Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Agenda
Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, October 7th, 2015 1:00 PM
Kewaunee County Administration Building
810 Lincoln Street - Kewaunee, WI 54216
Large Conference Room

1) Call To Order – Chairman Luft

2) Roll Call – Secretary Bonness

3) Approval/Repair of October 7th, 2015 Agenda

4) Approval/Repair of September 9th Meeting Minutes

5) Discuss recent ground and surface water related events or issues.

   A) DNR established five work groups to address Kewaunee County's ground and surface water problems at our August 5th meeting. Members discuss updates at each of the five work groups since September 9th, 2015:

      a. Short Term Solutions to obtain clean water for citizens living with unsafe wells. (Davina Bonness, John Pagel and Ron Heuer are members of this workgroup).

         Previous meeting August 25th: Workgroup needed to define "bacteriologically contaminated" well and DNR response protocol to contamination events.

      b. Best Management Practices for agriculture in dealing with Kewaunee County's vulnerable areas. (Davina Bonness is a member of this workgroup).

         Previous meetings August 25th: DNR presented on septage and industrial waste applications in Kewaunee County. Workgroup discussed DNR sensitive areas paper, susceptibility map, Karst Report and 590 standards. Kewaunee County discussed new Public Safety and Groundwater Protection Ordinance.

      c. Compliance and enforcement issues. (Davina Boness and Lee Luft are members of this work group).

         Previous meeting: September 11th. Candid discussion between community members of this workgroup and the DNR regarding the need for greater monitoring and compliance. Several members noted that to be effective not all compliance measures can be voluntary. Discussion topic: With nearly 80% of farm land under a detailed Nutrient Management Plan water conditions in Kewaunee County should be among the best in the State. Greater regulation of some practices may help, but sentiment from community members was that monitoring and enforcement of the existing regulations was also lacking.

d. Communication, getting accurate information to the public and information hub for all other group's recommendations.

Previous meeting: No report as yet.

e. Alternative Technologies for waste treatment, disposal, and spreading.

Previous meeting: This group has not yet been established.

B) Water testing and water quality abatement processes for private wells per DNR personnel. Report from Kyle Burton due soon (see meeting minutes from September 9th Groundwater Task Force meeting).

C) Kewaunee County citizen, Mr. Jesse Jerabek invited to speak about longer-term (7 years) use of Reverse Osmosis systems.

D) Lee Luft to mention another water purification technology, Ozone.

E) Determining when a well is "contaminated" and who may be eligible for water or other compensation. See notes (above) regarding Short Term Solutions meeting.

F) Possible short term clean water access in Algoma? - Nick Cochart

G) Other issues for discussion?

6) Discuss Final Re-write of Task Force Goals as established at the September 9th meeting:

A) Review task force goals as consolidated from our September 9th meeting and with change suggested by Aerica Bjurstrom (copy attached).

B) Repair and approve goals for the remainder of the Task Force's charter (through April, 2016).

7) Discuss selection of champion(s) for each task force goal.

8) Discuss first steps in achieving approved goals.

9) Public Comments (3 minutes per person – 20 minutes total)

10) Other matters to discuss

11) Set next meeting date

12) Adjournment

Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Goals as established September 9th, 2015:

At the September 9th meeting of the Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force the members agreed upon the following near-term goals for the Task Force. Other goals may be added from time to time.

On an continuing basis, the Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force will work with the Kewaunee County Health Department, the UW-Extension Office Kewaunee County, the Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Department, the Wisconsin DNR, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and other individuals, industry representatives and agencies as appropriate to help educate the citizens of Kewaunee County on ground and surface water issues of importance to all county residents. This effort may include all of the following: well testing results, surface water test results, actions by regulatory agecies to help in dealing with water quality concerns, industry efforts to improve water quality, updates on the actions of the Task Force and any other appropriate information of public interest.

By no later than December, 2015 the Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force will establish a website that will provide a "one-stop" source for the latest updates on Kewaunee County ground and surface waters. This site would reside on the Kewauneeco.org website with links to the Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Department, the UW Extension and more.

By no later than November, 2015, the Groundwater Task Force will publish no less than one press release per month that is intended to update Kewaunee county residents and others on the activities of the Task Force. These press releases will include the latest information regarding the plans and action steps of the Task Force along with news about the other Local, State and Federal entities working to improve ground and surface water conditions in Kewaunee County. A sub-committee of the Task Force would be charged with the preparation of draft news releases for approval by a majority of the full Task Force. News releases will be sent to all local newspapers and radio stations and will be featured prominently on the planned Groundwater Task Force website.

Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force
September 9, 2015
Regular Monthly Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order – Chairman Lee Luft at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, September 9th, 2015

2. Roll Call: by Davina Bonness (Secretary)

Present: Cindy Kinnard, Nick Cochart, Lee Luft, Ron Heuer, Davina Bonness, John Pagel, Tom Kleiman,
Excused: Dick Swanson & Aerica Bjurstrom

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

Approval of August 5th, 2015 meeting minutes without changes: Motion to approve agenda by Davina Bonness and seconded by Ron Heuer. Task Force was unanimous in favor of the motion, passed.

1. Discuss recent ground and surface water related events or issues.
   A) DNR approved Augustain Farm Expansion with some reductions to spreading on select fields. Luft commented that the DNR has acknowledged that they have never, not approved a proposed farm expansion to CAFO status in Kewaunee County.
   B) EPA adds Kewaunee County's portion of the East Twin River to its Impaired Waterways listing due to excessive Phosphorus. All three of Kewaunee County's major watersheds are now on the EPAs list of Impaired Waterways.
   C) DNR established five subgroups to address Kewaunee County's ground and surface water

      a. Short Term Solutions to obtain clean water for citizens living with unsafe wells.
         First meeting: August 25th. DNR presented on private well treatment and well compensation and Kewaunee County presented on their Well contamination event protocol. Next steps include Define "bacteriologically contaminated" well; and DNR response protocol to contamination event (Add to Kewaunee County Document). Davina Bonness, John Pagel and Ron Heuer are members of this group
      b. Best Management Practices for agriculture in dealing with Kewaunee County's vulnerable areas.
         First meeting: August 25th. DNR presented on Septage & Industrial Waste applications in Kewaunee County; group discussed DNR sensitive areas paper, susceptibility map, Karst Report, and 590 standard; Kewaunee County discussed their new ordinance. Davina Bonness is a member of this group
      c. Compliance and enforcement issues: First meeting: September 11th. (Lee is a member of this subgroup).
      d. Communication, getting accurate information to the public and information hub for all other group's recommendations.
      e. Alternative Technologies for waste treatment, disposal and spreading. This group has not yet been established.

   D) Water testing and water quality abatement processes for private wells per DNR personnel.

Tom Kleiman discussed a Culligan state approved RO system and UV system. Lee Luft read an email from Kyle Burton discussing the DNRs response to questions regarding placing water treatment systems on "contaminated" private water wells. Here is the full written response to our well questions from Kyle Burton: "The simple answer to the first question is, yes, people that have wells contaminated with bacteria are allowed to put treatment on their wells, if that treatment installation is approved by the WI DNR and a WI DSPS approved device for the contaminant is installed. We are currently working on a document for public distribution that will better explain the process for approval and installation of treatment on contaminated private wells in more detail. A draft version of this document is currently going through internal and legal review, we hope to share that with your group when completed (October, 2015). I would encourage any individuals with contaminated wells who have specific questions about the treatment process to contact me directly." "As for the funding question, the Well Compensation Law does allow for the aiding of funding of treatment when the Department (DNR) determines it is not feasible to connect to or construct a new, safe source of drinking water. Eligibility for Well Compensation through this law is income based. Well compensation funds are only available to households with less than $65,000 income in the previous calendar year. Additionally, the USDA may also have funding available to low income individuals over the age of 62 and need home improvements such as a new well (see USDA.gov).

E) Our group discussed how is a well "contaminated" and who may be eligible for water or other compensation and if there is any short term water access in nearby cities. This discussion is being reviewed by DNR Workgroups. Davina is going to work with Cindy Kinnard to get a poll/survey to help determine how many people are actually buying bottle water because their well is unsafe for drinking.

2. Discuss mission statement for the Task Force
   A) The Task Force reviewed the current list of suggested task force goals for the next six months.
      a. Group identified three specific goals. Lee will consolidate the three goals we identified and resend to the group. Lee will forward our agreed upon goals for final review by Wednesday September 16.
   B) Add any new suggestions.
      a. Need to get Positive Press into Kewaunee County. Luft commented that a number of good things related to our ground and surface water issues are happening and should be highlighted, even as we must continue to identify and discuss the county's water concerns. The involvement of the DNR and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA are already having a positive impact on our efforts to understand the full scope of our concerns here.

3. Luft advised the Groundwater Task Force that the latest information from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service indicates that Kewaunee County is now home to 98,000 total cattle of which approximately 46,000 are full size milking cows and the remainder are dry cows or young stock. This number greatly exceeds the 76,000 cattle sited in the two Kewaunee County Nutrient Balance Sheet reports that were circulated by the DNR in 2014.

4. Luft read a number of quotes from the recently released Groundwater report by the University of Wisconsin Extension. This report looked at the activities and results of four counties in NE Wisconsin following the 2007 Karst Task Force recommendations. In summary, the report states, "Our (UW

Extension study) results revealed that no statistically significant changes occurred (following the publication of the 2007 Karst Task Force recommendations) in counties that only had education and training for manure application in a Karst setting. However in all scenarios tested, at least one statistically significant association (statistically significant improvement) occurred with counties that implemented regulatory changes as a result of the 2007 Karst Task Force report (Brown County, Manitowoc County or both). Implementing seasonal restrictions on waste application has had a positive impact on groundwater quality..."

Public Comments: There were 7 public comments:

1. Mick Sagrillo discussed when talking about RO/UV systems, we need to identify the upfront versus annual costs; and believes we need more Microbial Source Tracking testing done (human/bovine).
2. Tom Reczek discussed manure on fields and Lake Michigan dead zones and contaminated wells as major concerns. Tom also complimented the entire Groundwater Task Force for their efforts to date as well as the willingness of many members to donate their time to the Groundwater Task Force.
3. Lynn Utesch discussed we need to get out real positives like the Rural Enterprise Network. Lee asked Mr. Utesch to provide some details regarding the work of the REN for our next meeting.
4. Bill Iwen discussed the need for regulation and enforcement
5. Todd Lohenry discussed the possible website URL; and root cause analysis of problems.
6. Jodi Parins discussed the definition of a contaminated well is under WI Statute 123.03 and the DNR criteria for treatment systems
7. Joe Mills discussed the errors in methodology with the nutrient balance summary sheet. Luft indicated he would contact Brad Holtz to see if the DNR would update the Nutrient Balance Sheet for Kewaunee County in light of the recent National Agriculture Statistics Service reports showing a cattle population of 98,000 in Kewaunee County.

9. Set Next Meeting Date

October 7, 2015 at 1:00pm at the Kewaunee County Administrative Department

10. Adjournment -- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:36 pm was made by John Pagel and seconded by Tom Kleiman Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by:
Davina Bonness, County Conservationist