



## WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

**May 2021 Meeting Minutes**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, May 14, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting held via Skype**

**Members present** Steve Elmore for Jim Zellmer (DNR), Sara Walling (DATCP), Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Jim Hurley (UWS) and Jon Meiman (DHS)

**Agenda repair, Feb 2021 meeting minutes** Chair, Steve Elmore, called meeting to order; approval of Feb 12, 2021 meeting minutes: Jim H. motion, Sara W. second, minutes approved

**FY 2022 JS groundwater research funding update** – Jen Hauxwell (UWS) reported that 7 new Joint Solicitation groundwater research projects were being funded this fiscal year: 4 by UWS, 2 by DATCP, 1 by DNR; all investigators for funded projects have been contacted and expected that projects will start July 1, 2021; Jen requested that agencies send updated research priorities and anticipated funding amounts for the FY 2023 Joint Solicitation RFP to Jen by June 25

**2021 GCC Report to the Legislature** - Bruce Rheineck (DNR) reported that work has begun on the 2021 GCC Report to the Legislature; Bruce expects to send out draft report by June 11, and would like agency input/edits by late July; looking at using "storyboard" format for this year's report, with visuals on "lead in" pages that have links to more detail; approach discussed by GCC and supported

**DNR Central Sands Lake Study findings/recommendations** - Adam Freihoefer (DNR) reported that the Central Sands Lake Study Findings and Recommendations report was completed and that DNR was accepting comments; key findings are: lake levels and ecosystems of Long & Plainfield Lakes significantly impacted by irrigated agriculture groundwater withdrawals but Pleasant Lake not significantly impacted; all 3 study lakes are well connected to groundwater and show natural water level variability with recharge a significant factor; main withdrawal is irrigated agriculture with distance and pumping volumes being significant factors affecting cumulative lake impact; lakes appear to have more "buffer" to withdrawal impacts than streams; key recommendation is for regional water use management in Central Sands with agency oversight/coordination and menu of management options for land owners; next step is final reports and response to comments to Legislature and publishing study approach/findings in peer reviewed papers

**Technical Presentation Integrative monitoring of neonicotinoid insecticides in baseflow-dominated streams on the Central Sand Plain** - Bill DeVita (UW-Stevens Point) gave a power point presentation on his research, using polar organic carbon integrative samplers (POCIS), to evaluate the presence and transport of neonicotinoid pesticides in baseflow dominated streams in the WI Central Sands. The study evaluated the use of POCIS passive diffusion sorbent sampling devices to monitor neonic pesticides in water and provided information on the mass loading of neonic pesticides on streams and ditches in the Central Sands. Included in the study was sampling of hyporheic zone water to evaluate the transport of neonics to surface water via groundwater.

The neonicotinoid insecticides imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam are used for seed coating and foliar treatment on crops in the Central Sands. The study found seasonal and spatial variability of neonics in monitored surface waters, with some samples exceeding chronic aquatic life toxicity benchmark levels. Comparison of grab sample results with POCIS time-weighted average results showed good correlation and suggest that POCIS sampling devices can be a good tool for monitoring neonics in Central Sands surface waters. Comparison of surface water sampling results with samples from hyporheic zone mini-piezometers, placed in groundwater upwelling areas, did not show good correlation, as hyporheic zone samples were found to be highly variable.

## **Agency Updates**

**DATCP:** Sara W. reported that NE WI electromagnetic aerial survey project completed and data was now being reviewed with results likely in next couple months, results to be used for NR 151 bacteria reduction targeted performance standards and agency is now scoping ATCP 50 to incorporate results of survey; alternate practices workgroup for Karst area evaluating practices to comply with bacteria targeted performance standards; Lori B. reported that extended Bayer Crop Science isoxaflutole herbicide study continuing; contracts for FY 2022 JS groundwater research projects completed; agency staff continuing to assist with Cycle 10 & 11 NR 140 proposed rule revisions; agency resampling water supply wells with high imidacloprid levels (43 - 51 wells sampled); EPA grant funding received to add more wells to field edge monitoring system; agency tracking Legislative funding for "clean sweep" type effort to collect PFAS firefighting foam; agency continues working with NASS on planning 2022 statewide agricultural chemical survey

**DHS:** Jon M. reported that agency staff continue to assist with PFAS contamination site health risk evaluation; Gavin Dehnert has accepted a position at UW working on emerging contaminant issues; agency work continuing on CDC Environmental Health Hazards grant, funding "healthy homes" initiatives, assisting small community water systems and mini grants for communities; agency currently co-funding two Postdoctoral Fellows; agency staff continuing to support Cycle 10 & 11 NR 140 rulemaking efforts; web page on groundwater standards now completed and posted

**WGNHS:** Ken B. reported that the Wisconsin Groundwater-Level Monitoring Network web page has been updated and now includes a video; the northeast WI aerial geophysical survey has been completed and project results are being evaluated; Survey now working on northern WI Marengo River watershed baseflow temperature/climate change impact project; work continuing on Rock Springs/Baraboo quadrangle mapping; agency has received \$36K funding for new mapping projects including Lafayette, Jefferson and Bayfield County mapping projects

**UWS:** Jim H. reported Sea Grant research proposals coming in; Sea Grant and UW WRI project funding delayed due to UW administration/leadership changes; RFP for new Sea Grant funded projects now out; Sea Grant funding includes \$1M for PFAS research; new WRI interactive map showing county-by-county location of groundwater research projects funded since 1985; Gavin Dehnert hired for emerging contaminants research; UW has received Sea Grant funding for PFAS research - will use for Postdoctoral Fellow funding; 12 Postdoc Fellows now funded, at DNR, DHS, Duluth EPA Lab; Postdoc Fellows at Duluth EPA lab working on PFAS research

**DNR:** Steve E. reported that the DNR's Clean Water for All efforts underway, targeting lead, PFAS and nitrate - working groups formed and action plans being prepared; rulemaking efforts for NR 140 Cycles 10 & 11 groundwater standards continuing; NR 812 rulemaking for PFAS MCLs continuing with draft EIA expected to be out for comment in June; NR 105/NR 102/NR 219 PFAS surface water quality criteria rulemaking efforts continuing; NR 812 rule revisions related to use of PVC well casing underway; NR 151 targeted performance standard rulemaking to address nitrate in groundwater in areas with permeable soils continuing; approximately 90 public water supply systems sampled for PFAS and sampling of wastewater effluent for PFAS now underway; WisPAC PFAS Action Plan completed and posted on web; PFAS Technical Advisory Group efforts continue; Water Initiatives Steering Committee (WISC) Nitrate Workgroup draft recommendations now under review; water use program now considering cumulative impacts when reviewing high capacity well approvals

**Meeting adjourned**