



WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

November 2021 Meeting Minutes
10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, Nov 5, 2021
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

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

Agenda repair, Aug 2021 minutes Chair, Jim Zellmer, called meeting to order; approval of Aug 13, 2021 meeting minutes: Steve D. motion, Ken B. second - minutes approved by voice vote

Joint Solicitation RFP update – Jen Hauxwell (UWS) reported that Joint Solicitation informational webinar held in Sept. w/about 20 people attending; 16 proposals submitted this year - 38 investigators from 5 institutions/organizations; number of proposals on PFAS, also on lead, radium, neonicotinoid pesticides, wetlands, and 2 "social science" proposals; reviews to be completed by mid Jan, funding decisions in Feb, PI funding notification in March and project start up in July

Technical Presentation: Nitrate Aquifer Penetration Graphs - Matt Silver (DNR) and Dave Johnson (DNR) gave presentation on nitrate graphs - created using R software; intended as informational web tool, not for regulatory purposes; graphs created for all WI townships; show nitrate concentration relative to well casing depth; static water level from well construction report used to estimate water table depth; color coding used to indicate age of nitrate results; intent is to create guide to help well drillers determine well/casing depth that will yield low nitrate water; DNR staff can now access - to be made public in early 2022; will be updated on a regular basis

PFAS update: WisPAC Action Plan - Mimi Johnson (DNR) provided update on Wisconsin PFAS Action Council (WisPAC) PFAS Action Plan; plan released in Dec 2020, includes 8 themes and 25 recommendations; has information and recommendations on PFAS sampling, pollution prevention BMPs and treatment; WisPAC now tracking federal resources that may soon be available to states to address PFAS issues; WisPAC has enhanced website for better communication and information exchange; annual report on Action Plan progress expected to be out in early 2022

Lori Bowman Recognition – Sara Walling (DATCP) and Jim Zellmer (DNR) presented Lori with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of her contributions to the GCC, and many years of service on the Council; Lori was especially recognized for fostering interagency collaboration and as being the "go to person" for help with GCC related issues

Agency Updates

DATCP: Sara W. reported that resampling of private water supply wells for imidacloprid completed - number of wells found to have imidacloprid above proposed gw standards; Cycle 11 pesticide fact sheets completed and posted on web; planning continuing for 2022 statewide well sampling survey - exploring possibility of including some PFAS sampling; EPA grant funded 11 new wells and some replacements for agency gw monitoring system; AEM project completed, data now being processed and verified - will be incorporated into SnapPlus maps; agency cosponsoring nitrogen optimization legislation that includes funding for hydrogeologist positions

DSPS: Travis W. reported that WI Fund septic replacement grant program extension authorized but program funding not provided - funding now proposed for 2 new plan reviewers to help improve plan review process; now funding for waste haulers septage study and WI Fund funds now reinstated; monthly 1 credit POWTS continuing education course now being provided on web (via Teams)

DHS: Jon M. reported that the agency has finished up their Safe Water For All (SWFA) efforts; staff provided information on the groundwater standard development process for the NRB at their Dec, 2021 meeting; staff have been working with DNR on fish consumption advisories; agency also working on WI Environmental Equity efforts to identify areas of higher environmental risk associated with WI communities of color and low-income, rural, Tribal Nation, and immigrant communities - now conducting listening sessions, tool will allow agencies/organizations better understanding of challenges these communities face from environmental and health hazards

WGNHS: Ken B. reported that there are new WGNHS quaternary geology, bedrock and county groundwater modelling publications now available; that new statewide monitoring system well installed next to the Kohl Center in Madison; that editorial on GCC accomplishments and benefits was provided to, and published in, *Groundwater* (Ken will provide copies to GCC members); aerial geophysical survey project being planned to be conducted in southwest WI this winter; agency involved in issues related to Bayfield Co. flowing artesian wells - issues include proposal to bottle and sell artesian water, Northland College conference and Big Top Chautauqua planned on artesian aquifer protection issue

DOT: Bob P. reported that DOT Bureau of Aeronautics recently held their 2021 annual conference for airport managers and design engineers (DOT/Consultant), conference breakout session included educational outreach on airport use compliance of AFFF firefighting foam and associated PFAS contamination issues, conference included guest speakers from the compliance and funding staff at Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); agency expects to have asset management resilience team flood risk tool completed and available in 2022; James Hughes, DOT Bureau of Highway Management engineer, has been providing presentations/information on agency road salt reduction efforts that minimize salt use chloride impacts on the environment

UWS: Jim H. reported that federal funding for the WRI and Sea Grant has been included in the President's budget; Sea Grant funding PFAS proposal and two equity/justice related proposals; nationally funded WRI PFAS project underway; Fresh Water Collaborative of WI getting \$2.5M to promote collaboration between campuses and provide research experience for undergraduate programs; Moira Harrington has received a number of communication awards for presentation and written materials for Groundwater Awareness Week activities at the state capitol that included GCC information and video; reminder that WRI has funding for joint fellowships with agencies and, if interested, contact Jen H.

DNR: Jim Z. reported that agency has created new Office of Agriculture & Water Quality, Brian Weigel will head Office and report to DNR Secretary's Office; CAFO and Water Use Programs evaluating how to implement recent WI Supreme Court decisions affirming department authority; Private Water Program project underway to link water sampling results to well construction information; new boundaries established for St. Croix Co. (TCE contamination) Special Well Casing Area; Emily McParlane hired as new Private Water Compliance Specialist and Stacy Steinke appointed as new DNR Private Water Field Supervisor; successful Safe Water For All expert panel discussion webinars held; NR 140 Cycle 10 new/revised gw standards rule public hearing scheduled for Jan 6, 2021, and stakeholder meetings being planned for NR 140 Cycle 11 proposed new PFAS gw standards; NR 809 MCLs for PFOA and PFOS rulemaking public hearing scheduled for Dec 1, 2021; NR 105, NR 102 & NR 219 PFAS surface water quality criteria rulemaking public hearing scheduled for Dec 10, 2021; NR 812 rule revisions to allow PVC cased wells in bedrock being considered for approval by the NRB in Dec; federal bills with possible funds for PFAS investigation/treatment now being considered; Town of Armenia nitrate study wells installed and gw model now being developed

2022 GCC meeting dates - proposed 2022 meeting dates are: Feb 11, May 13, Aug 12 and Nov 4

Meeting adjourned