

# Nebraska Surface Water Monitoring Council (NSWMC) Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2013, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Nebraska Dept of Environmental Quality, Van Dorn facility

## Minutes

1. Attendees: Elizabeth Esseks, Jon Kenning, Ken Bazata, Dave Schumacher, Greg Michl, Dave Tunink, Lyle Christensen, Scott Jarecki, Mike Archer, Hannah Janda, Dick Ehrman, Kyle Hoagland, Pat O'Brien, Brenda Densmore, Nathan Schaepe, Dave Rus, Marty Link
2. Council updates
  - a. Past minutes and other documents online at <http://deq.ne.gov/GroundW.nsf/pages/GWSWMC>
  - b. Jon Kenning is the new chairman of the Neb. GW Monitoring Advisory Committee; Need to get Dick Ehrman back onto the GWMAC mailing list
3. Agency Updates
  - a. USGS - Rus
    - i. Recent USGS reports of interest
      1. Precision and Bias in Total Nitrogen Analyses, <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5281/>
      2. Emergent Sandbar Dynamics, <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2013/5031/>
      3. 2011 Missouri River Sediment Transport, <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2013/5006/>
    - ii. 4 streamflow sites discontinued due to sequestration
      1. Lodgepole Cr nr Bushnell; S Platte @ Roscoe, W Fk Big Blue at Dorchester; Elkhorn R at Pilger (156 yrs of record total)
      2. Can Rus send the Dorchester rating table to DEQ? Yes
      3. Any other sites slated for discontinuation? Not in Nebraska
    - iii. Noted a recent meeting of the Mississippi River Nutrient Task Force (<http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/named/msbasin/index.cfm>). Not directly pertaining to Nebraska, but their reduction strategies may be of interest.
    - iv. Recently collected pesticide data aren't currently on the public webpage. Waiting to get approval of the analytical technique.
    - v. Continuous nitrate data available for Platte River at Louisville: [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ne/nwis/uv?cb\\_00630=on&site\\_no=06805500](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ne/nwis/uv?cb_00630=on&site_no=06805500)
  - b. DEQ:
    - i. Shumacher: Ambient stream monitoring network ongoing, <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/SurfaceW.nsf/Pages/ASM>; Rotating basins = Loup and Middle Platte, <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/SurfaceW.nsf/Pages/BRM> ; Lakes; Stream biological indicators at 35 sites in Loup and Middle Platte;

- ii. Michl: Fish advisory reports coming out in a month; 50 more sites sampled beginning in July, <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/SurfaceW.nsf/Pages/FCA>
    - iii. Mike Archer: Beach sampling just began; Ft Kearney and Windmill SRAs added; Let Mike know if you want to be added to the alert list; 2012 alerts at <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/Beaches.nsf/LakeSampling12>
  - c. DHHS: Esseks: Flood was harder on the SW systems than the drought. 95 systems were on the drought list last year, but they were all GW systems [http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/enh\\_pws\\_conindex.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/enh_pws_conindex.aspx)
  - d. NARD: Pat resigning at end of June to take over the GM position of Upper Niobrara White NRD; Many thanks;
    - i. EQUIP NWQ initiative targeting up to 4 basins per state: Cub Cr, Cottonwood Cr, Pigeon-Jones, + 1 more; Working to develop watershed mgmt plans (Pibel lake-Clear Cr; Lower Big Blue; Little Blue all working on adding plans; LPRCA developing one for the corridor); Getting EPA to agree to HUC8s or a corridor has been a process; <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=stelprdb1047761>
    - ii. LB516: Carlson bill to generate \$ for water research
    - iii. LB517: Carlson bill to create a water task force; Lathrop amendment to reduce representation from ~30 to 9 members; Future of the bill uncertain; Bill requires a final report by Dec 31, 2013 (Lot to get done in short time); Money source unknown
  - e. LPSNRD: Ehrman – LPS developing a voluntary IMP, mostly focused on quantity, but still pushing to include some quality; Public hearing phase right now; <http://www.lpsnrd.org/IntegratedMgtPlan/impindex.htm>
  - f. NGPC: Tunink – Reminder that if, during sampling activities, we come across any of Nebraska’s aquatic invasive species (<http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/invasiveaquatic.htm>) to report it on the project website. Boat cleaning: Clean (Prefer vinegar over bleach; Hot water is best); Drain all liquids; and Dry
- 4. Speakers:
  - a. EPA-USGS collaborative sampling project in eastern Nebraska: Nathan Schaepe and Brenda Densmore, USGS
  - b. 2012 drought effects on water quality/fish health: Mike Archer, NDEQ, Dave Rus, USGS
- 5. Open discussion: Special monitoring needs in the event of a 2013 drought
  - a. Monitoring the long-term ecological impacts. How long does it take a community to recover?
  - b. Would be very useful to have some way of predicting water temperature as a function of air temperature and flow rate for a given site.
  - c. Many of the management decisions during a drought are based more on water quantity than quality.

- i. Past experience shows that in a drought, the number of well permit requests goes up considerably.
- d. From a drinking-water quality perspective, there is less impact in Nebraska because most of the systems are GW.