

Nebraska Ground Water Monitoring Council (NGWMC)  
Meeting  
Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality  
225Atrium

Meeting Notes

- I. Attendees: Lindsey Phillips, NDEQ; David Miesbach, NDEQ; Howard Isaacs, DHHS; Jeff Gottula, NDEQ; Linda Rohn, NDEQ; Chris Hobza, USGS; Michael Myers, NDEQ; Brad Routt, NDEQ; Craig Romary, NDA; Colleen Steele, UNL/CSD; Aaron Young, UNL/CSD; Dana Divine, UNL/CSD; Karen Griffin, Olsson Associates; Brian Henkel, P-MRNRD; Taryn Serwatowski, P-MRNRD; Katie Cameron, ENWRA; Chris Witthuhn, LPSNRD; Dan Schulz, LPSNRD; Dick Ehrman, LPSNRD; John Miyoshi, LPNNRD; Larry Angle, LPNNRD; Jenny Swanson, NARD; Marty Link, NDEQ.
- II. Council Updates
- a. Meeting notes and documents may be found online at:  
<http://deq.ne.gov/GroundW.nsf/pages/GWSWMC>
  - b. Dan Inman, NDEQ--chairman pro tem since Jon Kenning moved to Montana to become Chief, Water Protection Bureau, MDEQ
  - c. Colleen Steele, UNL--provided update on Quality-Assessed Agrichemical Contaminant Database for Nebraska Ground Water, ground-water nitrate and pesticide data; all well data is up to date with over 219,000 wells represented; 100,000 nitrate results; 2013 data submitted by 17 agencies; NDA, and NDEQ provide direction and financial support for the clearinghouse. Enhancements continuing for ELISA data website expected to be website ready in upcoming weeks; will add approximately 1,500 results for the public.  
<http://data.dnr.nebraska.gov/Clearinghouse/Clearinghouse.aspx>
  - d. David Miesbach, NDEQ--adding to the Groundwater Monitoring Network with 11 NRDs choosing to give project locations, adding some wells, and purchasing pumps to put in wells; will be compiling statistics but time is an issue with funding ending in September; thirty-seven test holes to add to CSR; *Colleen Steele will add statistics/data for last seven to eight months DNR website.*
  - e. Craig Hobza, USGS--Papio Missouri NRD, groundwater sampling, data *Nemaha*, Missouri aquifer with 25 sites statewide.
  - f. Karen Griffin, Olsson Associates--member of Water Sustainability Task Force; four criteria goals of Water Sustainability Fund:
    - 1) research, data, and modeling;
    - 2) rehabilitation or restoration of water supply infrastructure, new water supply infrastructure, or water supply infrastructure maintenance or flood prevention for protection of critical infrastructure;
    - 3) conjunctive management storage, and integrated management of ground water and surface water; and

- 4) compliance with interstate compacts or agreements or other formal state contracts or agreements or federal law.

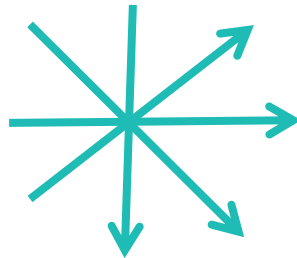
Governor Heineman approved LB1098 April 16, 2014, with funding of \$19.9 million for the Water Sustainability Fund in fiscal year 15 and \$19.8 million for the Water Sustainability Fund in fiscal years 16 and 17.

- g. Chris Witthuhn, Dick Ehrman--Lower Platte South NRD, Elkhorn mid-summer slowdown multi-layer 60 to 80 days; in the fall, the pressure builds back; 2012 started, interference complaints; Dwight, Ulysses and Brainard allocation 21" over three years; collective airborne electromagnetic data; Valparaiso high nitrates; overall gives better picture of aquifer
- h. Katie Cameron, ENWRA – 650 miles of Eastern Nebraska; moratorium 180 days all areas, three areas combined.

### III. Presentation by Dave Miesbach on Groundwater Monitoring at Livestock Facilities

- Potential for ground water impact at some livestock waste control facilities (LWCFs).
- Monitoring 287 livestock facilities reporting spring and fall
- Monitoring must include nitrates but also ammonia and chloride
- Water levels, conductivity, pH and temperature all examined as part of monitoring
- Example of groundwater flow, up gradient, down gradient for a livestock facility over a mile in length with roughly 1800 data points; determined 1/8" of seepage per day.

Typical results of groundwater flow represented as:



- Prefer to see chloride in down gradient
- Last year went live with monitoring results accessible via NDEQ website, <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/Gen.nsf/pages/Maps>, Interactive Mapping: <http://deqims2.deq.state.ne.us/deqflex/DEQ.html>
- Identifying source and extent of the problem is key;
- Dealing with different personalities from acceptance of responsibility to blaming someone else
- Highlighted other examples of monitoring requiring addressing of problem and how to remediate; define area, costly, time consuming, "sweat equity", but allowing for more research
- Site visits – go out and actually visit with folks
- Not monitoring land app sites
- Public starting to question what we are going to do about livestock facilities which are part of the problem not the whole, other problems not monitored

Dana Divine, UNL--Governor says cattle is how going to grow agriculture

Dave Miesbach--person active in cattlemen's association then became president of cattlemen's association; lot of industries trying to do right thing, key to empower facilities to follow rules

- Something has to change cannot stop raising cattle, hogs, chickens, turkeys without different ways to handle waste

Dan Schulz – with every gallon of gas, some part of cost goes into remediation fund

Dick Ehrman – geology is a controlling factor; what happens after take cattle off land?

Marty Link, NDEQ--LB514 highlighted changes in the state revolving fund, Title 131, where low interest loans made be made to small operators for septic tank repair, BMPs, etc.

Dick Ehrman, LPSNRD – mechanics NDEQ deposit \$ into CDs; will be app process; individual will work with bank; bank will see as service (not big money making operation)

Nominations opened for appointment of new chair of advisory committee, noting that meetings are semi-annual and joint with GW each fall

Previously Dave Rus was helped by Mike Archer

Consensus Dan Inman remain as chairman; Mike Archer to assist