

Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Agenda
Regular Monthly Meeting Notes
June 3, 2015
Submitted by: Davina Bonness, County Conservationist

1. Call To Order – Chairman Lee Luft at 1:00pm, Thursday, June 3, 2015
2. Roll Call: by Davina Bonness (Secretary)

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

Excused: Tom Kleiman

3. Approval of Agenda with changes to items 5 B) and 5 D): 5 B): No one from the Groundwater Task Force was present at the May 26th Phosphorus Summit Meeting to lead discussion. 5 D): Date for meeting between DNR/EPA and six organizations petitioning the EPA to take emergency action in Kewaunee County was actually May 26th not May 28th. Motion to approve agenda with changes by John Pagel and seconded by Ron Heuer. Task Force was unanimous in favor of the motion, passed.

4. Approval of May 7, 2015 meeting minutes without changes: Motion to approve agenda by Cindy Kinnard and seconded by Aerica Bjurstrom. Task Force was unanimous in favor of the motion, passed.

5. Committee Updates

A) Cindy Kinnard gave an update on the beach signs which are currently being constructed. UW-Oshkosh will be in charge of changing the flags on the beaches and beach testing started last week Tuesday.

B). Stephanie Kelhofer who was in attendance presented on USDA 504 Home Repair & Rehab Loans & Grants. Provided the group with a handout of her presentation. Grants and loans for water treatment systems could be available for low income residents of Kewaunee County whose wells have been tested and found to be unsafe.

C). Jim Siminar who was in attendance from Lemens Water Care discussed treatment options (Reverse Osmosis & Ultra Violet) for wells that are considered unsafe.

UV System – They **CANNOT** install **a UV system on an unsafe well to make your water safe.**

This is a liability issue and their parent company (WaterCare) is regulated by the state of Wisconsin and by DNR. They must have DNR approval before installing a UV (which targets coliform bacteria and e-coli). They can't treat Point of Use, which is what a well would be. Approximate costs run \$3000 without the required pre-treatment (softener systems, etc.) and yearly maintenance \$200. A UV system can be installed as a preventative measure on home water systems that have not tested positive for bacteria.

RO System- used to decrease nitrates/arsenic and they can install these in homes. They do not remove bacteria/ecoli. Approximate costs run \$850 to install; and \$100/year for filters/maintenance. No DNR or other approvals are needed for installation of a RO system.

ACTION ITEM: Lee Luft & Ron Heuer draft a letter to DNR to lessen these regulations so that homeowners who are experiencing e-coli/coliform bacteria problems can install UV systems.

D). Kewaunee County Health Department does have free well testing kits available in their office for first time mom's and low income families (must meet requirements). They also have pay kits available.

E). Lee Luft is working on a Well Myth Buster's article for the Star News....this item to be continued until next month.

F). Lincoln Township will be going through with the bedrock mapping project. They are working with the Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey. Work will hopefully start in the next couple months and the Township will fund their project with some financial assistance through our Kewaunee County GIS department. Maps that will be created – Depth to Bedrock, Water Table, Recharge, Groundwater Contaminant Susceptibility, Karst Landform.

5. Discuss recent ground and surface water related events / issues

A. Public Health & Groundwater Ordinance is **MANDATORY** and will be effective January 1, 2016. Land & Water is currently sending out letters/maps to all landowners/operators who own/operate fields with less than 20 feet to bedrock.

B. May 26th Phosphorus Summit Follow-up meeting with Small to Midsize Farmers. Reid Ribble mentioned that he also was meeting with small farmers group and non-profit groups. No one from the Groundwater Task Force attended these meetings.

C. May 28th Phosphorus Summit Roundtable with County Conservationists, County Executives and 3 members from the Town of Lincoln. Discussed Phosphorus issues and what's happening in the surrounding counties. Brown County discussed their Phosphorus trading program and demo farms. Other counties talked about needing more staff and "boots on the ground" especially when it comes to implementing nutrient management plans and best management practices. Mr. Ribble did mention follow up meetings, but no timetable was discussed.

Action Item: Potentially have Mr. Ribble talk to DNR about the UV system (well treatment) regulations. Lee Luft will follow up with Ried Ribble's office and copy Senator Frank Lasee and Representative Joel Kitchens on the correspondence with Ribble's office.

D. May 28th Meeting update with EPA/DNR/Petitioners. Davina Bonness did attend. Same information given to this group as was the CAFO group; including all the handouts that Chairman Luft handed out at the May Ground Water Task Force Meeting. DNR presented the proposed approach and solicited input and participation. Outcome; Mr. Rassmussen is going to establish workgroups to include short/long term goals like getting people clean water to drink, enforcement, susceptible areas, BMP's, ect. Russ would like to attend one of our Groundwater Task Force meetings in the upcoming months. **Action Item:** Davina will email him dates/times.

E. May 29th Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association Meeting. Reference Lee Luft's Handout. This meeting was hosted by the Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Committee with a presentation by Davina Bonness and presentations by Bill Schuster (Door County Conservationist).

Some Key Points:

1. Most manure haulers (75%) did not have copies of the Nutrient Management Plans needed to properly apply manure.
2. Door County Land and Water Conservation Department found deficiencies or mis-representations in all 8 of the Nutrient Management Plans submitted for Door County farms.
3. Door County has made Wisconsin Statutes NR 151 (Nutrient Runoff Regulations) a County Ordinance so that Door County can enforce these regulations without having to wait for the DNR to act.
4. Bill Schuster reported that in Door County conservation efforts have "gone backwards". Terracing, contouring, waterway construction have been removed to allow the use of larger farm implements.
5. Jimmy Bramblett, Wisconsin Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA reported that the NRCS must retrain its staff on conservation techniques as conservation has not been the primary focus of the NRCS for some time.
6. David Dybdahl of American Risk Management reported that new rulings by the Wisconsin Supreme Court have changed the risk exposure for farmers and those who rent their lands for farming. New rules are based on "let the polluter pay" principle. Bankers want farms to have insurance to mitigate risks.
7. Wisconsin DNR runoff specialist, Joe Baeten reported that emergency winter spreading needs to be curtailed and that every request for emergency spreading in the 2014 season was approved without exception.

F. May 20, 2015 – Robert Atwell Presentation, Water, Money and Community -- Reference Lee Luft's Handout

Some Key Points:

1. Atwell is Chairman and Chief Executive of Nicolet National Bank and he spoke to approximately 100 young executives in Green Bay.
2. During his presentation, Atwell referenced the conditions in Kewaunee County a number of times. Atwell said, "We are undermining the very reasons people come to live and visit here", e.g. clean land, water and air. He said, agriculture is consuming itself, Kewaunee County is a dust bowl at times."

G. Washington State settlement -- Reference Lee Luft's Handout

1. The EPA has settled with some Washington State Dairies and that settlement will require the dairies to employ much more stringent manure storage requirements and to pay for bottled water or water treatment systems for residents whose wells have been contaminated with manure/runoff.

6. Discuss expected outcome of the Task Force Work / Goals

Action Item: Every member of the GW Task Force must submit 1-2 new goals by June 24th, 2015 to Lee Luft. Luft will compile the goals as submitted prior to the July 1st meeting.

Goals will be discussed at the July 2015 meeting with a goal of voting on the top three or four goals for 2014/2015.

Action Item: Every member of the GW Task Force must read/understand by August 2015 meeting the 2007 Karst Task Force Report.

7. Public Comments: There were 5 public comments:

1. Sandy Winnemueller – said she had a brown water event on 6/2/15, but couldn't confirm with testing. Also mentioned that she heard Certified Crop Advisors were taking soil samples for Nutrient Management Plans from ditches. Ms. Winnemueller said samples were taken from ditches because these are areas that would not have been land spread and would not indicate higher existing levels of nutrients.
2. Lynn Utesch – stated that if you put in a UV system it reduces the effectiveness and doesn't work. Also mentioned that the EPA/DNR meeting with the Petitioners on May 26th had two priorities, #1 – drinking water to Lincoln Township and #2 – Increase in enforcement.
3. Bill Iwen – feels we have a right to know what chemicals are used in our locale, especially Atrazine, Glyphosate, 2,4,D and more. And have the option of having our water tested for any or all of the above.
4. Mick Sagrillo – discussed how he looked into treatment options but they are costly to maintain. Mentioned that treatment gets clean water but doesn't fix the problem.
5. Karen Yancey (Star News) – will be reporting on manure technology in a series in the Star Newspaper.

8. Other matters to discuss

None

9. Set Next Meeting Date

July 1st, 2015 at 1:00pm

August 5th, 2015 at 1:00pm

10 Adjournment -- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:49 pm was made by Ron Heuer and seconded by John Pagel, Motion carried unanimously