



## Kewaunee County Groundwater Task Force Meeting Minutes Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 1:00 PM  
Kewaunee County Administration Building  
810 Lincoln Street - Kewaunee, WI 54216  
Large Conference Room

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Chairman Luft
- 2) Roll Call – Secretary Bonness

Present: Lee Luft, Ron Heuer, Dick Swanson, Davina Bonness, Aerica Bjurstrom, Cindy Kinnard, Tom Kleiman

Excused: John Pagel, Nick Cochart

- 3) Approval/Repair of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Agenda; Motion to accept the February 10<sup>th</sup> agenda was made by Davina Bonness and seconded by Ron Heuer Committee was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 4) Approval/Repair of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Meeting Minutes; Motion to accept the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented was made by Cindy Kinnard and seconded by Dick Swanson. Committee was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 5) Discuss recent ground and surface water related events or issues.

Update on **NRCS Technical Advisory Group Meeting** of January 28, 2016. Davina, Ron, Lee, John, Cindy, Nick, Aerica from the Groundwater Task Force were all in attendance. Key effort is to identify: Environmental quality concerns; Desired Future Conditions; Key Indicators and Target values, (% of contaminated wells for example). Then decide to if the group will accept the existing conditions, adjust quality criteria, develop new criteria, or adopt some combination of the above

All NRCS recommendations need to keep in step with State and Federal Rules. Example: Most waterways have a designated use and associated water quality standards that are to be preserved or attained. Also talked about acceptable levels of soil loss or "T" value. Davina Bonness added that the NRCS is currently in Step 2 of the 9 step planning process and that we are currently working on gathering baseline data to set our Desired Future Conditions.

A) DNR established five work groups to address Kewaunee County's ground and surface water problems at our August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Members discuss updates from the three active work groups since the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 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.

Note: Short Term Solutions workgroup has completed its work by preparing a list of prioritized recommendations that were forwarded to the Communication Team.

- b. Best Management Practices for agriculture in dealing with Kewaunee County's vulnerable areas. (Davina Bonness is a member of this workgroup).

Russ Rasmussen indicated at the January 28<sup>th</sup> NRCS TAG meeting that the Best Management Practices Workgroup has not yet completed its work/recommendations. Mr. Rasmussen said there were potentially three more meeting dates scheduled for this group, February 10<sup>th</sup>, February 24<sup>th</sup>, and March 9<sup>th</sup> (March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting only if needed).

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 --- Discussion continued on the BMP's for the different levels of soil to bedrock, i.e. in this meeting our team discussed the 2-3' range and what BMP's can be recommended to landowners/operators to protect groundwater that go above and beyond current regulations.

Davina Bonness reported that progress toward final recommendations was made at the February 10, 2016 meeting and that the Best Management Practices workgroup did intend to meet again on February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup> to complete its work and formulate a prioritized list of recommendations.

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

Previous meeting: December 15<sup>th</sup>: 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
- Conduct more on site land application/hauling audits
- Develop a communication plan for all landowners who rent their lands regarding regulations and landowner agreements (2/3 majority voting in favor).

Note: Compliance Workgroup had completed its work by preparing a list of prioritized recommendations and they were forwarded to the Communication Team.

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

Previous meeting: December, 2015. This group is going to be the hub for all the information from the other groups. They will do outreach and education to get the work group's recommendations out to the public and stakeholders and work on the finalized report. Next Meeting: February 11, 2016.

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

This group has not started meeting yet, but will include members of the Best Management Practices Group and will ultimately look at Technology being done successfully elsewhere, new and promising technologies, and asking the question; are we implementing new technologies in a timely and proper manner?

- B) Update of November 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Private Well Water Test results.

How far along is the stratification analysis (well results by well depth)?

No update as of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

- C) Update on clean water access project in Algoma headed by Algoma Public Schools and Stonehouse Technologies of Milwaukee. Publish community instructions for use on the Groundwater Task Force website. - Nick Cochart

Lee Luft provided the group with a handout that explained the kiosk and Cindy and Aerica will make sure it goes on our website.

- D) Other issues for discussion?

A. Davina Bonness mentioned she was asked by Wisconsin Representative Joel Kitchens to testify in Madison regarding AB822 (Well Compensation Program) last Thursday, and she did. This bill would increase the amount of money an individual could receive to replace an unsafe well and lift the income levels for those who need it to qualify for state well replacement aids. Davina indicated that there were a good number of questions regarding Kewaunee County's water concerns from the legislators.

B. Ron Heuer is having discussions with USDA about potential pots of money and our current Project Phoenix.

- 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 Aerica Bjurstrom.

*The following documents will be added online: manure spill response guide, Algoma Kiosk handouts, citizen reporting of possible well contamination events checklist, current links to the nass (ag. statistics), karst task report, and our 3<sup>rd</sup> press release.*

- a) Update on web site development by Aerica Bjurstrom and Cindy Kinnard. Press Release #1 and #2 are posted. Posting of well test results? Post Press Release #3 Interview with Supervisor Chuck Wagner. Post Press Release #4 Algoma Clean Water Kiosk Instructions.

Group discussed this press release, which will be posted online and in the papers.

- 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 Topics Listing as presented at the January 6<sup>th</sup> GWTF Meeting. The Groundwater Task Force would like to move ahead with the following news releases as soon possible or as the information becomes available to publish:
        - 1) Well testing results reported by soil depth
        - 2) The final recommendations of the DNR Short Term Solutions, Best Practices and Compliance workgroups.
        - 3) A map of the areas of Kewaunee County that have unsafe wells

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

1. Bill Iwen had a question regarding if the state paid to drill a well and that well went bad, would the state drill another well or would there be any payback?
2. Todd Loheny discussed how he was conflicted with the Algoma kiosk because he doesn't want that to be the finish line for clean water. Members of the task force addressed Mr. Loheny's concern and said that was a short term solution to get water to residents now. The long-term goal is to clean up the aquifer so kiosks would not be needed. He would also like to know the general location of unsafe wells, Davina Bonness said she can get a map online that she has distributed in the past.
3. Lynn Utesch discussed how the LWCD is working with NRCS to have Ray Archeletta come on February 29<sup>th</sup> to hold a Soil Water Quality presentation. Details will be distributed as soon as a time is set. The presentation will be occurring at the Luxemburg Expo Center.
4. Jodi Parins discussed how the BMP workgroup is working on getting a consensus down the line and that the alternative technology group will also look into some of the old techniques and practices that may need to be incorporated into our current practices. She also commended the group on their open dialogue with citizens at this meeting.

8) Other matters to discuss

- a) Ron Heuer gave an update on Public Service Commission grant, RFP's were sent out and a vendor call will be occurring this week. He wanted to note that this is not a community digester, but a hub-spoke approach system.

9) Set next meeting date, March 9, at 1:00pm

- 10) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:53pm was made by Ron Heuer and seconded by Dick Swanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Davina Bonness – Kewaunee County, County Conservationist