



WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

Nov 2022 Meeting Minutes
10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, Nov 11, 2022
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Members present Jim Zellmer (DNR), Mark McColloch (DATCP), Eric Carson (WGNHS), Jim Hurley (UWS), Jon Meiman (DHS), Bob Pearson (DOT), Brad Johnson (DSPS), Steve Diercks (Governor's Representative)

Agenda repair, Aug 2022 minutes Chair, Jim Zellmer, called meeting to order; approval of Aug 12, 2022 meeting minutes: Steve D motion, Mark M second - minutes approved by voice vote

Joint Solicitation FY 2024 RFP update – Jen Hauxwell (UWS) provided an update on FY 2024 Joint Solicitation groundwater research proposal submittals; 10 proposals from 5 institutions submitted for FY 2024; funding agencies (UWS, DNR, DATCP) have up to approximately \$ 550K available this year; proposals are being reviewed by GCC Research & Monitoring Subcommittee and UWS “Peer Reviewers”; UWS Groundwater Research Advisory Council (GRAC) to meet in Feb

Well Compensation Grant Program update Marty Nessman (DNR) provided an update on the DNR well compensation/American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) well grant program; about \$ 10M available through ARPA grant program, ARPA is federal program so uses different criteria than state well comp program; 2 project and 2 LTE positions to be used to administer ARPA program, income limit for grant is \$ 100K annual income, grant up to \$ 16K with no co-pay; non-community and dug wells eligible for funding; eligible “contamination” includes: bacteria (E. coli or fecal bacteria) not associated with animal waste, nitrate > 10 mg/L and arsenic above 10 ug/L, Survey Monkey tool set up for eligibility assessment, eligibility is 2 contaminated samples within 2 years, PFAS contamination eligible if above DHS advisory levels, grant covers well reconstruction or replacement and/or treatment and well fill/seal, can cover bottled water on short term basis

Technical Presentation Alyssa Sellwood (DNR) provided an overview and update on investigation and remediation efforts at the JCI/Tyco fire products sites in Marinette - multiple sites being investigated: Fire Tech Center, Stanton St facilities and wastewater biosolids land application sites; JCI (formerly Ansel) produced/tested firefighting foam sine 1960s, had discharge to Marinette WWTF which spread biosolids, Fire Tech Center is 380 acres – PFAS detected in gw at > 100,000 ppt, in surface water at > 5,000 ppt, Stanton St. site used for AFFF foam blending & processing – PFAS at > 10,000 ppt, private wells around WWTF biosolids spreading sites (61 fields) being tested – more than 30 had PFAS detections (as high as 2,000 ppt), 2018 test showed PFAS at 200 ppb in biosolids, if private wells contaminated getting bottled water and POE treatment system, groundwater pump & treatment system (9 extraction wells) now in place at Fire Tech site – treatment includes activated carbon and ion exchange – system discharges to ditch under WPDES permit, ditches at site intercept gw – PFAS > 10,000 ppt in ditches; possible long term solutions include deeper wells or municipal water, information on sites now on DNR BRRTS system

Agency Updates

DSPS: Brad J reported that DSPS staff finishing up their evaluation of the hydrograph depth to groundwater estimation method and will have their findings and recommendations available soon; WISC fund to assist low income homeowners with replacement of failing septic systems now gone – expansion being asked for in upcoming state budget; National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) conf. held – looking at standards for PFAS free firefighting foam; WI AFFF foam “clean-sweep” program underway – 12,000 gal, of 25,000 gal inventoried, now collected

UWS: Jen H reported that Sea Grant RFP now underway (through Jan 13) – about \$ 4M available – looking at proposals highlighting PFAS and microplastics; Post-Grad Fellowship program continuing – Fellows now at DHS, DNR, DOA and involved with PFAS research at EPA lab in

Duluth; Anne Moser, WRI Outreach/Education Coordinator, received 2022 outstanding educator of the year award from WI Association of Environmental Education

Governor's Representative: Steve Diercks reported WI Potato and Vegetable Growers Association tracking PFAS in land spread biosolids issue; has \$ 350K available to researchers for groundwater quality studies – funding is for long term research so some researchers not interested; Association following drafting of DATCP rules for nitrogen optimization program

WGNHS: Eric C reported that Survey's USGS cooperative geologic mapping funding being increased from \$ 300K to \$ 800K, which will fund new state geologic mapping; effort to hire new Survey director currently discontinued – are considering making director position a tenured UW Staff position; Eric will continue as acting director through June 2023; new positions hired – hydrogeologist to work with counties on groundwater quality issues and position to work on Central Sands groundwater issues

DOT: Bob P reported that agency finishing up its annual winter salt use technology/outreach program, done in coordination with WI Salt Wise organization – have seen increase in brine use and decrease in rock salt use; agency continuing to work on its flood resiliency GIS tool – used to identify flood prone areas; continuing work with Mike Parsen (WGNHS) to identify sites for stream monitoring and groundwater monitoring wells at DOT right-of-way, rest area and wetland mitigation sites; agency working on updating internal sustainability/resiliency policy

DHS: Jon M reported that agency working on CDC grant to fund groundwater work; working with WI Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) on WI Environmental Equity Tool (WEET) - comprehensive web-based environmental justice and health equity mapping tool; staff evaluating recent EPA PFAS health advisory levels; staff continuing to work with DNR on Private Well PFAS Sampling Project and other private well PFAS sampling efforts

DATCP: Mark M reported that there have been a number of recent staffing changes at agency – Mark McCloskey retiring soon; working with DNR on firefighting foam inventory and clean-sweep efforts; staff finishing up groundwater monitoring program annual reports for 2020 and 2021; continuing preparations for this summer's Statewide Agricultural Chemical Survey – planning to hire an intern to assist with Survey; RFP for Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Grant Program to be released soon; working on updating ATCP 50 to include conservation practices necessary to implement NR 151 Silurian bedrock agricultural performance standards

DNR: Jim Z reported that proposed revisions to NR 140 bacteria groundwater standards (to adopt E. coli standards and revise total coliform standards) to be proposed for adoption at Dec NRB meeting; approval of NR 140 rulemaking scope, to adopt PFAS groundwater standards, also to be proposed at Dec NRB meeting; NR 809 public water supply MCLs for PFOS/PFOA effective 8/1/2022 - public wells now scheduled to begin quarterly sampling for compounds; agency staff continuing to work on revisions to NR 812 to allow drillers to use Type II (Portland) limestone cement; approximately 75% of samples now analyzed for PFAS Private Well Sampling Project – so far 2 samples above DHS recommended PFAS health guidelines and 9 samples with PFAS levels high enough that residences will be resampled to confirm levels are not above health guidelines; 10 of 17 homes sampled in the Starks area/Town of Stella have shown high to very high levels of PFAS - no obvious source; next meeting of PFAS Technical Group scheduled for Dec 16, 2022

Tentative 2023 GCC meeting dates: Feb 10, May 12, Aug 11 and Nov 10

Meeting adjourned