

## **WORKGROUP**

Defining Sensitive Areas and Management  
Practices to Reduce Groundwater  
Contamination  
08-17-2015



### Purpose

The purpose of this workgroup is to define sensitive areas that are high risk for groundwater pollution and recommend management practices that may help reduce or eliminate groundwater pollution and associated public health risk within these sensitive areas. The scope of the workgroup activities will remain related to this purpose and will also attempt to address concerns from local citizens, the farming community and other interested stakeholders that relate to the workgroup's purpose.

### Expected Outputs / Products

The workgroup will compile and review existing information and research, and produce written guidance and recommendations that define sensitive areas and management practices within sensitive areas that may contribute to groundwater pollution and increased public health risk. The workgroup final product will include, but not be limited to, narrative summaries along with maps, tables or matrices identifying sensitive areas and recommendations for use (or non-use) of practices intended to reduce or eliminate groundwater pollution in sensitive areas. The workgroup will strive for consensus on recommendations. Where consensus is not possible, the final guidance may include majority and minority representatives. The full workgroup will attempt to complete some written guidance and recommendations by Winter/Spring 2016.

The recommendations are intended for: WDNR, local government officials, agricultural producers and other interested stakeholders located in these sensitive areas, including, but not limited to private residents, business owners, etc.

### Composition

The workgroup consists of invited participants representing a cross-section of interests concerned with the groundwater quality and public health issues observed in Kewaunee County.

#### Workgroup Members:

- Andrew Craig, Wisconsin DNR Runoff Management Section (chair)
- Russ Rasmussen, Wisconsin DNR Division of Water
- Kyle Burton, Wisconsin DNR Drinking Water and Groundwater
- Bill Phelps, Wisconsin DNR Groundwater Section

- Mary Ann Lowndes, Wisconsin DNR Runoff Management Section
- Brad Holtz, Wisconsin DNR Runoff Management Section
- Joe Baeten, Wisconsin DNR Runoff Management Section
- Cheryl Heilman, Wisconsin DNR Legal Services
- Don Niles/John Pagel, Agricultural Representative
- Andy Wallander, Kewaunee County Citizen
- Sara Williams, Midwest Environmental Advocates
- TBD, Kewaunee Cares Representative
- Davina Bonness, Kewaunee County Conservationist
- Sara Walling/Mark Jenks, Wisconsin DATCP
- Kevin Masarik, UWSP-UWEX – Groundwater
- Kevin Erb, UW-Extension
- Ryan Debroux, Custom Manure Hauler
- Jeff Polenske/Nathan Nyssee, Certified Crop Advisor(s) who develop and help implement NMPs in Kewaunee County
- EPA, Tom Davenport
- NRCS, Davina Bonness and Brad Holtz will brief NRCS staff

Others - TBD by workgroup:

- City of Algoma/Kewaunee Wastewater Treatment Manager
- Kewaunee County Health / Zoning
- Industrial Waste Producer
- Septic/Industrial Waste Hauler

Meeting Schedule and Information

Workgroup Meeting #1: Tuesday, August 25, 2015, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Oshkosh- Coughlin Center, Rooms A and B.

Workgroup Meeting #2: TBD

Workgroup Meeting #3: TBD

Workgroup Meeting #4: TBD

Workgroup Meeting #5: TBD

Workgroup Meeting #6: TBD

## Workgroup Ground Rules

Workgroup members agree to:

- Contribute to environment of civility
- Remain open to new concepts/information/perspectives different from your own
- Focus on underlying interests rather than positions
- Make statements then invite questions and comments
- Share all relevant information with other stakeholders
- Respectfully disagree openly with any member of the group
- Agree upon what important words mean
- Jointly design ways to test disagreements and solutions
- Discuss difficult issues
- Keep the discussion focused upon workgroup purpose
- Not take cheap shots or otherwise distract the group with discussion beyond workgroup purpose and scope
- Own all ideas and concepts discussed; do not talk disrespectfully about team activities in public
- Recognize differences among farmers and landowners; avoid singling out individual operations/farmers and landowners
- Make decisions by consensus; where consensus is not possible, document minority and majority perspectives
- At their own discretion, decide whether or not to respond to comments or questions from members of the public that attend workgroup meetings or submit information to the workgroup
- Start meetings on time
- Read all preparation materials prior to meeting
- End meetings on time or by agreement of the workgroup
- Avoid side conversations during group discussion
- Provide surrogates if designated workgroup members cannot participate and, prior to meeting, notify all workgroup members of surrogate selection
- Surrogates must participate in meetings and follow the purpose and ground rules listed above and scope limits described below.

Non-workgroup members who attend workgroup meetings:

- Comments are welcome through electronic, written or oral communication
- Written comments can be submitted before, during or after at all meetings to workgroup chair, [Andrew.Craig@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Andrew.Craig@Wisconsin.gov) or via the DNR Groundwater Collaboration Group webpage – TBD.

- Persons who attend workgroup meetings:
  - will have designated time period(s) during each meeting to share comments and concerns with the workgroup; comment time period(s) will be determined by the workgroup chair based upon the number of persons attending each meeting and workgroup agenda(s).
  - will be asked to provide comments and concerns that are consistent with workgroup ground rules listed above and limits described below
  - may be asked to limit or summarize their comments due to available time considerations or when making comments that are beyond workgroup purpose and scope

Workgroup Scope Limitations

The scope of workgroup activities will be limited to defining sensitive areas that are high risk for groundwater pollution and management practices that may help reduce or eliminate groundwater pollution and associated public health risk within these sensitive areas. The workgroup will also attempt to address concerns from local citizens, the farming community and other interested stakeholders, provided those concerns fall within the workgroup scope. The following topics *will not be part of workgroup discussion*:

- Discussion of CAFO and Industrial Wastewater permit content or administration
- CAFO contested case hearings and corresponding judicial decisions
- Compliance activities by WDNR or other agencies– topic addressed by compliance workgroup
- Alternative water supply options for contaminated drinking water wells – addressed by short term solutions workgroup
- Manure Irrigation and public health risks – topic will be addressed by alternative technologies and manure irrigation workgroups
- Direct litigation threats