

WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL
May 2018 Meeting

10:00 am – 1:00 pm, Friday May 18, 2018
Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey – Core Repository
211 S. Blue Mounds Street, Mount Horeb, WI

Introductions and agenda repair

- Attendees: Linnea Rock (DNR), Bill Phelps for Jim Zellmer (DNR), Bruce Rheineck (DNR), Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Brad Johnson (DSPS), Disa Patel (DHS), Roy Irving for John Meiman (DHS), Steve Diercks (Gov. Rep), Jim Hurley (UWS), Lori Bowman for Brian Kuhn (DATCP), Bob Pearson for Pat Trainor (DOT)
- Pat Stevens no longer Administrator at DNR; Jim Zellmer acting.
- John Petty no longer with DATCP; Brian Kuhn acting Administrator.

Consideration of minutes from Feb. 16, 2018 meeting - Approved.

Joint FY19 selected projects – Bruce Rheineck (DNR)

- DNR funding: *Identification of naturally occurring fluoride and selected metals in northwestern WI water, Geographic, hydrologic, and geochemical characterization of Ra contaminated groundwater in WI.*
- DATCP funding: *Assessment of pesticide contamination in suburban drinking water wells in SE WI, DATCP has extra funding available.*
- UWS funding: *The impact of dissolved organic matter composition on the formation of disinfection byproducts in groundwater, Improving water and nitrogen use efficiency under changing weather variability in the Central Sands, Dynamics of Arsenic concentration and speciation in WI private drinking water wells.*
- Submittals were low this year. The amount of money has not increased since the GCC started and it is now used to pay tuition. How can we advocate for more money? Pitch to legislatures: program has a great track record; the money is used in the state. Add section to the report to the legislature with the history of funding facts including: types of research, number of projects funded through the years, etc. Consider partnering with other research programs to leverage money to go further. LTE funding in conjunction with this funding would likely create more limitations. CALS has funding for fertilizer research that has a groundwater component - we need to find ways within the UW system to integrate their programs; the Fertilizer Research Council includes a DNR rep from the CAFO program.

GCC report to the legislature

- The draft is on the SharePoint site, please make edits by June 15.
- Recommendations on what to highlight in the next report:
Water quantity use focus may need to be expanded to include patterns of large scale land use development, e.g. Epic, Foxconn, etc.
 - Renewed interest in metallic mining: international instability means the US is looking like the best place for mining companies to invest.
 - Documenting the facts of nitrate in groundwater and expanding that section a little more.
 - PFAS/PFOA.

Outreach and Partnership Subcommittee update – Bruce Rheineck (DNR)

- Subcommittee met in April. Starting with bacteria in private wells brochure that needs updated facts and format. The subcommittee suggests breaking the brochure into several smaller components. The subcommittee plans to look at public information on nitrates, and other things that need to be tested.

Agency updates – all

- DSPS: rules on POWTS code have gone through legislature and will be effective July 1. Madison HQ is moving to Hill Farms building in mid-July. Statute passed a couple years ago that created a religious exemption for many codes and rules; primarily directed at Amish, they now need to comply with POWTS Code.
- WGNHS: staff changes, Madeline G. and Jay Z. are leaving. The survey is looking for candidates to fill those positions as well as a new sampling coordinator. Extension is being reorganized and moved to Madison campus. The survey is now part of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Institute under Dr. Tricia Gorby. Ken invited Chancellor Rebecca Blank to visit survey. Survey is completing Dodge County, Fond du Lac County, & Bayfield County geologic maps.
- DATCP: nitrates continue to be a big issue, statutes do not allow stringency with this compound like it does for other compounds. EPA is sampling in Juneau County and that is generating questions; DATCP has done some well sampling too because a woman had a miscarriage caused by a cocktail of chemicals in her well. Sara Walling is no longer at DATCP. Agency structure was reorganized and there is a hydrogeologist advanced position opening soon and possibly a spills clean-up position.
- DNR: related to miscarriage issue mentioned by DATCP → a lot of sampling in Central Sands has occurred over time; Runoff Management Program was looking at a CAFO up there as well and now EPA is involved, EPA has not shared anything in writing yet. NR 812 (state well and pump code) is going through revision, changes should come into effect in 2020. Groundwater quality standards changes in NR 140 coming. Landfill group is looking at closed solid waste fields and creating guidance. Water Quantity map and Well Driller map viewers are new interactive tools. PFAS/PFOA → groundwater bureau director will be at national EPA summit; widespread occurrence in Marinette County.
- DHS: ATSCR is going through communications plan review. New bureau director: Mark Warner. Still working on lead and drinking water messaging product, final draft out for external review. Working on Cycle 10 list of groundwater standards to come up with recommendations by early December; 16 new substances, 10 revisions. Revision to DHS 145 related to harmful algal blooms. Site evaluation program is working on imitative to work with people starting childcare facilities that includes a drinking water component.
- DOT: busy with regulatory changes → wetland fill, regional general permit for transportation and construction, TMDLs are coming up again, environmental impact projects. NR 538 revisions causing DOT to evaluate inventory and reuse of materials, trying to figure out a better way to communicate internally and externally on this issue. Research study on storm water infiltration practices, infrastructure and management; final report coming out in July of this year and will be peer reviewed and published.
- Governor's Rep: participating in lake study. Collection of water quality data within the industry.
- UWS: Aquatic Sciences Program has 4 new people. The next Joint Solicitation process has already started, Jen Hauxwell is getting in contact with Grac already. Sea Grant program will get record funding for FY18-19. Briefing at the end of June on coastal changes along Lake Michigan, there has been a lot of recent damage. Rapid response work at Lake Superior Refinery, working to get sea grant funding to monitor this situation. Aquatic Sciences program collaborating with EPA to work with UW post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduate students.
- Dr. Tricia Gorby who is now overseeing WGNHS among other programs with the reorganization introduced herself.

Consideration of items for August 17, 2018 meeting

- We will need to approve final report to legislature. DNR/DHS presentations on PFOA/PFAS.

Technical Presentation: *Analog Models for Education and for Outreach Demonstrations* - Carol McCartney, Mike Parsen, Caroline Rose (WGNHS)

Adjourn; Next Meeting: 8/17/18 at 10 AM, DNR Southeast Region Office: 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd. in Fitchburg.