



WISCONSIN GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

Feb 2023 Meeting Minutes
10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Friday, Feb 10, 2023
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Members present Bruce Rheineck for Jim Zellmer (DNR), Mark McColloch (DATCP), Eric Carson (WGNHS), Jim Hurley (UWS), Sarah Yang (DHS), Alyssa Barrette (DOT), Brad Johnson (DSPS)

Agenda repair, Nov 2022 minutes Chair, Bruce Rheineck, called meeting to order; approval of Nov 11, 2022 meeting minutes: Mark M motion, Jim H second - minutes approved by voice vote

Joint Solicitation proposal review – Bill Phelps (DNR) and Jen Hauxwell (UWS) provided an update on review of the FY 2024 Joint Solicitation groundwater research proposals; Bill reported that the GCC Research and Monitoring Subcommittee met on Jan 20, 2023 the discuss the FY 2024 proposals and provided Subcommittee review scores and comments to the UWS GRAC and GCC funding agencies; Jen provided the FY 2024 proposals to selected UWS “Peer Reviewers” and received comments and scores from those reviewers which were provided to the UWS GRAC and GCC funding agencies; FY 2024 project funding to be determined at afternoon’s GRAC meeting; investigators to be notified in March of funding decisions

Update on Geospatial Data Management (GCC Subcommittee Team) - Adam Freihoefer (DNR) provided an update on the GCC Geospatial Data Management Subcommittee; Subcommittee is working on setting up a system for inventorying and prioritizing WI geospatial groundwater data; goal is to provide end users a single platform that points to where data collections can be accessed; data collections will be created and managed by individual agencies/organizations; multiple types of data will be available (quality, quantity, elevation, etc.); data will likely include both “open source” and data that may require permissions to access; next steps include inventorying data sources and determining how to deal with required data access permission issue

Technical Presentation - Yin Wang (UW-Milwaukee) provided a presentation on his study *Investigation of PFAS adsorption by selected Wisconsin aquifer sediments*; Dr. Wang studied the adsorption behavior of 6 PFAS compounds on 6 examples of representative WI soil/sediment and bedrock; batch adsorption experiments were carried out using PFBS, PFHpA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFOS and PFOA and samples of 5 WI soils/sediments and 1 crushed rock (dolomite) sample; XRD analysis indicated that quartz and dolomite were the predominate minerals in the soil/crushed rock samples; results showed significant differences in PFAS adsorption based on soil material – dolomite mineral content was found to be an important factor in increased PFAS sorption; shorter chained PFAS were found to sorb more readily than longer chained PFAS; PFAS transport and retardation clearly related to both PFAS compound type and subsurface soil/rock material

WI Strategic Mineral mapping – Eric Carson (WGNHS) provided information on WGNHS mapping efforts under the USGS *Earth MRI Mapping Resources Initiative* program; project is a collaborative effort between federal, state and private industry to map minerals that have national security importance; variety of sources (rock core data, mineral deposit records, geophysical analysis results, geologic maps, etc) being used to identify strategic mineral deposits; agency working with Tribes on mapping in northern WI – though not currently in ceded Tribal areas; current project focus is on historic lead/zinc district in southwest WI – specifically on sulfide mineral deposits in the area

Agency Updates

DNR: Bruce R reported that Jim Zellmer has been appointed agency Environmental Management Division Administrator; agency Solid Waste Program to begin working on revisions to NR 500 series rules related to groundwater monitoring and compliance at landfills; NR 812 code

revisions under way to allow use of IL limestone cement for well construction; NR 809 PFAS MCLs now in place and public water systems now beginning to monitor; NR 140 rule revisions to add E. coli bacteria standards and modify total coliform standards now at Legislature; scope now approved to begin rulemaking to add 4 PFAS compounds to NR 140; ARPA Well Comp grants now being processed and awarded – 53 grants (about \$700K) now awarded; private well ambient PFAS in groundwater project almost completed – residents being notified by letter of test results; sampling for PFAS in private wells in 2.5 mile expanded area in the Town of Stella continuing – high levels of PFAS continue to be detected; RR Program evaluating possible PFAS sources in area; “sunsetting” effort underway to upgrade/“correct” public non-community water supplies that have “posted” nitrate levels between 10 – 20 mg/L

UWS: Jim H reported that UW Water Resources Institute budget increased to \$15.5 M; three national competitions now under way including possible funding of PFAS research, AIS, and hydrology; Sea Grant Program likely to have \$1 – 1.2 M available this year to fund WI projects; environmental justice *Water We Swim In* podcast (funded through Sea Grant) received two national awards; Post-Grad Fellowship program continuing – have placed 30+ Post Masters/Post Doc Fellows in (mostly) state agencies through program; Water at UW program beginning strategic planning effort; mini-grant program with grants up to \$10K now accepting applications – focus of grants is on communities

DHS: Sarah Y reported that Jon Meiman has left agency; agency now looking for new Secretary and Deputy Secretary; staff assisting with DNR Private and Public PFAS sampling efforts – working with local Health Departments on communicating PFAS test results; continuing work on CDC Environmental Health Hazard grant efforts – mostly working with local health departments; mini-grant program to be set up soon

DATCP: Mark M reported that Brian Weigel has left the agency and is now back at DNR; Brian Kuhn now acting Agriculture Resource Management Division Administrator; work continuing on PFAS firefighting foam clean-sweep efforts – to date about 20,000 gal collected; Carla Romano and Ken Potrykus presented at WI Potato and Vegetable Growers Association Conf; annual groundwater monitoring reports now posted on web; 2023 Statewide Agricultural Chemical Survey expected to begin by end of March; 31 applications for Nitrogen Optimization Pilot (grant) Program received – decisions on funding expected in March; listening sessions on ATCP 50 revisions underway and rule EIA being drafted; agency currently working on Groundwater Awareness Week efforts

DSPS: Brad J reported that agency now getting new Secretary and Deputy Secretary; staff finishing up review of hydrograph (depth to groundwater estimation) method and will be working with WGNHS to develop recommendations; septage land spreading study, being done in collaboration with UW-Stevens Point, underway – results expected soon; agency requesting funds in current budget for POWTS performance monitoring/experimental system program

WGNHS: Eric C reported that agency geologic mapping efforts now underway – funding increased now to \$500K; working with Iowa and Illinois Geologic Surveys on Earth MRI mapping; agency staff working on long term monitoring sites for NR 151 rule revisions and on inventory of artesian wells in Bayfield Co.; Eric will continue as acting agency Director through June 2023; effort to hire new Survey Director again underway

Meeting adjourned