

WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

August 2020 Meeting Minutes
10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, Aug 7, 2020
Virtual Meeting held via Skype

Members present Jim Zellmer (DNR), Brad Johnson (DSPS), Mark McColloch for Sara Walling (DATCP), Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Bob Pearson for Patricia Trainer (DOT), Jim Hurley (UWS), Roy Irving for Jon Meiman (DHS)

Agenda repair, Feb 2020 meeting minutes: Chair, Jim Zellmer, called meeting to order; approval of May 15, 2020 meeting minutes: Brad J. motion, Ken B. second – approved by voice vote

2020 GCC Report to the Legislature: Bruce Rheineck (DNR) reported that draft Report to Legislature is now available for review/edits; requested that agencies review revised Executive Summary and Recommendations sections and get comments back to Bruce

FY 2022 Joint Solicitation update: Jen Hauxwell (UWS) reported that FY 2022 Joint Solicitation request for proposals (RFP) posted/sent out on Jul 23; potential interested researchers notified by e-mail; webinar to be held Aug 25 to provide info and answer questions on RFP; estimated approximately \$400,000 available from all agencies to fund projects this coming year (FY 2022)

GCC Logo: Jim Z. reported that approved GCC logo finalized and is now available for use

FY 2022 JS Research Project issues: discussion of how GCC research funding opportunities might be better provided to increase racial and ethnic diversity; noted that GCC agencies have engaged with tribal groups on issues in the past, including mining and wild rice issues; suggestion that Policy & Outreach Subcommittee investigate opportunities for input on improving diversity in GCC project funding; suggestion that follow-up on this topic be presented at a future meeting

Discussion of possible GCC meeting at Capitol highlighting research informed policy: suggested was to focus on areas with significant completed GCC funded research, such as arsenic or radium; how research relates to agency policy should be stressed; GCC members to suggest 1 to 3 topics for Capital meeting (through agency Subcommittee rep) that Policy & Outreach Subcommittee can work on

Technical Presentation: Katie Hein (DNR) provided presentation on *Linking groundwater and climate to understand long-term lake level fluctuations in Wisconsin*; project involved investigation of lake level - groundwater connection; focus was on natural fluctuation of seepage lakes and how climate change might effect long term lake levels; objectives included gathering and evaluating historic records and data; found two distinct regions in W influenced by different precipitation patterns; factors influencing lake levels included precipitation, elevation, soils and forest cover in vicinity of lake; created both empirical and process based models, and used them to hindcast levels on seepage lakes with no historic lake level record; models can be used to predict lake response to precipitation and improve lake management

Agency Updates:

DHS: Roy I. reported that agency currently working on Cycle 11 groundwater standard recommendations; *manganese in drinking water* fact sheet completed and posted on web site; agency assisting with Marinette JCI/Tyco PFAS investigation/private well sampling results; Sarah Yang (DHS Toxicologist) interviewed for Clean WI documentary on nitrate in groundwater

DATCP: Mark M. reported DATCP Standards Oversight Council (SOC) working on verification of bedrock depth Technical Standard - now reviewing/responding to public comments on draft standard; agency working with USGS on aerial electromagnetic assessment in northeast WI to determine bedrock depths of 5-20 ft; facts sheets for Cycle 10 groundwater standard recommendations prepared and now posted on DATCP website; agency assisting with Aug 25th NR 140 Stakeholder meeting on recommended Cycle 10 pesticide standards

DSPS: Brad J. reported agency at peak plan review period as this year not a wet spring so good year for onsite system construction; continued assessment of effectiveness of site evaluation of high groundwater level methods – now collecting data and reviewing currently allowed methods

DOT: Bob P. reported agency continues with Wisconsin PFAS Action Council (Wispac) PFAS related activities

UWS: Jim H. reported that good campus Covid testing has allowed UW research projects to progress - labs now open, field work underway; Water Resources Institute Postdoc Fellows now at DHS and DNR, Postdoc now in ecology group at Duluth EPA lab; 2 other Postdocs doing PFAS toxicology/research at Duluth; funding for new Fellow available in Feb/March 2021; Sea Grant Scientist position in aquaculture posted

DNR: Jim Z. reported that NR 812 rule changes went into effect July 1; Certified Operator exams available online, being done by external partners; new WI AG opinion issued that DNR has authority to consider cumulative impacts in evaluating water use issues – WI Supreme Court to hear related case this fall; agency continues work on Central Sands Lakes study; WI PFAS Action Council action plan expected late this year; Water Initiatives Steering Committee (WISC) nitrate reduction study group efforts continuing; rulemaking underway on NR 140 groundwater standards, NR 809 PFAS MCLs, PFAS surface water quality standards and NR 151 nitrate rules; Town of Armenia groundwater study contracts now completed; RR Program reporting 30+ PFAS sites now under investigation

WGNHS: Ken B. reported that Carol McCartney had retired on July 1, agency cannot yet hire replacement so dividing her tasks; agency staff working on bedrock geology in Quad west of Devils Lake; working with USGS on air born ground truthing project; working with US Forest Service under “Good Neighbor Authority” agreement inventorying groundwater/geological resources and investigating groundwater–surface-water management issues; new monitoring wells installed in sandy area of Bayfield Co.; working on project in southeast WI on bedrock controls of arsenic in groundwater; working on Platteville Pioneer Farm study of groundwater conditions using real time groundwater monitoring; assisting with study of neonicotinoid pesticides in Central Sands

Meeting adjourned