

Meeting Minutes from Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force
March 3, 2015
Admin Bldg, 810 Lincoln Street

1. Meeting Call to Order at 1:17pm by Chairman Heuer
2. Roll Call: All present (Pagel, Heuer, Kleiman, Bonness, Kinnard, Bjurstrom, Cochart, Luft, Swanson)
3. Approved Agenda – Pagel & Kleiman
4. Election of Chair / Co Chair / Secretary
 - a. Chair: Lee Luft (5-4 vote)
 - b. Co-Chair: Cindy Kinnard (6-3 vote)
 - c. Secretary: Davina Bonness (9-0)
5. Presentation to Committee from Co. Board Chair Mr. Heuer.
 - Started discussion of how Groundwater is a big issue in Kewaunee County and gave his presentation to the committee (the same one he presented to County Board). He discussed where we have been and that groundwater pollution is not a new issue, no quick fix or fast solution...especially with karst and soil features and how fast recharge events occur.
 - Discussed Public Health & Groundwater Protection Ordinance – which if adopted will prohibit mechanically spread waste on 20' to bedrock from January 1st – April 15th. Will be on “ALL” April 7th ballots (township, city, villages)
 - Discussed his first meeting with DATCP/DNR in Madison (about a year ago), counties are not on an equal playing field anymore in reference to nutrient management planning and geo-regions.
 - Discussed Oshkosh meeting in Feb 2015 – gave update – power shift to landowners, but it is important to remember that the concern lies with their livelihood and they rely on rent checks and are living off their land.
 - Discussed his current talks with DHS – give more testing kits to Cindy Kinnard to use at will with well contamination and/or in response to spill. Furthermore, DHS mentioned additional funding, working with Kevin Masarik, Davina Bonness, Mr. Heuer, and DHS.
 - Technology has changed since digesters were first being implemented to start treatment of manure with the use of RO/UF systems.
 - Mr. Heuer's Presentation: Family Farms, Dairy Business, not only CAFO's. Kewaunee County has seen a 38.6 % increase in dairy herd size, Aerica corrected Mr. Heuer's statistic --- 174 farms in Kewaunee County (as of 2015). Listed 2017 and 2020 goals of technology implemented countywide.
6. Review/Discuss/Adjust Mission of Task Force:
 - Chairman Luft passed out Karst Task Force Recommendations and Protect the Water you Drink booklet – discussed the Long Term goals of treatment through technology, but in the mean time he asked task force members to look at the karst recommendations and move forward and come back to group with top 10 for this group to implement.
 - Discussed Supreme Court Ruling – manure enter a well is now considered a pollutant
 - Discussed Door County Land Use Agreements

- Discussed Door County Nutrient Management Plan audits – false data
- EPA Petition
- Legislative Days

Sidenote: Mr. Heuer and Mr. Kleiman discussed the Seawall project and the timing dilemma. Kewaunee County has asked the state of WI for funding to repair seawall. Kleiman discussed they don't want all the hard work to get lost with only groundwater/surface issues during legislative days because the seawall is "ALSO" very important to the economy in Kewaunee County and it is failing and needs to be addressed.

- Chairman Luft: Task Force Mission and Goals will be discussed at the April Meeting and we need a set of realistic next steps that can be implemented in the near term or in fact implemented immediately.
- Need a voice to report what's going on because there is a lot of misinformation in the public, newspapers, and internet. We need concise and accurate communication to what's going on and what our task force is working on. Luft will ask Kewaunee Star News to continue to publish meeting recaps for citizens.

Committee Comments:

Nick Cochart – Need immediate action and attention to landowner's bad wells to get safe drinking water to impacted residents.

Davina Bonness -- mentioned installation of treatment systems instead of drilling new wells, which is an expensive experiment. Need to get Reverse Osmosis / Ultraviolet systems with the DNR well compensation program.

Ron Heuer – Mentioned the DSPS (Glenn) from Madison, working with individual well owners. We should reach out to him and his vast knowledge regarding well issues. Also mentioned that the county has right away posts that could be used to mark sinkholes.

Davina/Cindy are going to write a joint (LWCD/Health Department) well protocol ... will be meeting in end of March and present to our committees in April/May

Aerica Bjurstrom – Need a Fact Sheet with FACTS!!!

Dick Swanson – Need to act fast, people know this task force formed and need to do something about it now t.v., radio, messaging.

John Page – Communication. LWCD/LCC – work together – consistent message.

Tom Kleiman – immediate relief to LO with unsafe wells...abandoned wells...messaging in positive light.

Everyone mentioned we need to get the word out and a budget was brought up for providing clean water to homes with contaminated wells

7. Citizen Input

- Lynn Utesch – seconded Nick Cochart's comments about getting immediate help. Also mentioned that he would like the County Board to support the EPA petition regarding the SDWA to provide immediate relief to Landowners

- Bill Iwen – echo Utesch/Nick Cochart – everyone deserves clean water and it is a basic right. Need immediate action, and supports the County Board to support the EPA Petition. Mentioned that Davina/Cindy should work on getting every well tested in Kewaunee County.
 - Pat Schoenbeck – discussed Casco Township meeting. The ordinance flyer is currently being mis-understood. Need to talk about exemptions and the townships think they need to adopt too. Asked Lee Luft to write a letter with more facts.
 - Nancy Utesch – water researcher in Milwaukee says we are over the carrying capacity of the land. Need to stop the problem that is causing the problems by turning off the valve of liquid manure. Said the PowerPoint referenced dairy continued growth and the task force should focus on citizen concerns and doesn't want the focus on dairy technology and wants the problem of contamination addressed. Focus on how to achieve clean water
 - Jodi Parins – Communcation, radio interviews. DNR regulations only require 1 contaminate (E-coli) to be eligible for the well compensation program. The numbers need to be straight with correct citations. She mentioned she had 6 other suggestions and never heard any response.
 - John Pabich – Water is a precious resource and alternatives to do today with win-row composting and increasing organic fertilizer, decrease pathogens, scalable solutions.
 - Mick Sagrillo – what is unlimited growth (ref presentation) going to mean to the county. What next, cow density problems, air quality. Asked the task force to keep in mind the tax paying citizens when making recommendations regarding policies.
 - Kim Gaedtke – Thanked Mr Heuer for the presentation. She comes from a 5th generation family farm and they are trying to protect the land for the next generation. Doesn't like the negative statements in the newspaper because they hurt and farmers take great pride in dairy farming.
10. Next Meeting is April 2nd, 2015; at 1pm at the Kewaunee County Administration Center.
 11. Adjourned by John Pagel and seconded by Tom Kleiman at 3:15pm

Submitted by Davina Bonness