

Nebraska Groundwater Monitoring Council (NGWMC)
Spring Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

1. **In attendance:** Amanda Osborn, Colby Osborn, Brad Routt, Mike Myers, Dave Rus, Casey Wilken, Maclane Scott, Steve Herdzina, Katie Cameron, Dustin Wilcox, Ryan Chapman, Courtney Widup, Jason Moudry, Jennifer Swanson, Craig Romary, Ginny McGuire, Mikaela Cherry, Dillon Vogt, Amelia Long, Dick Ehrman, David Miesbach

2. **Agency updates**
 - a. NDEE
 - i. Working on getting the Groundwater Quality Clearinghouse working
 - ii. Six well sampling events at domestic wells using Dan Snow's lab
 - iii. Preparing announcement for Source Water and Wellhead Protection positions
 - iv. Hastings injection wells are doing what they are intended to do
 - b. LPSNRD
 - i. Receiving \$300,000 set aside 319 grant for a DW Protection Specialist position for assistance to 30 PWS systems and working on all aspects of drinking water
 - ii. Designation a Phase II area for the Sprague WHP
 - iii. Increasing money available for well decommissioning to \$500 for backhoeing, pump extraction, etc.
 - c. JEO
 - i. The Drinking Water Protection Management Plans for Waverly and Broken Bow were recently completed and approved by EPA
 - ii. Working with Wahoo and Central City on efforts to decommission some abandoned wells in their Wellhead Protection Areas
 - iii. Working with the Middle Republican NRD on a groundwater flow modeling project
 - d. USGS
 - i. Monitoring wells in City of Lincoln well field
 - ii. Reviewing the UBB groundwater-quality monitoring program
 - iii. Modernizing the database structure and interfaces of the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS). Don't hesitate to reach out to the USGS to help you find those data if you're having trouble finding them in the new system.
 - e. NDA
 - i. Transitioning from applicator certification season to fielding phone calls on pesticide application complaints
 - ii. Encourage NRDs to utilize equipment for Immunoassay testing of pesticides. Contact me if there are questions.
 - f. NARD
 - i. NARD is working with UNL to create an Online Groundwater Technician Training Tutorial tentatively scheduled to be up and running by June 2024. This will not replace the in person training but rather make it easier to train NRD staff hired on throughout the year instead of only being able to train them in March & May
 - ii. Submitted a Water Sustainability Fund Grant to develop a Producer Connect App which would collect and compile producers crop reporting forms in Phase II and III areas, make nitrogen application recommendations, help education producers on nitrogen use efficiency, and help track progress in addressing nitrate in groundwater

- iii. Seven Regional partnership meetings were held across the state with NRDs and NDEE to improve communication and strengthen the working relationship between the NDEE and NRDs
 - iv. NRD Annual Basin Tour will be June 12-13 and will be touring projects in the Central Platte NRD
 - v. Annual NARD Fall Conference is September 25 & 26 in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center
 - vi. NARD is working with USGS to coordinate a Groundwater Model training sometime this fall
- g. LLNRD
- i. Phases changed from 3 down to 2; nitrate transition at 6.5 ppm for 1 to 2
 - ii. Modeling determined increasing Nitrate concentrations Buffalo counties. The modeling will be for Buffalo county.
 - iii. The no fall fertilizer was a “proposed” new rule – it did not pass, but the NRD will continue to work on this issue. Here’s a link to our LLNRD website that tells a little more about this issue (<https://www.llnrd.org/news-and-events/news/why-no-fall-fertilizer.html>). The LLNRD Board of Directors will revisit this possible rule change this coming February of 2024. This whole process brought a lot of attention to nitrates and nitrogen management so we’re taking this as a great opportunity to continue to educate and work with producers.
 - iv. Here’s the wording for how our new phases will work: D. Each sub-area may be subject to water quality controls in two Phases: 1. Phase I areas are set with median nitrate nitrogen levels of 0 to 6.5 mg/l (milligrams per liter). 2. Phase II areas are set with median nitrate nitrogen levels greater than 6.5 mg/l over a continuous four (4) year period.
 - v. The LLNRD is starting a vadose zone sampling project that will take place during the irrigation season to track nitrogen movement throughout the entire year
- h. CPNRD
- i. May 25th hearing on the update to the GW Plan; lowering the Phase 3 trigger from 15 to 10 ppm
 - ii. May 25th on proposed GW Management Plan – proposed changes include
 - 1. Lowering the Phase 3 trigger from 15 to 10 ppm
 - 2. Water quantity management – trigger modifications, management control changes, and subdivision of two management areas
- i. LPNNRD
- i. The LPNNRD will be focusing groundwater sample collection in the Shell Creek Watershed and Schuyler Phase 3 areas. Schuyler sampling will aid the district in better defining the area planned to be move into Phase 4 regulations.
 - ii. The LPNNRD is making plans to update the districts groundwater management plan in the future.
- j. Olsson
- i. Working on the groundwater modeling for the proposed I-80 lake between Lincoln and Omaha
 - ii. Watershed studies

3. Presentations:

- a. Colby Osborn, Olsson Associates - Leveraging Existing Groundwater Models and Hydrogeologic Studies with the Groundwater Evaluation Toolbox
- b. David Miesbach, NDEE - Providing data to the National Groundwater Monitoring Network