



Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Agenda
Regular Monthly Meeting
MINUTES

Wednesday, November 4th, 2015 1:00 PM
Kewaunee County Administration Building
810 Lincoln Street - Kewaunee, WI 54216
Large Conference Room

- 1) Call To Order –Chairman Lee Luft at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, November 4th, 2015
- 2) Roll Call – Secretary Bonness
Present: Cindy Kinnard, Nick Cochart, Lee Luft, Dick Swanson, Ron Heuer, Davina Bonness, Aerica Bjurstrom
Excused: John Pagel, Tom Kleiman,
- 3) Approval of Agenda without changes: Motion to approve agenda by Cindy Kinnard and seconded by Dick Swanson. Task Force was unanimous in favor of the motion, passed.
- 4) Approval of October 7th, 2015 meeting minutes without changes: Motion to approve minutes by Davina Bonness and seconded by Dick Swanson. Task Force was unanimous in favor of the 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 October 7th, 2015:
 - a. Short Term Solutions to obtain clean water for citizens living with unsafe wells. (Davina Bonness, Cindy Kinnard, John Pagel, Dick Swanson and Ron Heuer are members of this workgroup).

Previous meeting October 21st: Workgroup discussed Kewaunee County bottled water survey results, Draft well treatment fact sheet (DNR), County Health Department letter to citizens for review, Municipal “fill up” sites, and next steps/recommendations. Next meeting is November 16th - 8:30-12:30pm – Luxemburg Fair Grounds.
 - b. Best Management Practices for agriculture in dealing with Kewaunee County’s vulnerable areas. (Davina Bonness is a member of this workgroup).

Previous meeting October 21st: DNR Heidi Schmidt Marquez gave a presentation regarding “other” wastes in Kewaunee County – both land applied and stored in manure pits (other wastes include; human septage, whey, industrial wastes from meat processing plants, other industrial wastes, etc. , Dr. Mark Borchardt gave a presentation regarding previous and current well testing research in Kewaunee County, also discussed were the County Nutrient Balance handouts (DNR) and a draft DNR and Kewaunee County practices sheet. Next meeting is November 23rd - 1:00 – 4:30pm – Luxemburg Fair Grounds.

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

Previous meeting: October 20th. Workgroup discussed DNR CAFO enforcement summary/manure hauling audits/field overlap/ and emergency applications. Group discussed agency roles regarding nutrient management review and any outreach and training needs for farmers, crop consultants, and manure applicators. Next meeting is November 17th - 12:00 – 3:00 pm – Luxemburg Fair Grounds. Next meeting to discuss a list of recommendations on how to improve compliance with nutrient management plans and how to better enforce the plans that are in place.

- 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.

Davina Bonness reported on the DNR grant funded research project "Assessing Groundwater Quality in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin." This study is being conducted by a team of six researchers, including members from UW-Oshkosh, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, US Geological Survey, and UW-Stevens Point. The first objective of randomly sampling, stratified by depth to bedrock, is underway. The first round of testing will be done on November 13 and 14, 2015. This study will encompass over 400 homes with an equal number of homes in areas with shallow soils and deeper soils. A second and similar study will be conducted in Spring of 2016 which will also be funded through a DNR grant.

- B) The GWTF discussed the Bottled Water Survey conducted by Kewaunee County Department of Health and Land and Water Conservation Department. 146 responses from private well owners were logged. Of the 146 responses, 86 or 59% indicated that they use bottled water. Of those 86 respondents who use bottled water 42% do so because they have well water that has been tested and shown to be unsafe. Another 24% of the respondents who use bottled water do so because they are concerned about the safety of their well water but have not yet tested their water. In total, 39% of the 146 participants are buying bottled water because they have unsafe (tested) water or are concerned about the safety of their water. 25% of the total of 146 respondents are buying bottled water because they have had their well tested and the water was found to be unsafe. 68.6% of participants are paying under \$10.00 per week for bottled water and another 28% are paying between \$10 and \$25 per week. Roughly 84% of participants do not own a treatment system for their private well.
- C) Water testing and water quality abatement processes for private wells per DNR personnel. Update report from Kyle Burton on the status of the draft information presented at our October 7th meeting - if possible. This DNR document is currently in DRAFT form, DHS and DATCP will also have to approve before DNR can publish. Lee Luft has provided a draft news release that covers much of the information in the DNR draft document to Kyle Burton for his comment and eventual release to the news media.- This news release will not be published until the DNR review is complete and the full Groundwater Task Force approves the content.
- D) Lee Luft to provide additional information on Ozone technology for water purification.

Lee has requested additional information about ozone water treatment for home use. Most of the current ozone treatment systems are used in large municipal water treatment systems but some companies are now offering systems for home use. More information to follow as it becomes available.

- E) Possible short term clean water access in Algoma: - Nick Cochart
Nick Cochart is working with Algoma School District and has established a partnership with Stone House Technologies to install a kiosk for free water for Kewaune County citizens who have unsafe water from their private wells. Nick checked with the Algoma School's legal counsel and no liability (legal) waiver will be required for the users of this free water kiosk, however, participants will have a swipe card or pin number so the school can track amount of water, the number of participants, ect. The kiosk should be installed before the end of November.

F) Other issues for discussion? -- None

6) Discuss progress in achieving approved Groundwater Task Force goals.

- A. Groundwater Task Force will establish a website that will provide a "one stop" source for updates on Kewaunee County's ground and surface waters. New site will reside on Kewaunee County's website (kewauneeco.org and as appropriate, UW Extension website. **Champions: Cindy Kinnard and Aerica Bjurstrom.**

Aerica reported on a Website concept which would include tabs for facts, resources, well testing (recommendations and or announcements), fill sites, additional resources, maps, upcoming meetings announcements, ect. She will work with UW-EX, Public Health and the County's IT director to start this website.

- B. Groundwater Task Force will publish no less than one press release per month to update Kewaunee County residents on the activities of the Task Force along with news about other County, State and Federal entities working to improve groundwater and surface water conditions in Kewaunee County. **Champion: Lee Luft** . Lee distributed a copy of his first press release and asked the GWTF to make comments by 11/11/15. Lee will distribute a copy of the second news release for publication after review by Kyle Burton of the Wisconsin DNR and the full Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force.

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

1. Joe Mills – thanked Nick Cochart for setting up water distribution center with Algoma Schools.
2. Bob Garfinkel – discussed how he was impressed with the well testing research study that will take place on November 13 and 14, Algoma schools water distribution and water poll results.
3. Bill Iwen – discussed compliance meeting and Dr. Borchardt's research into pathogens and viruses in manure.
4. Nancy Utesch – asked Davina questions about the validity of the sampling with the DNR funded research because participants will be taking their own samples. Davina said the research team did discuss this, but the only way to sample a large quantity of wells on the same day is to have participants take their own samples.

8) Other matters to discuss
None

9) Set next meeting date
Wednesday, December 2nd, 1:00pm

10) Adjournment -- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 pm was made by Ron Heuer and seconded by Dick Swanson, Motion carried unanimously

Minutes submitted by Davina Bonness, County Conservationist