

Nebraska Surface Water Monitoring Council (NSWMC)
Wednesday, April 20, 2010 10:00 AM
NDEQ Van Dorn Street Facility, Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

- 1. Announcements & Introductions:** Will Myers began the meeting at 10am. It was reported that there had not been much activity from the group since the joint meeting with the MGWMAC was held in the fall. Will mentioned that his term as chair was up in this fall and asked that the group begin thinking about a new nominee for committee chair. An attendance sheet was distributed and 15 signatures were collected. Those in attendance were as follows:

1. Elizabeth Esseks - DHHS
2. Howard Isaacs - DHHS
3. David Bubb - NDEQ
4. Steve Herdzina - LPSNRD
5. Chris Witthuhn – LPSNRD
6. Ken Bazata – NDEQ
7. Dave Jensen – USACE
8. Justin Krahulik – USGS
9. Craig Romary – NDA
10. Dick Ehrman – LPSNRD
11. Karie Decker – UNL
12. Dave Ihrle- NDEQ
13. Greg Michl – NDEQ
14. Will Myers – NDEQ
15. Dave Rus - USGS

2. Round Table Monitoring Updates:

- a. Will Myers, NDEQ – Gave a brief update on the Tuttle Creek Targeted watershed grant project. Currently, the water quality monitoring is completed and the modeling for loading reductions is in progress. The project ends this September and the final report will be available shortly after the project ends. John Lund was not present to give an update on the planned NDEQ surface water samples for 2011. Will gave a brief overview and announced that he will send the sample summary out to the group when it becomes available. Also, it was announced that the NDEQ surface water section has new reports available on the web regarding trends and occurrence of pesticides in Nebraska's lakes and reservoirs, and a project summary report on the Fremont #20 lake restoration activities.
- b. Greg Michl, NDEQ - Announced that the 2009 fish tissue advisory report was in review and should be available shortly. He also said several revisions to the policy for issuing fish consumption advisories were being considered by the committee and will likely be incorporated for future advisory assessments.

- c. Ken Bazata, NDEQ – Announced that the Biological monitoring program report for assessments from 2004-2008 is now available on the NDEQ webpage. Monitoring activities for 2011 will be primarily in panhandle area river basins.
- d. Dave Jenson, USACE – Gave a monitoring update of the Salts & Papios & Mo. River contract monitoring activities. Much of this monitoring will be similar to last year. Also, zoo/phytoplankton will be measured in the Salt & Papio sites. The Gavin Pt. sampling site depth discrete sampling will continue as part of the 2nd year of a three year study in association with the KC district. Zebra mussel monitoring will include substrate sampler installation in select lakes. Targeted Zebra Mussel veliger sampling is planned to occur at least once at each of the Salt & Papio sites.
- e. Dave Bubb, NDEQ – Gave an overview of the NDEQ Lake and Reservoir monitoring activities planned for 2011. The monitoring will be similar in size and scope to last year's program.
- f. David Rus, USGS – Updated the group water quality monitoring results from the past year. Most of the monitoring conducted in the last year was part of the NAWQA program at Maple Creek and Platte River. Highlights of that sampling included atrazine and glyphosate being detected in 34 and 32, respectively, of the 34 samples collected, and an average of 10 detectable pesticides (around 87 were analyzed) at each monitoring location. Also, Imazapyr was monitored in 2010 and detected in 9 of 11 Platte River samples. The USGS water quality data will not be published in the traditional water-data-report format this year but is still available on the web or by request.
- g. Craig Romary, NDA – Gave an update on the NPDES pesticide permit status (court mandate to obtain permit coverage near open water applications). Currently, a stay has been granted until October 2011. NDEQ will implement the permit by rule and general permit at that time pending no further court delays. Craig is also reviewing an EPA list of "Pesticides of Interest" that pertains to water quality issues. This list is being reviewed to look at pesticide program effectiveness for particular pesticides that could potentially affect water quality. Craig also announced that he serves on a State/EPA advisory committee for environmental quality issues. He will send minutes for group distribution when available.
- h. Dick Ehrman, NGWMAC/LPSNRD – Next NGWMAC meeting is April 27th at the Van Dorn Facility. Several interesting presentations will be given including Karen O'Connor who will discuss - Approaches to Water Quality/Quantity Issues Facing Nebraska and John Gates, UNL, who will discuss - Benefits of Low-Cost Tracers for Ground Water Monitoring. Dick also gave an update of LB764 which allows implementation of integrated management plans on a voluntary basis rather than an appropriation

designation. Several water quality issues are also being considered in addition to addressing water quantity concerns. Contact Dick with further questions on LB764.

- i. Howard Issacs, DHHS – Discussed several issues with drinking water programs that have current water quality implications. Chlorination and Nutrients are currently issues of concern that DHHS is working with. Also of interest, the Cedar-Knox Rural Water District is considering a project where a supplemental drinking water well would be installed that could be used when surface water quality is low.

3. Presentation – Zebra Mussels and Nebraska – Karie Decker, UNL Invasive Species Coordinator

Karie gave a presentation outlining the history of zebra mussel migration in the US and current infestations in and around Nebraska. She discussed the recently developed Nebraska watercraft decontamination protocol. In addition, she also discussed plans for public outreach and education. Visit <http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/invasiveaquatic.htm> for more details, available documents and information on upcoming events. A discussion on current state and federal agencies plans for implementing decontamination protocol followed the presentation. Thank you Karie for taking the time to speak with us today.

4. Next meeting - Joint Meeting w/ NGWMAC

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with NGWMAC usually held around mid-October. A notification will be sent to the group when a date is determined.