

Nebraska Groundwater Monitoring Advisory Committee

Notes from April 11, 2013 Meeting

Attendees: Colleen Steele, UNL; Dave Rus, USGS; Ginny McGuire, USGS; Dave Miesbach, NDEQ; Dan Inman, NDEQ; Jon Kenning, NDEQ; Pat O'Brien, NARD; Karl Dietrich, LLCHD; Karen Griffin, Olsson Associates; Frank Kwapnioski, H2Options Engineering; Jane Griffin, The Groundwater Foundation; Marty Link, NDEQ; Laura Johnson, NDEQ; Ryan Chapman, NDEQ; John Chess, LLCHD; Clancy Dempsey, LLCHD.

***Please note that PowerPoint presentations from the meeting will be posted at:

<http://deq.ne.gov/GroundW.nsf/pages/GWSWMC>

!!!Thanks to Marty Link and staff at NDEQ for our online presence!!!

Agency Updates: Attendees began the meeting by providing updates of their agency activities.

Ryan Chapman, NDEQ: currently working on a project to install several monitoring wells to be used to establish baseline water quality data and retrofit work to seal well boreholes in the Edgar wellhead protection area. The work will continue into the fall.
Laura Johnson, NDEQ: working on TMDLs for E. Coli and atrazine for the Big Blue River.

Jane Griffin, The Groundwater Foundation: recently developed an App called "Water Ider" for Apple phones which can be downloaded for free from the Foundation's website. Piloted to a classroom in Georgia and enthusiastically received.

Frank Kwapnioski, H2Options Engineering: presented information about the Water Balance Alliance which takes a comprehensive look at sustainability of aquifers, streams, ecosystems and food systems.

Karl Dietrich, LLCHD: works within the LLCHD illicit discharge program and the permitting of regulated facilities in the city of Lincoln.

Pat O'Brien, NARD: recently conducted the Nielsen groundwater monitoring field school which was well attended by 18 NRD representatives and Conservation and Survey Division. Working with four NRDs on the Bazile Groundwater Management Area, near Creighton, to address high nitrates issues. From this, a community based Groundwater Management Plan has been developed and will be submitted to EPA.

Jon Kenning, NDEQ: there is nearly \$2 million in PPG funding for water quality projects such as monitoring wells for NRDs. Currently looking for project sites and establishing budgets; also assisting CSD with upgrading a new drill rig.

Dan Inman, NDEQ: works under Dave Miesbach (enough said, lol!).

Dave Miesbach, NDEQ: has been working on an ongoing project to monitor groundwater at a livestock facility for the past 5 to 6 years. Partnering with the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association for the study. Project is a resistivity study to check conductivity and monitor contamination at different depths between two sets of nested wells. Also using

transducers to monitor water temp and conductivity. The goal is to use the resistivity in lieu of monitoring wells and will continue for another year.

Ginny McGuire, USGS: current Nebraska based sampling efforts include sampling upland aquifer formations and next year will sample the Dakota formation for the PMRNRD. Also working with the city of Lincoln to sample 3 wells near Mead for VOCs and explosives and sampling 6 other wells in the city wellfield. The two sets of wells are sampled on a rotating basis (i.e. each set of wells is sampled every other year). This information is not submitted to the clearinghouse due to security concerns.

Dave Rus, USGS: contending with the impacts of the federal sequestration; furloughs are possible, outreach is being cut, and travel has been curtailed.

Colleen Steele, UNL: earlier this year, conducted training with 19 NRDs and NDEQ on submitting water quality data to the clearinghouse. Provided a summary of the data available through the Quality-Assessed Agrichemical Contaminant Database including number of analytes, wells in the clearinghouse and other essential information.

Presentations:

Karen Griffin, PG, Olsson Associates presented the results of a recently completed study of Area 28 within the Lower Loup NRD. The study considered multiple factors to determine recommendations for the NRD to reduce nitrates in the study area. The presentation includes study findings and recommendations to the NRD to better control nitrogen inputs and achieve a reduction in nitrate contamination. Check out the full presentation and results online! : <http://deq.ne.gov/GroundW.nsf/pages/GWSWMC>

Bryan Fuchs, Climatologist, National Drought Mitigation Center provided the group with a detailed look at the beginning of the 2012 drought including the factors that accelerated the severity of the situation. In May 2012 there were not strong indications of widespread drought. One month later, the situation has changed drastically and by the drought's peak in September, 2012, every state in the U.S. had some level of drought intensity. Bryan also presented the group with the outlook for 2013 including the effects of recent precipitation events. What areas are seeing signs of improvement? What is the outlook for 2013? Visit the website to find out! : <http://deq.ne.gov/GroundW.nsf/pages/GWSWMC>

Election of new Committee Chair:

Marty Link, NDEQ, nominated Jon Kenning, NDEQ as new Committee Chair. A vote was taken and carried unanimously. Congratulations Jon!!!

Next meeting will be the joint groundwater/surface water monitoring meeting this fall!