

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Minutes of meeting held November 4th, 2011, 10:00 – 12:15
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Board Room, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison.

Members Present: Jill Jonas for Ken Johnson (DNR); James Robertson (WGNHS); Bob Pearson for Dan Scudder (DOT); Henry Anderson (DHS); John Petty (DATCP); Eric Scott (DSPS); Chris Babiarz for Anders Andren (UW-System), George Kraft (Gov. Rep.).

Others Present: Lynda Knobeloch (DHS); Lori Bowman, Stan Senger, Jim Vanden Brook, Lisa Morrison, Jason Lowery, and Trevor Bannister (DATCP); Phil Moy (UW-WRI); Pete Schoephoester (WGNHS); Lori Bowman (DATCP); Ed Morse; Andrew Aslesen (WRWA); Mel Vollbrecht, Amy Ihlenfeldt, Ann Schachte, Brian Austin, and Jeff Helmuth (DNR).

1) General Business – The August 19th, 2011 meeting minutes were unanimously approved (motion by Robinson, 2nd by Petty).

2) Technical Presentation - Use of the 2009 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey to Assess the Safety of Private Drinking Water Supplies (PowerPoint presentation: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gcc/minutes/2011NovPrivateWellOwnerSurvey.pdf>) – Lynda Knobeloch reported on this UWS-funded project designed to shed light on private well owner testing habits and barriers to testing. Questions were added to the 2008 and 2009 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Surveys and sent to 7,329 participants. Knobeloch concluded that the data show the need for increased outreach and that redesigning lab reports to make them clearer would be a good start. Mel Vollbrecht will take the issue to the Outreach and Partnership Subcommittee.

3) DATCP Groundwater Database/GIS Portal demonstration – Stan Senger introduced the DATCP Intranet Groundwater Results Mapping Application. Supported by a grant from DHS, the new application can access all of the agency’s point-and non-point groundwater data - some 750,000 sample records including about 57,000 drinking water wells and ag-related data from the Groundwater Retrieval Network (GRN). An on-screen demonstration of the application included queries to the well and groundwater data with results displayed on maps and/or in tabular form. Presenter Lisa Morrison, DATCP noted how far the analytical technology (in this case by Geocortex) has advanced and that the main challenge was merging data from multiple sources. Discussion focused on the importance of continuing to work on consolidating groundwater data among the diverse entities that collect and store it.

4) Effects of Nutrient Management Practices on Groundwater Quality (PowerPoint presentation: (<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gcc/minutes/2011NovEffectsNutMgmt.pdf>))– Jim Vanden Brook, presented information on the sources, occurrence and management of nitrogen in Wisconsin’s groundwater. Key points included:

- Agriculture accounts for about 90% of the N in groundwater and nitrate levels in groundwater have not improved.
- Progress can potentially be made through improved prediction of crop N needs and timing of N applications and intensive management (e.g., atrazine prohibition areas model).

5) Set dates for 2012 meetings –GCC meetings in 2012 will be held according to the schedule below. All meetings will be on Fridays starting at 10:00 a.m.

- February 17th at UW Aquatic Sciences Center, Goodnight Hall
- May 4th at WGNHS
- August 10th at DNR

- November 16th at DATCP

6) Agency Updates

WGNHS - Robertson reported:

- A proposed taconite mine in Ashland and Iron Counties and sand mining for hydrofracking continue to generate requests for WGNHS expertise. At present, there is no modern, site-specific data on the geology, mineralogy, chemistry, and hydrology of the proposed mine site. The landscape modifications from sand mining and their associated impacts may be significant.
- Staff is working with DNR's Water Use staff on a "Hydroviewer" application to access hydrogeological data geographically.

DSPS– Scott reported that Nancy Mistele has been appointed Administrator of the Division of Safety & Buildings http://www.wispolitics.com/1006/Mistele_Barry_Kaalelerelease.pdf

DOT – Pearson reported:

- Transportation Planning Commission projects include a 6-lane 90/39 corridor, Beltline improvements, and environmental studies for the US 151/Verona Road work.
- DOT is working with DNR on implementing the new stormwater rules for transportation projects.

DHS – Knobloch reported that new issues include iron, aluminum and strontium levels of concern. Exposure to high levels of strontium during infancy and childhood can affect bone growth and cause dental changes. US EPA has set Health Advisory Levels but no federal drinking water standard.

DATCP – Bowman reported that the “Final Report on the 2010 Survey of Weed Management Practices in Wisconsin’s Atrazine Prohibition Areas” has been released. DATCP worked on this project with the National Agricultural Statistics Service to learn how atrazine prohibition areas affect weed management practices (<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/WeedMgtAtrazinePAs.pdf>).

DNR – Jonas reported:

- Water Use Permitting is being Implemented now in the Great Lakes basin -general permits for withdrawals > 100,000 gal per day; individual permits for withdrawals >1 million gal per day. New withdrawals have mandatory conservation conditions. All withdrawals >100,000 gal per day need a permit by 12/08/2011. A statewide voluntary conservation program is being developed.
- The nitrate project has produced a map of noncommunity water system nitrate data by subwatersheds. Groundwater staff is working with surface water quality staff and other agencies to select areas to collaborate on N input reduction needed to keep drinking water safe.

UWS – Chris Babiarz reported:

- The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Water Resources Association will meet March 1-2, 2012 at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells. The call for papers has been made with a deadline for abstracts of December 4th.
- In light of Anders Andren’s imminent retirement (<http://wri.wisc.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=103&PostID=1143&Mode=View>), the Director position has been posted (http://www.ohr.wisc.edu/pvl/pv_071444.html)

- 6) **Adjourn and Next Meeting** - Robertson moved (Scott 2nd) to adjourn. The next meeting will be on February 17th at the UW Aquatic Sciences Center in Madison.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Helmuth