



KEWAUNEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Large Turnout at Public Presentation on Well Testing Research for Kewaunee County

LUXEMBURG, WI – Kewaunee County hosted a crowd of nearly 200 people at the Kewaunee County Fairgrounds in Luxemburg on Wednesday, June 7th for the public presentation of *'Sources of Fecal Contamination in the Dolomite Aquifer in Northeastern Wisconsin'*.

The two-hour presentation, which ended with a Q&A session, was led by Dr. Mark Borchardt, USDA-Agricultural Research Service and Dr. Maureen Muldoon, UW-Oshkosh Department of Geology with the help of the Kewaunee County Land & Water Conservation Director, Davina Bonness. The presenters, Dr. Borchardt and Dr. Muldoon, had discussed the findings of its county-wide randomized private well sampling study that began in October 2015, the unique karst geology of Kewaunee County and its vulnerability to groundwater contamination.

There were a total of 138 samples collected from 131 household wells in Kewaunee County during the nearly two-year study, with 62 wells testing positive for human or bovine fecal markers. And, in the summary of the presentation, researchers noted that the source of well contamination, appears to vary with groundwater recharge and the timing of manure application.

When answering questions, Dr. Mark Borchardt, USDA-Agricultural Research Service had talked about how important it has been to him to personally deliver news of significant contamination to affected residents and while sharing this, he stated, "I am very concerned about this county."

And, Kewaunee County Land & Water Conservation Director, Davina Bonness, who has been working closely with the presenting researchers and their team in collecting samples shares that the work is far from over, but what's most important is doing this together to try and find solutions, "We will continue to keep the public informed and we will continue to expand our efforts, which also involves us working with the Kewaunee County Zoning Administrator Glenn Selner for septic system inspections."

Dr. Borchardt had also touched on methods of water treatment for well owners that include, reverse osmosis or ultraviolet light and equipment maintenance.

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To view the slides from the presentation by Dr. Borchardt and Dr. Muldoon and information on the next steps of the study, water levels in the aquifer and more, go to the home page on the website for Kewaunee County: www.kewauneeeco.org



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