

Annual Joint Meeting
Nebraska Ground Water Monitoring Advisory Committee (NGWMAC)
&
Nebraska Surface Water Monitoring Council (NSWMC)
Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
NDEQ Van Dorn Street Facility
Lincoln, Nebraska

AGENDA

1. Introductions

The following individuals were present:

Ron Zelt, USGS	Jason Lambrecht, USGS	Mike Krumland, NPPD
Pat O'Brien, NARD	John Bender, NDEQ	Chris Pracheil, NDEQ
Chris Witthuhn, LPSNRD	Dan Schulz, LPSNRD	Steve Herdzina, LPSNRD
Bob Swanson, USGS	Jane Griffin, GW Foundation	Tom Malmstrom, Lincoln
Howard Isaacs, NDHHS	Ken Bazata, NDEQ	Dan Inman, NDEQ
Jeff Gottula, NDEQ	Jenny Abrahamson, NDEQ	Ginny McGuire, USGS
Matt Schwarz, USFWS	Luke Zakczewski, NDEQ	Daniel Kroll, NDEQ
Will Myers, NDEQ	Ryan Chapman, NDEQ	Dave Miesbach, NDEQ
Rich Kern, NDNR	Milt Moravek, CPNRD	Keith Hayden, USEPA
Natalie Luben, NDEQ	John Lund, NDEQ	Aris Holz, UNL
Ben Cunningham, NDEQ	Dave Bubb, NDEQ	Dave Jensen, USACE
Larry Angle, LPNDRD	Jim Newman, LLCHD	John Chess, LLCHD
Dick Ehrman, LPSNRD		

37 attendees—that might be a new record!

2. Short Business Meetings

a. NSWMC

The main item of business for NSWMC was election of a new chair to replace Jason Vogel, who is resigning from USGS to take a faculty position at Oklahoma State University. We wish Jason the best and he'll be missed here in Nebraska. Will Myers, Supervisor of NDEQ's Water Quality Assessment Section was nominated and unanimously elected as the new chair of NSWMC. Will gave a brief description of his background and experience. Welcome aboard, Will!

b. Brief updates

Dan Schulz asked if there was any update on the status of TMDLs. Marty Link gave a brief overview of recently completed TMDLs for Papillion Creek (*E. coli*), Big Indian Lake (phosphorous and sediment), and the Elkhorn River Basin (*E. coli*). Pat O'Brien noted that TMDLs may not now be necessary for naturally occurring substances (such as arsenic or selenium) as effective management of those constituents is difficult if not impossible.

John Bender gave an update on the status of some new recreational criteria for surface water. The main issue here is that the established criterion of *E. coli* may not be continued. More specific criteria such as *Enterococci* or *Bacterioides* might be used by 2012. If that is the case, then monitoring entities will need to gear up for these different organisms.

c. NGWMAC

i. Brief updates (if necessary)

Dick Ehrman read an email from Craig Romary, who was ill and couldn't attend the meeting. Romary's update noted that results of fungicide monitoring performed by USGS and NDEQ are available online at <http://www.usawaterquality.org/conferences/2009/PDF/Wshed-poster/Vogel09.pdf> (big file) or the abstract (<http://www.usawaterquality.org/conferences/2009/Abstracts/Wshed-poster/Vogel09.pdf>). In addition, he noted that atrazine is coming up for a re-evaluation of potential human health effects; information can be found at http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/atrazine/atrazine_update.htm. He also noted that NDA and NDEQ personnel have been participating on a national work group advising USEPA's Office of Water on developing general permit language for aquatic pesticide applications. Marty Link gave a short update on NDEQ's progress in developing general permitting for those applications. Finally, Romary also reminded the group that funding for the Nebraska Buffer Strip program is still available. Interested landowners or operators should contact their local NRCS or NRD offices to apply; more information can be found at <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/buff.htm>.

Ehrman also read an email from Mary Spalding, who likewise couldn't attend. Spalding's update said that the 2008 data from the NRDs and some additional data from USGS are now in the database and that the updated version should be on the website shortly. Schulz asked if all NRD data was required to be submitted to the Clearinghouse (e.g. soil data or one time samples). Link responded that in general, most NRD data should be entered, but in particular it would be important for samples from established monitoring points rather than one-time samples (like Geoprobe samples, etc.) to be included. It was generally agreed that some clarification might be helpful. Ehrman also noted that in discussing database issues with Spalding and O'Brien, the possibility of another training session for the NRDs arose, since several NRDs have had staff turnover in the past few years.

ii. Other items

Jane Griffin gave an overview of the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program, which is a Groundwater Foundation program created to recognize highly-managed green spaces for their ground water and environmental stewardship. She highlighted the program's successes at participating sites in 2008: a reduction of about 100,000 pounds of fertilizer, a reduction of pesticide use of 38%, a savings of more than 224 million gallons of water, and the proper disposal of thousands of pounds of potential toxics like batteries, used oil, antifreeze, and tires. For more information, visit www.groundwater.org/gg/greensites.html.

3. Presentations:

Three interesting presentations were given. Pat O'Brien described efforts at Lake Ogallala to improve water circulation and aquatic habitat, and some of the frustrations as well as successes that have been achieved there. Marty Link presented a USEPA slide show on the connection between underground injection control and source water protection. Finally, Tom Malmstrom gave an interesting overview of the Eastern Saline Wetlands program. If you'd like a copy of any of these presentations, contact the presenters or Dick Ehrman.

4. Next meetings:

- a. NSWMC: Will Myers will schedule.
- b. NGWMAC: Tentative date: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at NDEQ's Van Dorn facility

5. LUNCH! BBQ 4 U!

The group enjoyed barbecued brisket and chicken, baked beans, and coleslaw from BBQ4U. It was generally agreed that this was one of the highlights of the meeting! It also provided valuable time for networking and socialization. It was generally agreed that a joint NGWMAC/NSWMC meeting in the fall is a good idea, and should be continued. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Ehrman
NGWMAC Chair