

From: Cosh, William A - DNR
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 4:07 PM
To: Savagian, Andrew F - DNR; Craig, Andrew D - DNR; Yulga, Brian F - DNR
Subject: FW: Kewaunee County summary

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From: Cosh, William A - DNR
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2015 7:07 PM
To: Quirnbach, Chuck - WPR
Subject: RE: Kewaunee County summary

Addressing Ground Water Issues in Kewaunee County

Kewaunee County contains areas known as "karst" which is fractured bedrock that provide conduits for pollutants from the surface to the groundwater. These pollutants can, in turn, be taken up in private drinking water wells, causing the water to be unsafe to drink, or for other household uses such as cooking or bathing. While karst areas are common throughout the eastern, and southern parts of Wisconsin, and along the Mississippi River, the susceptibility of this geology to groundwater contamination is dependent on several factors, including soil type and depth.

Kewaunee and Door Counties have areas where the soil depth over the karst geology is thin, creating increased risk of groundwater and well contamination. The most common sources of these pollutants may be from agricultural fields, or septic systems. Wells constructed with inadequate casing may also be more susceptible to contamination.

In October 2014, several groups from Kewaunee County and elsewhere requested that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) look into the causes of well contamination occurrences in Kewaunee County. The request faulted the number of concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (AFOS) in the county as the overwhelming causal factor of the contamination. It should be noted that a study of 10 private drinking water wells cited in the request found that two wells were contaminated by bovine bacteria, two by human bacteria and one by both.

EPA and DNR discussed the request and what approaches might be undertaken, and decided that

both agencies would work together to address the situation with DNR taking the lead role.

DNR gathered staff from within the agency with expertise in hydrology, drinking water well construction, CAFO spill response, nutrient management planning and agricultural conservation. The group met several times in November and December 2014 to craft a preliminary response approach and then met again with EPA to garner feedback.

In February, 2015, the DNR facilitated a meeting of the various governmental agencies that had an interest or could bring assistance to this issue. These included Kewaunee and Door County supervisors and land conservation staff, DNR, EPA, Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), US Geological Survey (USGS), Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey (WGNHS), and US Natural Resources conservation Service (NRCS). The purpose of this meeting was to share and compare perspectives and approaches, and identify available resources and expertise.

One of the attendees of the February meeting was a Kewaunee County Board supervisor who is also a CAFO operator. During the discussion it was decided that a meeting of the CAFO operators in Kewaunee County would be warranted. The meeting was held in March, 2015 at the CAFO operator's farm and included DNR staff, EPA, representative from the Kewaunee County Board of Supervisors and many of the Kewaunee County CAFO operators. DNR made the same presentation of its proposed approach as at the February meeting and solicited ideas, input and participation by the CAFO operators in finding solutions to the issue of well contamination in susceptible karst areas.

In May, 2015, DNR and EPA held a meeting with the groups that had made the request for EPA to look into the issue. DNR again presented its proposed approach and solicited input and participation.

The outcome of this series of meetings is to establish workgroups to consider and provide recommendations on the most pertinent topics to be addressed. These include short term solutions to provide owners of contaminated wells with safe drinking water, identifying karst areas susceptible to groundwater contamination, determining agricultural and other best management practices to significantly reduce the risk of groundwater contamination in these

areas, and determining what monitoring or other research-type efforts might assist in further identifying solutions. Participants on these workgroups will include representatives from all the groups involved in the meetings so far, and may include other interests such as local municipalities and industry. These meetings will be set up to start in June 2015 as schedules and availability allow.

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From: Quirnbach, Chuck [mailto:chuck.quirnbach@wpr.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 11:45 AM
To: Cosh, William A - DNR
Subject: Kewaunee County summary

Hi- If you could please send me, by4 or 5 pm today, a list of the key things Sec. Stepp says the DNR is doing to address the issues raised today by Lynn Utesch, that would be great please.

I just need three or four of the key points, and just a sentence or two on each.

Thank you,

Chuck Quirnbach
WPR