



Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Agenda Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, December 2nd, 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 December 2nd, 2015 Agenda
- 4) Approval/Repair of November 4th 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 from the three active work groups since the November 4th, 2015 Groundwater Task Force meeting.
 - 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:
*Bottled water survey *Draft well treatment fact sheet from DNR with recommended annual well testing *County Health Department letter to citizens, *Planned testing of ~420 Kewaunee County wells in areas with varying soil depths to bedrock e.g. 0 to 5 feet of soil, 5 to 20 feet of soil and more than 20 feet of soil, *Municipal "fill up" clean water site(s). Next meeting was scheduled for November 16th. Workgroup members to report on November 16th meeting results.
 - 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's Heidi Schmidt Marquez gave a presentation on "other" waste spreading in Kewaunee County to include, human septage, industrial waste from meat processing/rendering plants, other industrial wastes, whey, etc. "Other wastes" are said to be equal to approximately 10% of current total. Dr. Mark Borchardt gave a presentation regarding previous and current Kewaunee County well testing, Nutrient Balance Sheets, and a draft DNR - Kewaunee County Best Practices sheet. Next meeting was scheduled for November 23rd. Workgroup members to report on November 23rd meeting results.
 - c. Compliance and enforcement issues. (Davina Bonness and Lee Luft are members of this work group).

Previous meeting: October 20th: At this meeting the Compliance Workgroup discussed recommendations addressing three primary questions. These questions were:

1. What outreach is necessary to aid the regulated entities such as CAFOs, Land Spreading Operators, Industrial waste haulers, etc. ?
2. What does the general public need to know about their private wells and septic?
3. What outreach is necessary for crop consultants.

Also discussed was a compliance monitoring "wish list" that addressed additional staffing, getting any authority still required from the State legislature, training initiatives, etc.

Next meeting date was set for November 17th, 2015.

Notes from November 17th meeting: Compliance workgroup reviewed detailed listing of recommendations as submitted by members to enhance monitoring and compliance. Recommendations were divided into short and longer-term categories. Some consensus developed around short-term recommendations such as requiring more land spreading information be in the possession of those conducting the spreading operations during the actual spreading, more frequent land spreading monitoring by DNR and County agents, improving the landspreading maps with more detailed information on areas to be avoided during spreading, etc. Other shorter-term recommendations included improved education and possible certifications for land spreading employees, improved well testing and possible cost sharing for those forced to dig a new well, among many other suggestions.

Longer-term recommendations included greater staffing for review and evaluation of all nutrient management plans, greater DNR presence in the field, increasing CAFO permit fees to help pay for needed oversight, fill the long-vacant Kewaunee County warden position and allocate time to that position to assist in monitoring and enforcement.

One last meeting to finalize and prioritize all recommendations will be set for December ____.

- 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) Review November 13th/14th and November 20th/21st Private Well Water Test results for a Study conducted by Dr. Mark Borchardt, USDA Agriculture Research Service and Maureen Muldoon, UW Oshkosh Professor of Geology with assistance from the Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Department, the USGS and UW-Stevens Point (Kevin Masarik). What are the "take aways" and next steps? How will we deal with those who have immediate well contamination issues?

- C) Update on clean water access project in Algoma headed by Algoma Public Schools and Stonehouse Technologies of Milwaukee. - Nick Cochart
- D) Other issues for discussion?

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

A. **Goal:** 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 Aeric Bjurstrom.**

a) Update on web site development by Aeric Bjurstrom and Cindy Kinnard.

B. **Goal:** 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**

- a) Discussion of “first press release “ from the Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force with recommendations for changes, additions, or deletions prior to publication.
- b) Update from DNR’s Kyle Burton on the proposed “second press release” from the Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force dealing with private well treatment following an unsafe well testing results.

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

8) Other matters to discuss

9) Set next meeting date

10) Adjournment