



Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Agenda Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, January 6th, 2016 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 January 6th, 2016 Agenda
- 4) Approval/Repair of December 2nd, 2015 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 December 2nd, 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, December 16, 2015: Workgroup discussed:
*Testing of ~300 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, *Workgroup discussed finalizing the list of recommendations coming from the Short Term Solutions workgroup. Goal is to have a solid prioritized list of recommendations.
 - b. Best Management Practices for agriculture in dealing with Kewaunee County’s vulnerable areas. (Davina Bonness is a member of this workgroup).

There was no update regarding the Best Management Workgroup at our December 2nd meeting as Davina Bonness was absent.
 - c. Compliance and enforcement issues. (Davina Bonness and Lee Luft are members of this work group).

Previous meeting: December 15th: At this meeting the Compliance Workgroup voted on an extensive list of recommendations.

Some of the Consensus (unanimous) recommendations were as follows:

 - Greater education/outreach for farmers, citizens, manure haulers, crop consultants, and landowners who rent lands for agricultural activities.
 - Greater DNR review of Nutrient Management Plans to ensure all direct conduits to groundwater are mapped, confirm all that is to be utilized for land spreading

is under contract, confirm no “overlapping” fields, e.g. fields being declared as available for manure application that are listed by multiple farms.

- More frequent DNR inspections of large and medium size farms, inspections after rains and snow, scheduled and unscheduled inspections.
- Fill current DNR warden vacancy
- Improve citizen communication with DNR e.g. instruct citizens on how best to report suspected problems.
- Conduct more on site land application/hauling audits
- Stepped enforcement actions. Multiple violations require more than just repeat notices of violation.
- Ensure all land spreading entities have a set of spreading restriction maps IN their equipment for fields to be spread.
- Develop a communication plan for all landowners who rent their lands regarding regulations and landowner agreements (2/3 majority voting in favor).

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

Previous meeting: No report as yet. DNR’s Russ Rasmussen advised this group is now being formed.

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

Previous meeting: This group has not yet been established.

- B) Discussion of 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 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 (kewauneeeco.org and as appropriate, UW Extension website. **Champions: Cindy Kinnard and Aerica Bjurstrom.**

- a) Update on web site development by Aerica Bjurstrom and Cindy Kinnard. Posting Press Release #1 and #2. Posting of well test results.

- 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) Review of Press Release #3 Topics. Some suggestions:
 - 1. Recommendations of the Workgroups
 - 2. How to protect your well through simple changes near your well head
 - 3. Results of 2015 well testing and next round of well testing now scheduled for spring, 2016.

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

- 8) Other matters to discuss
 - a) Update from Ron Heuer on Public Service Commission grant.

- 9) Set next meeting date

- 10) Adjournment