



## WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

**Aug 2021 Meeting Minutes**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, Aug 13, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting held via Skype**

**Members present** Jim Zellmer (DNR), Lori Bowman for Sara Walling (DATCP), Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Jen Hauxwell for Jim Hurley (UWS), Jon Meiman (DHS), Bob Pearson (DOT), Brad Johnson (DSPS), Steve Diercks (Governor's Representative)

**Agenda repair, May 2021 meeting minutes** Chair, Jim Zellmer, called meeting to order; approval of May 14, 2021 meeting minutes: Ken B. motion, Lori B. second - minutes approved by voice vote

**2021 GCC Report to the Legislature** - Bruce Rheineck (DNR) demonstrated the Report internet storyboard map; he also reported that final draft of Report was now complete and that, when Report accessed on the internet, there is introduction to the GCC that includes the GCC video; Bruce will send out e-mail to GCC members regarding approval of the draft Report

**Joint Solicitation RFP update** - Jen Hauxwell (UWS) reported that the FY 2023 Joint Solicitation request for proposals (RFP) was posted and sent to several hundred researchers on the WRI contact list; estimated \$375K available this year (from UW, DNR & DATCP) to fund studies; Zoom webinar planned again for this year to discuss agency priorities with potential researchers, and to encourage researchers to contact funding agencies on details of potential projects

**Safe Water For All** - Jim Zellmer (DNR) reported on the DNR's Safe Water For All campaign; campaign is follow up to Governor's 2019 Year of Clean Drinking Water effort; campaign focusses on 3 contaminants: PFAS, nitrate and lead, and provides information about those contaminants, what regulatory agencies are doing, and actions individuals can take; SWFA website has been put up; 3 expert panel discussion webinars planned; webinars will be recorded and made available; public can subscribe to list serve for SWFA announcements and updates

**Technical Presentation: Northeast WI airborne electromagnetic (AEM) depth to bedrock mapping project** - Dave Hart (WGNHS) and Burke Minsley (USGS) provided info on project; project is collaborative effort between USGS, WGNHS, DATCP & DNR to produce updated depth to bedrock map for parts of northeast WI underlain by Silurian dolomite bedrock; project involved helicopter flyovers with electromagnetic instrumentation used to estimate depth to bedrock; study area was parts of Door, Kewaunee, Brown, Manitowoc, Calumet, Fond du Lac & Sheboygan counties; helicopter flights conducted on regular spaced grid; towns and metal buildings avoided; depth to bedrock project results used for NR 151 Silurian bedrock performance standards rule; 3D software analysis of results allowed evaluation of sediment above bedrock; well construction records and field gathered soil push probe/backhoe pit results used to evaluate questionable areas and as controls; mapped depth to bedrock results to be incorporated into DATCP SnapPlus nutrient management maps

### **Agency Updates**

**DSPS:** Brad J. reported that there was an "out of court" settlement to the agency's Vernon Co. Amish enforcement case; that agency staff had been given a tour of one of the constructed wetland home wastewater treatment systems in the state; agency is working with fire departments to dispose of their PFAS containing firefighting foams and replace them with PFAS free foam; agency tracking funding for additional plan review positions; WI Fund septic replacement grant program extension authorized, but funding for program not yet provided

**WGNHS:** Ken B. reported that agency staff now back working in the office; new Survey reports available including: WI depth to bedrock mapping report, Dodge Co. depth to bedrock, Colombia Co.

hydrogeology/groundwater flow report, Colombia and Green Lake Co. quaternary geology map; agency staff involved in number of new/ongoing projects: NE WI aerial geophysical survey, mapping surficial geology of state; southwest WI bedrock geology, southwest WI SWIGG groundwater contamination study; assisting UW-SP with central WI neonicotinoid pesticide study, Bayfield Co. groundwater study and hydrogeologic study of Chequamegon National Forest

**UWS:** Jen H. reported that UW Aquatic Sciences hosted PFAS Workshop conference in July - next step is PFAS white paper and priorities; Sea Grant has made PFAS a research priority; new Sea Grant emerging contaminant research proposals submitted this year including for studies of PFAS in WI

**Governor's Representative:** Steve D. reported that this year's vegetable growing season has been challenging due to rainfall variability; growers have been involved with nitrate research projects and project results are coming in; growers would like more information on proposed nitrate rules so they can evaluate possible cropping changes and assess potential impacts

**DATCP:** Lori B. reported that agency had issued press release on Depth to Bedrock Technical Standard; Rick Graham, with Agchemical Management Program, recently retired - agency working on hiring replacement; EPA has provided agency funding to expand monitoring program; agency continuing to work with National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) on 2022 Agricultural Chemicals in Wisconsin Groundwater survey - project leads are Mark McColloch and Stan Senger

**DHS:** Jon M. reported that agency is continuing to work on PFAS issues and outreach on contaminants of concern; agency staff continuing to assist with ongoing NR 140 Cycle 10 and 11 rulemaking; agency working with local health Dept. and public on French Island PFAS contamination - looking at biomonitoring to evaluate exposure

**DOT:** Bob P. reported that agency Salt fact sheet completed and available - emphasizes use of liquid salt brine in place of rock salt; agency looking at DOT French Island rest stop water quality - currently no PFAS detects above advisory levels; working with WGNHS on placing state system groundwater monitoring wells on DOT right-of-ways; storm water management practices brochure completed and available - covers depth to bedrock and UIC issues; working with Office of Assessment Management on model to address flooding

**DNR:** Jim Z. reported that agency Safe Water For All efforts underway; rulemaking continuing, including proposed PFAS standards in NR 140, NR 809 and surface water rules; NR 812 water supply well construction rule revisions underway; NR 151 nitrate reduction rulemaking in progress; EPA providing funds to sample municipal water supply wells for PFAS; PFAS sampling at some wastewater treatment facilities completed; next WisPAC meeting scheduled for Nov 10; PFAS Technical Group and PFAS External Advisory Group planned public meetings in Aug and Oct; WISC Nitrate Workgroup nitrate reduction recommendations under review; agency Water Use Program now considering cumulative impacts when reviewing high capacity well approvals per Supreme Court decision

**Meeting adjourned**