



WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

February 2022 Meeting Minutes
10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, Feb 11, 2022
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Members present Jim Zellmer (DNR), Mark McColloch/Robby Personette for Sara Walling (DATCP), Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Jim Hurley (UWS), Jon Meiman (DHS), Bob Pearson (DOT), Brad Johnson (DSPS)

Agenda repair, Nov 2021 minutes Chair, Jim Zellmer, called meeting to order; approval of Nov 5, 2021 meeting minutes: Jim H. motion, Ken B. second - minutes approved by voice vote

FY 2023 Joint Solicitation update – Bill Phelps (DNR) reported that the GCC Research & Monitoring Subcommittee (JS workgroup) had completed review of the FY 2023 JS groundwater research proposals and provided scores/comments to GCC funding agencies; Jen Hauxwell (UWS) reported that approximately \$821K was requested for FY 2023 JS proposals but that funding agencies had only approximately \$325K available; UWS GRAC scheduled to meeting in afternoon and once funding decisions made, investigators to be notified in March - project start up expected in July

WI Groundwater Retrieval Network (GRN) upgrades - Amy Ihlenfeldt (DNR) and Jennifer Filbert (DNR) provided information on recent revisions to GRN system; upgraded system now connects well construction reports (WCRs) to well sample results; pre-1988 WCRs added as pdfs; all sample results for a well can now be viewed - grouped by category, with health advisory level (if established) shown and with links to parameter pages; open data source portal will allow large data set retrieval - data in GIS format (locational info. linked to data table), includes public well sample results through link to public water data system; currently working on adding DATCP monitoring data to GRN; GCC discussed need to coordinate groundwater databases and role for GCC Data Management Subcommittee to assist with this - Bruce R and Jim Z will follow up on this

Technical Presentation - James Hughes (DOT) provided presentation on WI DOT chloride reduction efforts using innovative road salt management techniques; DOT has partnership/contracts with counties for winter road deicing; WI now at 30 year low for salt use - counties doing better job with less salt; DOT has purchased hi-capacity salt brine makers for county use; lot of winter weather data available - working with UW traffic operations and safety (TOPS) lab on salt reduction research - studies show liquid brine application can significantly reduce salt use; WI leader in brine use; DOT providing education and training to counties to aid transition to brine; TAC investigating innovative techniques such as: "on-truck" road temp monitoring, quick fill brine storage tanks, innovative spray bar distribution systems, "gang plowing" and use of tow plows, route optimization, high walled storage sheds that allow return of extra salt; DOT planning more research, education, training, and additional brine maker purchases; winter severity/salt use comparison shows improvement in 46 counties - up to 71% salt use reduction in "most improved" counties; deicing costs dropping with more brine use and better management - info on DOT web site; need for change to law that prevents counties from selling brine to private salt applicators

Agency Updates

DSPS: Brad J. reported that the WI Fund septic replacement grant program was renewed in the proposed state budget but was not funded - agency hopes funding will be renewed; agency licensing and credentialing system has significant backlog - IT company now working on using artificial intelligence techniques to improve system to reduce backlog; agency assisting with effort to provide funds to local fire departments for disposal of PFAS containing fire fighting foam

WGNHS: Ken B. reported that the Survey has a new interactive map web page with information on agency projects; new rocks and minerals interactive "story map" now on-line; Survey prepared materials for March well driller training; SWIGG study in SW Wisconsin now completed; now working on completing project report; agency working on statewide depth to bedrock and geologic materials maps; geophysical logging program underway; Ken B. announced that he'd be retiring from the Survey in early July

UWS: Jim H. reported that there has been an upward trend in UWS funding from federal sources and they anticipate potentially having more funds available for Joint Solicitation groundwater research projects; Freshwater Collaborative of WI has received \$2.5M and will fund a summer program for undergraduate research; UWS is planning to hire a number of new water resources related positions soon; are looking at using instrumentation grant funds to improve PFAS analysis equipment

DOT: Bob P. reported that more GIS based information has been posted online on the agency's website including current locations of roadway culverts, and maps and listings of all upcoming major roadway construction projects and studies

DHS: Jon M. reported agency continuing work on WI Environmental Equity Tool (project to identify areas of higher environmental risk associated with WI communities of color and low-income, rural, Tribal Nation, and immigrant communities) - listening sessions held, will be doing survey and now preparing RFP for tool development; agency working on flood resilience risk assessment scorecard - now piloting in WI communities; continuing to assist with NR 140 rulemaking as requested; agency assisting with response to private and public water supply well PFAS contamination around the state; working on CDC funded natural disaster Environmental Health Capacity project; EPA funding testing for lead at child care facilities in state - currently piloting at facility in Rock Co.

DATCP: Robby P reported that agency is now in the process of hiring a new bureau director to replace Lori Bowman; also hiring new hydrogeologist to replace Stan Senger; statewide agricultural chemical survey now planned for 2023; annual 2022 field edge and surface water sampling efforts now underway; website upgraded to add information on agricultural chemicals with proposed Cycle 11 groundwater standard recommendations; 2021 targeted sampling results and 2020 field edge sampling report also added to web site; ATCP 50 being revised to include depth to bedrock verification requirements - now holding stakeholder meetings on proposed rule revisions

DNR: Jim Z. reported that Sarah Barry has been appointed DNR Deputy Secretary and that Gail Good is now the acting Environmental Management Division Director; retiring DG hydrogeologist Laura Chern being recognized at the Feb NRB meeting; internal infrastructure team formed - will have about \$200M/year available for lead service line replacement projects, PFAS study and nutrient reduction efforts; CAFO Program hired Ian Anderson as Program hydrogeologist, Program also evaluating implementation of manure application site groundwater monitoring and CAFO animal number caps - per authority affirmed by Wisconsin Supreme Court; rule adoption being requested at Feb NRB meeting for: NR 140 Cycle 10 proposed new/revised groundwater standards, NR 809 proposed public water MCLs for PFOS and PFOA, and NR 105, NR 102 & NR 219 proposed PFAS surface water quality criteria; adoption of proposed NR 812 Revisions, to allow PVC cased wells in bedrock, also being requested at Feb NRB meeting; NR 151 rulemaking, for targeted performance standards to address nitrate, discontinued due to statutory time constraints; agency working with Wausau to address detection of PFAS in municipal wells; effort to fund voluntary sampling for PFAS in public drinking water systems soon underway; DNR and DATCP developing MOU on agriculture and water quality

Meeting adjourned