



**Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force  
January 6, 2016, Meeting Minutes**

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Luft at 1:01PM, Wednesday, Jan 6, 2016.
2. Roll Call those in attendance: Lee Luft, Aerica Bjurstrom, Cindy Kinnard, Nick Cochart, Dick Swanson, Tom Kleiman, John Pagel and Ron Heuer. Excused were: Davina Boness
3. A motion to approve the agenda was made by John Pagel with a second by Tom Kleiman, the motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 2nd meeting was made by Cindy Kinnard with a second by Dick Swanson, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Chairman Luft called for a report from those in attendance for a review of the latest DNR Committee meetings;

**Short Term Solutions:** Cindy Kinnard reported the "Short Term Solutions" committee held, what was their last meeting on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting a final list of short term recommendations was agreed upon. That list of recommendations was taken back by Kyle Burton and will be forwarded to the Communications committee.

**Best Management Practices:** Davina Boness was not in attendance to report, however, she did pass on information to Chairman Luft that this committee would be meeting on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> again as they were working with NRCS to get corrected depth to bedrock maps which are being used by this committee.

**Compliance:** Chairman Luft reported this group originally had 59 items on their list, reduced that list to 33 and voted on each of those items so as to set the priority for each of them. Of great importance, it was agreed upon in the compliance committee there needed to be more outreach and communications to farmers and haulers and more clear enforcement of the NMPs by the DNR.

**Communication:** There has not yet been a meeting of this group

**Alternate Technologies:** There has not been a meeting of this group as yet, however, directly related to new manure treatment technologies, Ron Heuer reported that the final contract from the Public Service Commission on the feasibility study grant of \$50K had not yet been received back from the PSC. Once that contract is received by the county, the work on the work on the feasibility study work would begin. These grant funds would be used to study the feasibility of processing manure in Kewaunee County to yield methane gas as an alternative power source.

6. The Private Well Water Test Results conducted on over 300 private wells in Kewaunee County during November by Mark Borchardt (USDA) and Maureen Muldoon (UW Oshkosh) found 34% of the wells tested to be unsafe for human consumption. However, the data showing the soil depths of the contaminated wells has yet to be finalized. Chairman Luft reported that the results may not be back to the county for another month or so. The researchers are taking precautions to see that the important soil depth information is properly documented. Luft also reported that the researchers had sent notices to those whose well tests came back as unsafe to take immediate, proper precautions. Ms. Boness was not in attendance to provide additional information.
7. Nick Cochart reported the clean water access for those people needing clean drinking water was now up and running at the Algoma High School. The water kiosk is at the west side of the school and so far about ½ dozen people have used it. In order to be set up with a pin # to access water, users will have to contact Nick Cochart directly as he is personally setting up the account access. Nick Cochart reported that access to this free-of-charge clean water is available to any Kewaunee County resident living with unsafe well water.
8. Chairman Luft distributed a list of potential topics for upcoming Groundwater Task Force press releases (see attached). This list was provided to the members to take under advisement by the members and to be discussed at the next meeting of the committee. Also Chairman Luft reiterated the previous press releases are posted on the Kewaunee County, Groundwater Task Force website.
9. Chairman Luft opened the meeting to Public Comments and the following citizens made comments:

Bill Iwen: Thanked Nick Cochart and the Algoma Public Schools for stepping up and providing clean water to those in need.

Don Poore: Indicated his well was one of those tested that is now unsafe for human consumption. Mr. Poore stated that when the lands surrounding his home were in CRP (uncultivated) his water was safe but soon after the fields adjacent to his home were put into cultivation and spread with manure, his water tested unsafe. Mr. Poore was seeking assistance and answers to his questions about whether it would be beneficial to dig a deeper well. Luft indicated that digging a deeper well is not a guarantee that a well will deliver clean water indefinitely as a member of our Kewaunee County Board can attest. It should also be noted that both Davina Bonness (Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Department ) and Cindy Kinnard (Kewaunee County Public Health) were in direct contact with Mr. Poore and provided him with all the information now at our disposal. He was also directed to contact Janalle Merry of the DNR for further assistance which he did. Finally, Mr. Poore was provided the Groundwater Task Force news release with all the State and local contact agencies who might be able to assist him and his family.

Sue Weisser: Said that digging deeper wells “was not getting to the problem”. Ms. Weisser said that preventing manure and other wastes from entering the groundwater in Kewaunee County was the key to solving our groundwater concerns.

Nancy Utesch: Thanked Nick Cochart and the Algoma Public Schools for funding the new Clean Water Kiosk for all Kewaunee County residents living without clean water. Ms. Utesch noted that this clean water assistance for our Kewaunee County citizens did not come from the people at the Federal, State, or local level that we pay to protect our water resources but from the Algoma School System.

Lynn Utesch: Added that solutions based solely on volunteer efforts to improve water quality had not worked in Iowa and that they were not working here.

Dick Swanson is a Groundwater Task Force member and he closed the meeting commentary with a statement that some farmers are not being good stewards of the land but that there is hope that something will come from the DNR Workgroup meetings and that with the participation of the US EPA we may see some positive results.

10. Next meeting was set for 10 February at 1PM.
11. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:20 PM by Tom Kleiman and seconded by Dick Swanson, the motion carried.

## Topics for Upcoming Groundwater Task Force News Releases

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1) How to properly abandon a water well.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2) The Importance of Well Testing – Discussion with Kewaunee County Supervisor Chuck Wagner (include information on obtaining a well test kit).
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3) How to Use the New Clean Water Kiosk at the Algoma High School
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4) Final Fall 2015 Well Test Results by Soil Depths and Regions
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5) Key Recommendations of the DNR Short Term Solutions Workgroup
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6) Key Recommendations of the DNR Best Practices Workgroup
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7) Key Recommendations off the DNR Best Practices Workgroup
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8) Key Recommendations of the DNR Compliance Workgroup
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9) Citizen reporting of possible well contamination events (a checklist)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10) Publish the Kewaunee County Manure Spill Response Guide
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11) \_\_\_\_\_
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12) \_\_\_\_\_