



Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force DRAFT MINUTES 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 at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, October 7th, 2015
- 2) Roll Call – Secretary Bonness

Present: Cindy Kinnard, Nick Cochart, Lee Luft, Ron Heuer, Davina Bonness, Tom Kleiman, Dick Swanson, Aerica Bjurstrom; and Kyle Burton (DNR)

Excused: John Pagel

- 3) Approval of October 7th, 2015 Agenda without changes: Motion to approve agenda by Davina Bonness and seconded by Tom Kleiman. Task Force was unanimous in favor of motion, passed.
 - 4) Approval of September 9th Meeting Minutes without changes: Motion to approve minutes by Cindy Kinnard and seconded by Tom Kleiman. Task Force was unanimous in favor of motion, passed.
 - 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, Cindy Kinnard 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.

Last meeting was September 28nd: Workgroup discussed the group’s scope and “what does short term mean to you?”; DNR presented their animal waste response tool kit and draft well treatment fact sheet; we discussed the Kewaunee County bottled water survey and flow charts on how to get clean water to landowners who have contaminated water.

- 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.

Last meeting was September 22, 2015: A majority of the meeting was a detailed discussion on the new draft 590 (Nutrient Management) standard prohibitions. Also discussed was the need to verify septic and industrial waste applications are accounted for in NMP and where that “other” waste is being stored in the county.

- 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 but that this is not the case now. Greater regulation of some practices may help, but sentiment from community members was that monitoring and enforcement of the existing regulations was also lacking.

Last meeting was September 29th – Group reached a consensus that we have good regulations, but lack enforcement, compliance and monitoring. Also discussed where improvements are needed and where to focus our efforts with limited resources, in which the group agreed we need to focus on non-point source pollution.

- d. Communication, getting accurate information to the public and information hub for all other group’s recommendations. Has not been established
 - e. Alternative Technologies for waste treatment, disposal, and spreading. Has not been established
- B) Water testing and water quality abatement processes for private wells per DNR personnel. Kyle Burton attended from DNR. Passed out a draft handout regarding treatment options for a bacteriologically unsafe well (will be publicly available in the next few months). Group discussed when a well is contaminated for bacteria and how nitrate contamination is a separate issue. If you need information on DNR/DSPS approved treatment systems, they have a full list available online. If a landowner contacts the DNR with a bacteriologically unsafe well, DNR may, but has actually only required one or two landowners to abandon that well. **HOWEVER**, if your well is up to code and met code requirements when installed, DNR **WILL NOT** make any landowner drill a new well. They will direct you to options, but ultimately that is the landowner’s decision.
- C) Kewaunee County citizen, Mr. Jesse Jerabek was invited to speak about longer-term (10+ years) use of Reverse Osmosis systems in his household. He emphasized that you need to install systems approved by DSPS Plumbing Products Register as required by the State Statutes. His installed system reduces their nitrates by about 80%, but **does NOT** remove any E.coli or coliform bacteria from the water. There is annual maintenance and upkeep on these systems and this maintenance can be costly depending on the system.
- D) Lee Luft mentioned another water purification technology, Ozone. He is going to get more information on this and report back.
- E) Determining when a well is “contaminated” and who may be eligible for water or other compensation. Once DNR handout is approved and out of draft form, it will be released to public.

- F) Possible short term clean water access in Algoma from the public schools. Group discussed liability issues with individuals filling water jugs and/or touching hoses and faucets. Possibilities of having individuals sign a waiver. Nick Cochart was going to look into this option more and report back.
- G) Other issues for discussion? None

6) Task Force Goals and champion(s) for each Goal

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 agencies 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. **Champions -- ALL**

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 Kewauneeeco.org website with links to the Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Department, the UW Extension and more. **Champions – Cindy Kinnard / Aerica Bjurstrom**

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. **Champions – Lee Luft**

Approval of Task Force Goals as established at the September 9th meeting with the potential to make changes as needed through April 2016: Motion to approve by Tom Kleiman and seconded by Ron Heuer. Task Force was unanimous in favor of motion, passed.

8. Public Comments (3 minutes per person – 20 minutes total)

1. Mick Sagrillo asked Jesse Jerabek if a water softner was required for his R.O system, which can be site specific.
2. Bob Garfinkel – agrees on the focus of non-point source pollution and that zoning is doing a great job in inspecting septic systems in the county.
3. Bill Iwen – discussed his recent tour of NEW water (former GB-MSD). Mr. Iwen noted the very significant expenditure of resources (over \$100 million) necessary to treat water from the 17 municipalities who are part of NEW water.
4. Jesse Jerabek – discussed being wary of all the new technology coming out for manure treatment, and wondered if it would be self-regulating or if an independent contractor would be hired.

5. Jodi Parins – discussed DNR short term group was going to add a member from Dept. Health Services, the need for an accurate cow number for the county, and maybe our CFO would look into grants/funding ideas for the county.

6. Joe Mills – discussed the need of an accurate nutrient balance sheet and is going to do his own. Asked about where to get accurate cow numbers and was directed to nass.usda.gov Lee Luft said he had spoken with the Wisconsin DNR's Green Bay office and they indicated that a nutrient balance sheet using the new (higher) animal census is in the works.

9. Other matters to discuss

Dick Swanson mentioned that DNR approved pivot spray manure irrigation in Wood County and it will be coming soon to Kewaunee County. Also discussed the new bill (WPS239) which changes terminology for high capacity wells.

6) Set next meeting date

November 4th, 2015 at 1:00pm

Motion to adjourn at 2:53pm was made by Tom Kleiman and seconded by Cindy Kinnard. Task Force was unanimous in favor of motion, passed.