



Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Agenda Regular Monthly Meeting

June 3, 2015 1:00 PM

Kewaunee County Administration Building, 810 Lincoln Street, Kewaunee, WI - Large Conference Room

Our Task Force Mission: *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 and Water Conservation Committee, the County Board and the community at large.*

- 1) Call To Order – Chairman Luft
- 2) Roll Call – Secretary Bonness
- 3) Approval/Repair of Agenda
- 4) Committee Updates:
 - A) Cindy Kinnard – Beach sign construction update
 - B) Aerica Bjurstrom's request to Stephanie Kelnhofer of Rural Development to speak to the Groundwater Task Force regarding in-house water treatment systems
 - C) Cindy Kinnard's request to Lemens Water Care to speak to the Task Force about water treatment options for wells that are considered unsafe after testing
 - D) Cindy Kinnard – update on well testing kits as offered from the County
 - E) Lee Luft – Article for Kewaunee Star News on help for well contamination
 - F) Davina Bonness and/or Steve Hansen – Depth to bedrock mapping with possible overlays
- 5) Discuss recent ground and surface water related events or issues.
 - A) Confirm that requirements in the recently passed Kewaunee County Public Safety and Groundwater Protection Ordinance are mandatory. (To address some questions from Lincoln Township.)
 - B) Discussion of May 26th Phosphorus Summit Follow-up Meeting with Small to Mid-size farmers hosted by Reid Ribble and attended by Davina Bonness
 - C) Discussion of May 28th Phosphorus Summit Follow-up Meeting with Environmental Groups hosted by Reid Ribble and attended by Davina Bonness
 - D) Discussion of May 28th Meeting of DNR, EPA and Six Petitioning Organizations seeking EPA emergency action in Kewaunee County
 - E) Discussion of Lake Michigan Area Land and Water Conservation Association Board of Directors Spring Meeting held in Luxemburg. Topic: Nutrient Management in NE Wisconsin.
 - F) Short discussion of Robert Attwell's presentation to Current - Young Professional's Green Bay Chapter – Topic: Water, Money and Community - Issues in NE Wisconsin
 - G) Washington State settlement of lawsuit will involve EPA enforcement and inspections. EPA used Clean Water Drinking Act and RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act). Dairies will be responsible for waste.
- 6) Discuss expected outcome of Task Force's work in 2015:
 - A) Discuss and potentially vote on 2015 Task Force goals
- 7) Public Comments (3 minutes per person – 20 minutes total)
- 8) Other matters to discuss
- 9) Set next meeting date
- 10) Adjournment

Examples of Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Goals:

(Very specific list of what is to be accomplished, by whom and when. Some ideas/suggestions ONLY)

1. Work with the Kewaunee County Health Department, the Kewaunee County UW Extension office, NRCS and all local media as appropriate to educate the citizens of Kewaunee County on the need for well testing and that a positive well test does NOT require the land owner to replace their well. Highlight financial assistance options for those who can't afford to test their wells. Identify and publicize financial assistance options for those who need to replace wells that test unsafe for human consumption.
2. Work in concert with the NRCS, DATCP, DNR, EPA and others to help fund ground water and surface water testing in Kewaunee County with a goal to expand on-going testing of private County wells in each township, (as appropriate), to ensure the health and safety of all Kewaunee County citizens who rely upon private water wells. For calendar years 2015-2016 this will include the testing of ____ wells, ____ times per year for nitrates, e-coli and _____. Results to be reported to the Land and Water Conservation Committee and the full Kewaunee County Board.
3. Review the Final Report the February 9th, 2007 Northeast Wisconsin Karst Task Force and suggest how these recommendations might be prioritized based on our current understanding of the groundwater situation in Kewaunee County. Communicate those prioritized recommendations to the Land and Water Conservation Committee, the Full County Board and the General Public. Recommendations could include:
 - A. Implementation of a training module that already exists within the UW Extension Farmer Nutrient Management Education Curriculum (2006 edition) for farmers, Certified Crop Consultants and Licensed Manure Applicators.
 - B. Recommend the completion of a readily accessible database of well information to include active and abandoned wells. This will help prioritize areas of concern.
 - C. Recommend the completion of a readily accessible database of Karst landscape features that create a higher than normal risk for conducting landsread materials into the groundwater.
 - D. Develop a manditory well inspection program by a professional well driller every three to five years to identify concerns with the well cap, casing integrity, surface slope, impacts of new construction, etc.
 - E. Continue to aggressively educate citizens on the threats to groundwater and the best management practices to protect water resources. This can include any or all of the following:
 - a. County and agency websites
 - b. Pamphlets, fact sheets, reports,
 - c. Workshops, seminars, field days
 - d. Meetings with property owners and decision makers
4. Become familiar with the currently available best management practices, listed in Subchapter VII of ATCP 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code and determine which of these practices could help protect groundwater in shallow Karst areas within the County.
5. Determine the best way to assure that applicable groundwater quality protection practices are implemented in shallow Karst areas. Items such as local ordinances, cost-sharing, varying cost-sharing rates, voluntary Vs. required practices and other new ideas should be discussed.
6. Submit to the County Board, the County Land and Water Conservation Committee, Department of Health Services, brief recommendations on how to best implement the adoption of applicable practices in our County's shallow Karst areas and ask the County Board to take appropriate action.
7. Require farm operators who rent or lease lands to provide detailed information regarding the amount, and frequency of land spreading and specifically who will be responsible in the case of groundwater contamination (Door County has provided an example).
8. Other ideas??