

**Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held November 21, 2014, 10:00 – 12:00**  
**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, trade and Consumer Protection**  
**2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison**

**Members Present:** Russ Rasmussen (DNR); James Robertson (WGNHS); Henry Anderson (DHS); John Petty (DATCP); Jim Hurley (UW-System), George Kraft (Gov. Rep.).

**Others Present:** Ken Bradbury (WGNHS); Lori Bowman, Sara Walling, Stan Senger, Trevor Bannister, Rick Graham, Steve Martin (DATCP); Roy Irving and Rob Thibodeaux (DHS); Jill Jonas, Eric Ebersberger, Steve Ales, Liesa Lehmann-Kerler, Mary Ellen Vollbrecht (WDNR).

**1) Approval of Minutes** - The minutes from the August 1, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved (motion by Hurley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petty).

**2) Technical Presentation** –Ken Bradbury, WGNHS reported on recently completed analysis of a decade of GCC-funded monitoring groundwater before and after conversion of farmland to unsewered subdivision. The subdivision was built under an exception to the Dane County subdivision moratorium then in effect that allowed its construction subject to a groundwater research study. Changes included reduction in nitrate and atrazine, presence of viruses and artificial sweeteners in shallow wells but not bedrock wells.

**3) Update on NRCS Nutrient Management Standards (590)** – Sara Walling, DATCP described the principles and current status of the process to update the nutrient management standard. Principles are: apply nutrients at the right rate, in the right form, at the right place and at the right time. A nutrient management plan based on the 590 standard is required when 70% cost sharing is made available, when land is part of farmland preservation or working lands programs, when required by a county ordinance or a state pollutant discharge permit, or when grossly negligent discharge causes imminent harm to waters of the state. Sara described proposed changes involving winter spreading plans, setbacks from wells, and proposed practices for different soil types. About 26% of agricultural lands in the state are covered by nutrient management plans.

**4) Update on High Capacity Well Review** – Eric Ebersberger, WDNR updated members on DNR’s current review process for high capacity well permit applications. The recent legal decision in *Pleasant Lake Management District v DNR* affirmed the requirement that WDNR evaluate and take into account existing and reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts of high capacity wells beyond wells proposed in the individual permit application. Required review considerations have evolved over time in response to new laws and legal decisions from only municipal well impacts to all waters of the state (including lakes, streams, springs, wetlands and private wells).

**5) Joint Solicitation Report** – Jim Hurley reported seven proposals filed so far. He anticipates that the number will double by the end-of-day deadline.

**6) Agency Updates**

**DATCP** – John Petty alerted members that public comment is the next step in the regular 4-year review of the Livestock Siting Facility Siting Rule (Ch. ATCP 51 Wis. Adm. Code). Lori Bowman reported that DATCP staff has four groundwater investigations underway (two atrazine; 2 nitrate) and that early-stage

## November 21, 2014 GCC meeting minutes

planning has begun for DATCP's next groundwater survey.

**UWS** - Jim Hurley introduced Jen Hauxwell, recently appointed Assistant Director for Research and Student Engagement, and announced the appointment of David Hart as Assistant Director of Outreach and Extension. Jim noted that the UW's Water Resources Institute has been rated in the top three of its kind in the US. Jim introduced the idea of placing student Fellows in Wisconsin agencies.

**DHS** – Henry Anderson reported on DHS preparation of groundwater contamination response protocols, on agency involvement in livestock siting and the manure irrigation work groups, and on data interpretation for identifying pathogen sources.

**WGNHS** – Jamie Robertson highlighted WGNHS work, including development of a model to evaluate water use scenarios for the Little Plover River, to assess impacts of large-scale heat exchange on groundwater and of impacts of frac sand mining on groundwater in Chippewa County. Geologic mapping is ongoing in the Driftless region along with hydrogeologic studies on Wisconsin's national forests.

**DNR** – Russ Rasmussen alerted members that revisions to the private well construction and driller licensing codes became effective on October 1. Key items are that voluntary well inspections done for real estate transfer must be done by licensed drilling or pump professionals and must include sampling for bacteria, nitrate and arsenic. The backlog of high capacity well permit applications stands at 115, the smallest since fall 2013. Some applications will take longer where new scientific tools are needed to assess cumulative impacts. A new report statistically links elevated molybdenum levels with unencapsulated beneficial reuse of coal bottom ash. WDNR will be providing feedback on the report. Russ noted requests to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to the state regarding groundwater pollution in Kewaunee County, indicating that discussions are underway in preparation for work with the requesters, farm groups, DATCP, DHS and Kewaunee County.

**6) 2015 Meetings** – Proposed dates and locations are affirmed with the exception of February. Meetings are confirmed from 10 – 12 on: May 15 at WGNHS; August 7 at DNR; November 20 at DATCP.

Anderson moved (Hurley 2<sup>nd</sup>) and all were in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen Vollbrecht