



## WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

**November 2020 Meeting Minutes**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, Nov 13, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting held via Skype**

**Members present** Jim Zellmer (DNR), Brad Johnson (DSPS), Sara Walling (DATCP), Ian Orland for Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Bob Pearson (DOT), Jim Hurley (UWS), Sarah Yang for Jon Meiman (DHS), Steve Diercks (Governor's Representative)

**Agenda repair, Aug 2020 meeting minutes** Chair, Jim Zellmer, called meeting to order; approval of Aug 7, 2020 meeting minutes: Brad J. motion, Jim H. second – approved by voice vote

**Joint Solicitation FY 2022 groundwater research proposal submittal update** Jen Hauxwell (UWS) reported that 16 proposals, from 39 investigators affiliated with 11 organizations, submitted for possible funding; estimated \$400,000 available this year for project funding; proposals to be reviewed by GCC R&M Subcommittee and UW Peer Reviewers; anticipated that investigators notified in March 2021 of selection for FY 2022 project funding

**WRI Wisconsin Water Library – Joint Solicitation groundwater research project repository** Anne Moser (UWS) provided a presentation on the UW Water Resources Institute (WRI) digital repository for GCC Joint Solicitation groundwater research projects; web site allows users to view status of current projects and access about 500 past project reports; current WRI effort underway to compile project meta data and identify gaps in collection - anticipate completion by spring 2021

**Technical Presentation Wisconsin Nitrate Initiative and Nitrogen Fertilizer Decision Support Tools** - Brian Austin (DNR) provided update on project and decision support tools; project team working with state, federal and local partners; project considers agricultural productivity vs quantified N leaching losses; goal is to balance agricultural productivity with groundwater standard compliance; plan is to create agricultural simulation database that producers can match to their specific situation (nutrient management plan, crop yield soil leaching potential, etc) to minimize N losses to gw; project to develop best management practices for producers and tool, that incorporates location specific historic weather conditions, to model location specific cropping options and outcomes; Iowa N reduction BMPs being considered for inclusion; decision support tool designed to work with existing WI SnapPlus NMP tool and Snap Maps; project incorporating UW Agro-IBIS model to evaluate cropping practices

**2021 GCC Meeting Dates** Bruce Rheineck led discussion of possible 2021 GCC meeting dates; tentative meeting dates are: **Feb 12**, 2021; **May 14**, 2021; **Aug 13**, 2021 and **Nov 5**, 2021

### **Agency Updates**

**DATCP:** Sara W. reported that agency is in planning for its next statewide groundwater survey; groundwater investigation results from 5 areas being reviewed to see if revisions are needed to atrazine prohibition area designations; Bayer Isoxaflutole studies continuing - agency granting conditional approval of pesticide for next 3 years; Leg Audit Bureau audit of Clean Sweep Program report available soon; staff participating on TAC for NR 151 rule revisions; depth to bedrock technical standard developed - outreach now in 16 counties; staff working with USGS on depth to bedrock (helicopter) aerial electromagnetic assessment flyovers - to begin in Jan 2021

**DOT:** Bob P. reported that DOT GCC Member Pat Trainer (Environmental Services Program Manager) retired in August; agency in coordination with UW held Fall Brine Technical Advisory Council meeting covering road salt storage, application, use, new technologies and environmental impacts; agency participating in WisPAC; staff attended Great Lakes PFAS Summit in Oct

**DSPS:** Brad J. reported POWTS construction season over due to wet fall weather; planning virtual industry educational efforts this winter; plan review/completeness review now being done on-line; review now done in order of submittal - "first in/first out"

**DHS:** Sarah Y. reported that agency finishing up Cycle 11 groundwater standard recommendations for 6 pesticides and 16 PFAS compounds; agency staff assisting with PFAS site investigations at Marinette Tyco and LaCrosse sites: working on cumulative risk assessment process memo and protocols to address cases of exposure to multiple PFAS substances; agency now in process of hiring program site evaluation toxicologist

**Governor's Representative:** Steve D. reported farming operations continuing under Covid, some counties more affected than others; WPVGA held annual research meeting - about \$350 K being spent on research including water quality related projects evaluating better management practices

**WGNHS:** Ian O. reported that former WGNHS Director Jamie Robertson receiving Ian Campbell memorial award for Superlative Service to the Geosciences; reported that Survey has completed putting publications catalog online and publication/map sales no longer provided at office; developing protocol with DNR for high cap well cuttings collection based on changes to NR 812; planning virtual mapping advisory committee meeting for Sept - noted that funding has increased significantly from about \$300K to \$800K; staff able to continue planned field work

**UWS:** Jim H. reported UW seminars, including one on PFAS, available on UW Chat; WRI Fellowship program continuing - now three Post-Doc Fellows doing PFAS research being funded at Duluth EPA Lab; federal budget out soon - WRI funding increased to \$10M last year - research planned on aquatic invasives in upper Mississippi; likely increase in Sea Grant funding this year - focus to be on aquaculture, including use of groundwater for aquaculture; research funding opportunities may become available through the Freshwater Collaborative of WI, an integrated, multi-campus, multidisciplinary program for freshwater science study coordinated between UW campuses

**DNR:** Jim Z. reported that rulemaking for NR 140 Cycle 10, including 2 PFAS compounds continuing; NR 140 Cycle 11 Scope awaiting approval; rulemaking for other DNR PFAS rules underway; NR 812 rulemaking related to use of PVC well casing planned; NR 151 rulemaking to address nitrate in vulnerable areas underway; hearing held on NR 113/114 septage landspreading rule revisions; PFAS sampling at select public water supply systems and wastewater treatment facilities underway; draft WisPAC PFAS Action Plan completed and comments received - Plan to Governor by end of year; Central Sands Lake study ongoing - may need deadline extension; Town of Armenia study ongoing - monitoring wells installed Oct/Nov

**NR 151 Rule Changes for Nitrate update** Mark Riedel (DNR) reported that NR 151, targeted performance standard rulemaking to reduce nitrate in groundwater, is underway, technical advisory committee meetings held over the summer; staff currently working on the rule draft EIA - expected to be completed by Dec, with comments likely received by March 2021; earliest rule could be approved is Jan 2022, if so, could be effective Jul 2022; targeted area is part of state with N restricted soils - could effect 53% of agricultural land in state; goal is to use nutrient management planning to reduce N leaching so that nitrate in gw is < 10 mg/L - estimate < 2.2 lbs/acre/inch of recharge could meet this goal; proposed rule includes accounting for irrigation water N and also prohibition of fall fertilizer application on "winter fallow" fields

**Meeting adjourned**