

**Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held May 15, 2015, 10:30 – 12:30**  
**Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey**

**Members Present:** Russ Rasmussen (DNR); James Robertson (WGNHS); Jeff Phillips for Henry Anderson (DHS); John Petty (DATCP); Jim Hurley (UW-System), Steve Diercks (Gov's Rep)

**Others Present:** Mike Parsen and Ken Bradbury (WGNHS); Rick Graham and Steve Martin (DATCP), Roy Irving and Rob Thibodeaux (DHS); Jill Jonas and Mary Ellen Vollbrecht (WDNR);

1) **Welcome** – Russ Rasmussen called the meeting to order. He thanked Jamie Robertson for more than 20 years of dedicated and constructive service as a GCC member. Jamie will retire in July 2015. All expressed congratulations and hope for Jamie's continued involvement in groundwater science.

2) **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes from the November 2014 meeting were approved as drafted (motion by Diercks, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petty).

3) **Technical Presentation** – WGNHS hydrogeologist Mike Parsen presented results of a significant data mining and analysis project funded through the Joint Solicitation. WGNHS, Dane County and DNR researchers assembled a database of 80,000 nitrate test results for 30,000 Dane County wells. In general, the rise in average concentration is leveling off. Maximum levels show a downward trend but minimum levels show an upward trend. No statistical relationship to well construction is apparent. Geographic areas of high and low concentration are shifting locations. The data set can now be used in conjunction with surface water data sets to identify areas for collaboration on nitrogen and phosphorus management for groundwater and surface water quality.

4) **Joint Solicitation Report** – Jim Hurley reported that seven projects will be funded, two by DNR and five by UW. Projects are as

- Describing connected fracture flow with pressure waves-oscillating flow interference testing – Michael Cardiff, UW-Madison
- Wonewoc and Tunnel City Formations: A potential natural source of groundwater contamination in Western and Central Wisconsin – Jay Zambito, et.al, WGNHS
- Long-term alterations in groundwater chemistry induced by municipal well pumping – Jean Bahr, UW-Madison and Medline Gotkowitz, WGNHS
- Evaluation of real-time PCR for the measurement of E. coli in well water – Greg Kleinheinz and Nilay Sheth, UW-Oshkosh
- Phosphorus and arsenic sensors for real-time environmental monitoring – Daniel Nogurea and Marc Anderson, UW-Madison
- Engaging stakeholders to improve the use of groundwater flow models for decision making – Ken Genskow, UW-Extension and Ken Bradbury, WGNHS
- Predicting the locations of nitrate removal hotspots at the groundwater-surface water interface in Wisconsin streams, Robert Stelzer, UW-Oshkosh

Jim reiterated the UW System eligibility criteria, especially the priority for student support in greater proportion to principal investigator or analytical costs.

**5) Plans for 2015 Groundwater Report to the Legislature** – Mary Ellen Vollbrecht shared a timeline for report preparation. Members briefly discussed recommendations in preparation for circulation of an updated draft.

**6) Agency Updates**

**DATCP** – John Petty alerted members that Bayer CropScience has a revised request for registration for isoxaflutole herbicide. DATCP is in the planning stages of a statewide random stratified well monitoring to provide a snapshot of groundwater quality. The DATCP lab has added analytical capability to identify different pesticides.

**UWS** - Jim Hurley indicated that Wisconsin's Sea Grant program successfully completed its federal certification review. The source of federal funding for the Water Resources Institute is level in the year's federal budget.

**DHS** – Jeff Phillips reported for Henry Anderson that CDC and national Environmental Health Center funding appears stable. DHS is seeking agency comments on draft fact sheets on health issues related to animal waste to assist local health departments with questions.

**Governor's Rep** – Steve Diercks indicated potato and vegetable growers would be interested in participating in well testing.

**WGNHS** – Jamie Robertson highlighted the WGNHS storage coefficient analysis that will lead to more accurate information electronically available to help evaluate groundwater withdrawals and contaminant situations. WGNHS has been asked to scope out depth-to-bedrock and related data development for the Town of Lincoln and Kewaunee County. WGNHS appreciates continued work with DNR to work out issues of public supply wells in long-term groundwater level monitoring network and difficulty handling volume of drill cuttings from many more high capacity wells. Jamie invited all to the Geological Society national meeting being held in Madison.

**DNR** – Russ Rasmussen reported on DNR's work on consistent well owner notification of test results. He updated members on the three communities now actively participating in the nitrate demonstration project. Russ described the DNR's Kewaunee County work group and the series of meetings he has held locally with the goal of bringing people together to solve problems.

Diercks moved to adjourn (Petty 2<sup>nd</sup>) and all were in favor.

Next meeting: Friday, August 7 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at DNR

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen Vollbrecht