycle 11 PFAS groundwater standards was continuing and that Agency has been working with UW Water Resources Institute and, in March, will get Fellow to assist with PFAS toxicology and groundwater standard recommendations work

DSPS: Brad Johnson reported that agency is participating on WisPAC PFAS Action Council and is providing information to local fire departments on use of alternative PFAS-free firefighting foam; that a draft bill has been proposed with changes to timelines for DSPS engineering reviews; and that POWTS Conference is scheduled for Feb 26 at the Madison Alliant Energy Center – Ken B. to provide report on SWIGG study at conference

DOT: Bob Pearson reported that the agency has completed its survey to investigate possible PFAS contamination related to construction dewatering and potential PFAS in soil at new property sites

UWS: Jen Hauxwell reported that that the Water Resources Institute had received additional funds that would allow an additional Joint Solicitation research project to be funded this fiscal year; that a PFAS workshop is to be held at the WRI on April 10; that the Water at UW Spring Symposium is scheduled for May 5; and that the WRI and DNR are cofounding a Fellow to work in the DNR Fisheries Program

Governor's Rep: Steve Diercks reported that the WI Potato and Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) annual meeting had been held and that WPVGA was working with UW researchers to come up with innovative ideas for nitrate reduction projects

WGNHS: Ian Orland reported that Ken B. was currently testifying at the Legislature on proposed Water Quality Task force bills; that WGNHS map sales now closed; that the Survey is working with USGS on statewide mapping of surficial geology project; that a bedrock mapping project is proposed for the Driftless area and that the Survey is working on proposed Oneida Co, Town of Shoepke, mineral exploration project

DNR: Jim Zellmer reported that WisPAC PFAS Action Council meetings are being held; that the DNR was hiring 2 new PFAS staff; that rulemaking for PFAS related drinking water, water quality and groundwater quality standards is continuing and that a stakeholders meeting is scheduled for March 23; that NR 151 rulemaking to address nitrate is continuing and that Jim had attended a meeting in Washington DC on gulf hypoxia and nutrient loading issues, and that federal funding to target nutrient reduction efforts has been proposed

Meeting adjourned