

Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Agenda
Regular Monthly Meeting Notes

1. Call To Order – Chairman Lee Luft at 1:00pm, Thursday, May 7, 2015

2. Roll Call: by Davina Bonness (Secretary)

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

Excused: John Pagel

3. Approval of Agenda without changes: Motion to approve agenda by Cindy Kinnard and seconded by Tom Kleiman. Task Force was unanimous in favor of the motion, passed.

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

A. Review of Published Well Testing Information and assistance

Lee Luft discussed how the last Foghorn had great information regarding the Public Safety and Groundwater Protection Ordinance and about well testing and assistance.

B). Passage of the Public Safety and Groundwater Protection Ordinance

Ordinance passed every Township, Village, and City in Kewaunee County on the April ballot by an overall 83% vote. This ordinance is mandatory and will be start January 1, 2016.

C). Copy of the WI Land & Water Conservation Assoc. Resolution #1

Lee Luft provided a copy of “Resolution #1 – 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”. Lee discussed how at WI Land & Water Conference in March, 71/72 county LCC and LWCD supported this resolution.

D). Door-Kewaunee Legislative Days (Recap)

Ron Heuer, Davina Bonness, Lee Luft, and Tom Kleiman went to Madison for Door-Kewaunee Legislative Days in April. Over 90 delegates attended to support a number of issues within our counties, the top two being groundwater protection and the harbor seawall. Davina Bonness co-presented with Door County at the DNR-DATCP state agency meeting and all participants met with legislators to discuss our issues.

On a side note, in the zoning meeting on 5/6, POWTS voted 16-0 in favor of reinstating money for septic system repair issues.

E). DNR/EPA in Kewaunee County (Recap)

Russ Rasmussen held another DNR/EPA meeting last month here in Kewaunee County at Pagel's Ponderosa. Lee Luft provided the task force with the handouts and meeting minutes. This meeting was to help identify the issues and next steps with the CAFO owners in Kewaunee County. 14/15 of the CAFO owners were present. Ron Heuer was present at this meeting; he mentioned there was good dialogue and that the EPA would like the WDNR to handle the issues in our county. The regulation difference between CAFO's and Non-CAFO's is quite large and the CAFO's want to be part of the solution.

Lee Luft, who met with Russ Rasmussen about this meeting in Madison, stated that Rasmussen is setting up a meeting with the EPA petitioners now. And after that meeting, he wants to meet with all parties to move forward to work on solutions. Russ was also very keen on GPS systems to control manure applications and spreading operations.

Side question, Dick Swanson asked about a DNR warden in our area, Davina and Tom mentioned that they do not have enough being recruited and there are so many openings in the state, that we probably won't have a warden this year.

F). November 2014 Petition to EPA for Kewaunee County with Township well contamination info

Ongoing process, DNR has become more involved in our County since the petition and so has the NRCS. Davina Bonness discussed how she just received all the signatures on a request for NRCS support letter that is being sent to Jimmy Bramblett.

5. Discuss mission statement for the Task Force

After discussion: the group made the following changes to #2.

The mission of the Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force is to seek accurate information regarding the County's water quality concerns, to understand the resources available to deal with the existing impacts of unsafe water, and to provide practical recommendations through communication and education aimed at improving water quality to the Kewaunee County Land & Water Conservation Committee, the County Board and the community at large.

Motion to adopt the above mission statement was made by Dick Swanson and seconded by Ron Heuer, all in favor, Motion Passed unanimously.

6. Discuss expected outcome of the Task Force Work

Lee Luft handed out a page of examples of Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Goals. Asked the group to look over them and be ready to discuss at June's meeting. If anyone has any additional goals, please email them to Lee Luft by May 17th. Ron Heuer mentioned we need to get DBA and the farmers involved too.

7. Committee Comments:

Aerica Bjurstrom -- has been in contact with Stephanie Kelnhofer, Housing Specialist at Rural Development who would like to present to the Task Force about how and what Rural Development can do to help with in house treatment systems (like reverse osmosis and/or ultra-filtration) and or low interest loans. Aerika/Lee will ask her to attend next month's meeting

Cindy Kinnard-- will contact Lemens water care and invite them to the June meeting as well to discuss what services they have to offer and potential costs of implementing treatment systems

Dick Swanson – led a discussion about how much water the County uses to create milk.

Tom Kleiman– led a discussion about how he is getting higher readings of Dissolved Oxygen on the Kewaunee River

Cindy Kinnard – discussed how the beach testing was approved and the signs are complete, she just needs to find a company to make the signs. She is also working on purchasing the flags for the beaches as well.

Public Comments: There were 6 public comments:

1. Mick Sagrillo – (1) at a meeting in Door County, led by Bill Schuster, the GSP spreading was brought up and only being used by DeBroux because it is not a requirement. (2) Lincoln Township voted to fund a Groundwater Mapping Project at roughly \$34K, working on finalizing the scope, project details, and bids. (3) Mentioned Door County's Chapter 23, which gives local authority and enforcement to the County and not to the DNR. (4) Asked the Task Force to be very careful when getting the DBA involved because they lobby and support their members and have caused the Township of Lincoln a lot of money and grief.
2. Joe Musial – commented about AgroPur and the variance they have to discharge high amounts of chloride into the rivers, which has killed the fish/habitat
3. Sandy Winnemueller – commented on how her well is unsafe again and wants to know where homeowners can go to get help and where they can go to see what is exactly in their water. Her well has testing back in the past for *Campylobacter jejuni*. Cindy Kinnard said she would look into where she can get *Campylobacter jejuni* tested for.
4. Mary Ludlow – added to Joe Musial comments about the river's being dead with no fish.
5. Don Niles – commented about how different levels of regulations (small vs. large). GPS guided technology DeBroux does do and Door County does have stricter standards and mapping requirements. Large farms tend to be the testing grounds for new technology and if it works, trickles down to the smaller farms.
6. Lynn Utesch – agreed with Mick Sagrillo with the fact that he would like to see Kewaunee County adopt Chapter 23 like Door County has. Thanked Davina for getting the letter to Jimmy Bramblett done to request additional resources and conservation practices. Mentioned Iowa State University would be interested in attending our meeting to present some of the practices that they are working on. Finally he encouraged the Task Force to put forth a resolution to the County Board asking them to encourage EPA to come to Kewaunee County with their federal dollars and help our citizens.

8. Other matters to discuss

None

9. Set Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, June 3rd, at 1:00pm

10 Adjournment -- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30pm was made by Ron Heuer and seconded by Tom Kleiman, Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by: Davina Bonness, Kewaunee County Conservationist.