

Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Agenda

Regular Monthly Meeting Notes:

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Luft at 1:00pm, Thursday, April 2nd, 2015
2. Roll call by Davina Bonness (Secretary)

Present: Cindy Kinnard, Nick Cochart, Lee Luft, Tom Kleiman, Dick Swanson, Aeric Bjurstrom, Ron Heuer, Davina Bonness

Absent: John Pagel (Excused)

3. Approval/Repair of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda by Cindy Kinnard with Chairman Luft's addition to include 4d – Reid Ribble's Phosphorus Summit update and seconded by Nick Cochart. Task Force was unanimous in favor of the motion. Agenda approved.

4. Discuss recent ground and surface water related events or issues:

A). Update from Davina, John, Lee on WI Land & Water Association Conference

The annual Wisconsin Land & Water Conference was held in March and attended by Davina Bonness & Lee Luft. Bonness indicated she had a great number of meetings with NRCS staff, DNR staff and others at various times during the conference and reported that these meetings involved issues specific to Kewaunee County's water quality issues among other concerns. Luft discussed Resolution# 1, which was voted on by all 72 counties and by both LWCD/LCC members. This resolution titled "Calling for the formation of a state-wide task force to research and implement alternative on-farm liquid manure management systems on Wisconsin livestock farms" was presented. Both Ron Paider (LCC) and Bonness were the voting members for Kewaunee County and both supported this resolution. The resolution passed with 71 of 72 counties voting in support of a task force to study on-site liquid manure processing. The resolution will now be sent to all Wisconsin State legislators and the Wisconsin DNR, DATCP and the Department of Health Services for their consideration. Luft felt the timing of this resolution was important as the legislators and agency heads should receive it just prior to the upcoming Door-Kewaunee Legislative Days presentations in which groundwater concerns are a key issue. Luft also mentioned that Mr. Pagel also attended the Conference and sat on the Manure Irrigation Panel.

B). Vice Chair Cindy Kinnard / Aeric Bjurstrom: Fed/State/Local resources available to KC homeowners with unsafe wells

1. Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants – Factsheet found at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants>
2. Rural Development USDA Household Water Well Systems Grants: Fact Sheet found at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/household-water-well-system-grants> and <http://rd.usda.gov/programs-services>
3. EPA website, a number of hotlines for well owners and water resources, <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/well>

4. DNR Well Compensation Program, factsheet found at:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/WellCompensation.html>
5. Lakeshore CAP, <http://lakeshorecap.org/>
6. Mr. Heuer distributed Glen Schlueter, Wisconsin Dept of Safety and Professional Services, contact information. Mr. Schlueter works with problematic well issues to assist in solving their individual problems. Mr. Heuer will provide Chairman Luft with a paragraph into exactly what services and assistance Mr. Schlueter can provide. That information will be made available on the County LWCD and DHS websites and facebook pages.

*Discussed how these links should be assessable to all websites and facebook pages. Mr. Luft indicated he would provide an article to the Kewaunee Star News documenting the above listed sources of aid for those with unsafe wells. Luft will mention the fact that property owners with unsafe wells are NOT required by law to dig a new well.

C). Any other issues?

Discussed Kewaunee County's Beach testing, Cindy Kinnard noted it will be done twice a week this summer. She is working on a pilot project to get flags and additional signs at the Algoma and Kewaunee County Beaches, making Kewaunee County the first county to do this project, so it is a work in progress.

D). Ribble Phosphorus Summit Update

Ron Heuer, Lee Luft, Davina Bonness, & Dick Swanson were all in attendance on April 1st, 2015 in Green Bay for Reid Ribble's Save the Bay Phosphorus Summit. This listening summit focused on the dead zone and high levels of phosphorus in the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Representatives from DNR, including Cathy Stepp, NRCS, and large farms were all in attendance and sat on various panel discussions. Mr. Luft noted that he had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp regarding some of the specific issues facing Kewaunee County. Luft did inform Ms. Stepp that the DNR's own assessment shows that Kewaunee County nutrient application levels already exceed the amounts that all cultivated lands in the County can assimilate. Luft asked Ms. Stepp to review and address this issue. The consensus of those attending was that this summit was another step in the right direction.

5. Discuss mission statement for the Task Force

Chairman Luft asked the Task Force to review mission statements that were sent out and make changes, and/or add/delete/create new missions to discuss and possibly vote on for May Meeting.

6. Discuss expected outcome of the Task Force Work

Chairman Luft asked the Task Force to review example goals that he handed out and make changes, and/or add/delete/create new goals to discuss and possibly vote on for May Meeting.

7. Public Comments. There were 5 public comments:

1. Bill Iwen – Discussed the Ahnapee River study that was conducted for 1.5 years – ecoli problems. Kewaunee River USGS Besadny research – P Levels over time / average / year. Questions about how averages are changing over time as the herd growth has increased. Luft stated he would be willing to contact DNR to see if there is any long-term data.
2. Lynn Utesch – stated there was non-factual information released to the County Board and to the Groundwater Task Force regarding the EPA’s response to the petition and would like to see a factual response to that circulating email saying it was inaccurate.
3. Joe Musial – Groundwater and Surface water dissatisfaction with DNR permit process, in which they are granting all permits coming through, but has no enforcement. East Twin River has seen a decrease in all hunting/fishing and wants the DNR to step up and enforce their permits.
4. Mary Ludlow – Asked the question, “Why are these problems not heard about in Europe and how do we compare to these other countries?”
5. Karen Yancey, Kewaunee County Star, wants to visit each manure technology company with farmers and members of the task force, and show one/week in the Star News. What technology is out there, good and bad issues, educational series. Mr. Luft had already provided a listing of companies and contacts for the firms he has personally spoken with regarding manure processing and Mr. Heuer were going to supply her with an expanded list of companies he is aware are working on manure processing systems.
6. Dick Swanson (Task Force Member) – discussed how this Task Force needs to focus on solutions and cannot wait for manure technologies to be implemented. Discussed how Kewaunee County does not have 3-5 years to wait, and suggested the Karst Task Force reports goals/objectives. Chairman Luft did mention that we do need to get all the information out to the County, even the technology information, but will be deciding in depth the goals/mission/objectives that this Groundwater task force will be addressing in the next few meetings.

8. Other matters to discuss

None

9. Set Next Meeting Date

May 7th, 2015 @ 1:00pm

10 Adjournment -- A motion to adjourn the Groundwater Task Force meeting at 2:02 pm was made by Mr. Heuer and seconded by Mr. Kleiman. Motion carried unanimously. Adjourned.

| Submitted by: Davina Bonness, County Conservationist