



## WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

### May 2022 Meeting Minutes

10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, May 13, 2022

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

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

**Agenda repair, Feb 2022 minutes** Chair, Jim Zellmer, called meeting to order; approval of Feb 11, 2022 meeting minutes: Brad J motion, Ken B second - minutes approved by voice vote

**FY 2024 Joint Solicitation RFP** – Jim H (UWS) reported that Jen Haxwell had sent draft of the FY 2024 JS RFP to GCC members and requested members provide updates to RFP agency research priorities and available FY 2024 funding levels, as appropriate; UW has drafted a statement on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) for possible incorporation into the overall GCC funding priorities section of the FY 2024 JS RFP - GCC members discussed UW's DEI statement and supported placing it in the GCC funding priorities section of this year's RFP

**GCC 2022 Report to the Legislature** - Bruce Rheineck (DNR) reported that drafting of the annual GCC Report to the Legislature is underway; report format will be the same as last year's report; Bruce will put GCC agency/organization sections for updating on the Report SharePoint site; agency/organization updates needed by June 24<sup>th</sup>, if possible

**Ken Bradbury recognition** - GCC members recognized Ken's more than 35 years of contributions to the GCC; Ken was an original member of Council and members expressed their thanks and appreciation for Ken's outstanding direction, support for interagency cooperation and the technical expertise he provided during his tenure on the Council; the Council presented Ken with a Certificate of Appreciation and commemorative mug; Dave Hart and Moe Muldoon, who have worked with Ken for many years at the WGNHS, expressed their appreciation of Ken's service and highlighted his exceptional professional mentorship skills, outstanding groundwater research achievements, service on numerous groundwater and hydrogeology related committees and substantial contributions to the science

**Technical Presentation** - Dave Hart (WGNHS) and Sue Swanson (Beloit College) presented results of their research on use of drones for thermal imaging; projects included depth to bedrock studies in Kewaunee Co., shoreland bluff erosion/seepage studies in Sheboygan Co. and spring discharge studies in Dane and Waukesha counties; drones used were DJI Phantom 4 models outfitted with both infrared and optical cameras; for the depth to bedrock studies, drone infrared imaging results were compared to field verification soil probes/test pits - correlation was found to be fairly good, but study found that bedrock surface topography could significantly change over very short distances, for shoreland erosion studies drones were found to be very effective as drone thermal imaging was able to clearly identify relatively cool temperature gw seepage zones, even when not visually apparent due to vegetation, for spring discharge studies, drone thermal imaging did not turn out to be especially valuable but drone optical camera images were found to be very useful, spring studies evaluated drone use at both "seepage" springs and "fracture" springs - journal article to be published on study

### **Agency Updates**

**WGNHS:** Ken B reported that he'll be retiring from the Survey on July 8<sup>th</sup> and expected that his position would be posted soon; Dave Hart will represent Survey at Aug GCC meeting unless Survey Director's position filled by that time; new technical report now available on Waupaca municipal well groundwater flow/nitrate impact issue; Survey's yearend review of work now posted on web; SWIGG study completed - final report to be released to study Counties on May 16, then posted on the web; Survey has secured funds for new geologic mapping work including work in Baraboo Hills, Lafayette Co bedrock mapping and Jefferson Co stratigraphy and depth to bedrock; Survey also working on Bayfield Co artesian well study project

**Governor's Representative:** Steve D. expressed appreciation of Ken's work with the Growers Association including his work with the grower led nitrate groups; nitrate reduction research continuing on grower test plot sites

**DSPS:** Brad J reported that new season POWTS soil testing well underway and agency now busy with plan review; agency continuing to evaluate validity of hydrograph method for determining site depth to groundwater - method uses adjacent water supply wells to estimate site groundwater depth, method now in code, studies underway to evaluate use of method in Central Sands, agency working with WGNHS on this; agency new licensing and credentialing system now in use - system uses artificial intelligence to improve speed and reduce backlog

**DATCP:** Mark M reported that a number of staffing changes being made at agency and that they are now in the process of recruiting for an advanced hydrogeologist and other staff; Robby Personette is taking Lori Bowman's Bureau Director position; statewide agricultural chemical survey still planned for 2023; rulemaking for Nitrogen Optimization projects now underway; agency funded Joint Solicitation groundwater research project getting underway this summer

**DHS:** Sarah Y reported that agency has hired a new toxicologist and that they're now on board; agency continuing to assist with responses at PFAS contamination sites, and with public water supply and private well PFAS testing projects; agency continuing work on "Healthy Homes" initiative that includes providing information on safe drinking water; continuing work with small public water systems on nitrate issues

**DOT:** Bob P reported that agency is working with Mike Parsen at WGNHS to identify sites for stream monitoring and groundwater monitoring wells in DOT right-of-ways, and at DOT rest areas and wetland mitigation sites

**UWS:** Jim H reported that UWS received an increase in funding for WRI but not enough to fund an additional GCC groundwater research project this year, federal funding has been increased to include PFAS related research projects selected through national competitions, Sea Grant Program funding has increased but less than expected; Freshwater Collaborative of WI initiative, funded at \$2.5M, to begin with summer program for undergraduate research and summer classes - initiative will start at UW-Madison campus this year then expand to other system campuses; now are 8 or 9 funded Post Graduate Fellows working at state agencies, including in wetlands, coastal management and doing PFAS work at EPA laboratory in Duluth

**DNR:** Jim Z reported that Kinnard Farms has filed lawsuit challenging their CAFO WPDES permit number of animals limit and requirement to monitor gw at manure application sites; Gordondale Farms issued a permit modification that requires gw monitoring at manure land application sites; agency continues GRN database updating project; NR 812 revisions to allow PVC cased wells in bedrock approved by NRB at Feb meeting; DG now starting work on rule revisions to allow use of Type II limestone cement for well construction; PFAS surface water quality criteria/analytical test methods rule revisions approved by NRB at Feb meeting; NR 809 MCLs for PFOS/PFOA approved by NRB at Feb meeting but at 70 ng/L instead of proposed 20 ng/L - rule now at legislature; NR 140 Cycle 10 proposed gw standards not approved by NRB; agency to propose rules related to groundwater standards for bacteria, evaluating other possible groupings for future proposed groundwater standards; public drinking water system voluntary PFAS sampling underway; agency working with UW-Stevens Point and WSLH on private well sampling project to potentially sample 450 private wells across the state to evaluate PFAS in gw at sites not identified with point source contamination; Waukesha Spills Law case judge ruled DNR does not have authority to require businesses to clean up PFAS when no gw standards established - DNR appealing ruling (ruling now on hold); WISC Water Nitrate Workgroup considering nitrate surface water standards; Tn of Armenia nitrate study expected to be completed this fall

**Meeting adjourned**