

**Annual Joint Meeting
Nebraska Ground Water Monitoring Advisory Committee (NGWMAC)
&
Nebraska Surface Water Monitoring Council (NSWMC)
Thursday, November 10, 2011 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
Lincoln-Lancaster Co. Health Department
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Meeting Notes

1. Introductions

The following individuals were present:

Dave Rus, USGS	Pat O'Brien, NARD	Marty Link, NDEQ
Dana Divine, LPSNRD	Dan Schulz, LPSNRD	Jane Griffin, GW Foundation
Elizabeth Esseks, NDHHS	Ken Bazata, NDEQ	Dan Inman, NDEQ
Jenny Coughlin, NDEQ	Ginny McGuire, USGS	Patrick Hartman, NDEQ
Daniel Kroll, NDEQ	Will Myers, NDEQ	Jennifer Swanson, NDEQ
Dave Miesbach, NDEQ	Teyona Powell, NDNR	Ryan Chapman, NDEQ
John Lund, NDEQ	Jeremy Bower, NDEQ	Clancy Dempsey, LLCHD
Dave Jensen, USACE	Larry Angle, LPNDRD	Travis Davis, LLCHD
John Chess, LLCHD	Dick Ehrman, LPSNRD	

2. Short Business Meetings

a. NSWMC

Will Myers gave a few brief updates on items of potential interest to the group. He mentioned that Paul Brakhage of the NDEQ Surface Water Unit is no longer with NDEQ. Will thanked Paul for his hard work and dedication during his years of service. Also, Craig Romary from Dept. of Ag. was not able to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Will mentioned Craig would send any updates via email if necessary. Elections will be held at the next spring NSWMC meeting rather than today's joint meeting. Delaying elections until the spring meeting will get them back on schedule with the annual committee meeting rather than taking additional time at the joint meeting. There were no objections to delaying the vote until spring.

John Lund briefly discussed the NDEQ 2011 surface water sample summary. A copy of the summary was emailed to the NSWMC members after the meeting.

Dave Jensen summarized USACE/NDEQ cooperative monitoring on Salt and Papillion Creek Reservoirs and the Missouri River. He also discussed the recent KC District monitoring efforts on the Mo. River including 15 mainstem plus 20 tributary sites. Monitoring at sites between Ft. Randall Dam and St. Louis was completed this year, but it will be challenging to incorporate this information into modeling efforts due to flood

conditions. Dave also discussed recent monitoring for Zebra Mussel veligers and efforts on Lake Zorinsky to eradicate them. Final results are pending but will be discussed in more detail in coming months along with decontamination protocols.

Elizabeth Esseks gave an overview of flood impacts on municipal water systems and working with communities from a flood emergency perspective. They are currently working with many communities to make adjustments due to recent flood conditions and planning how future emergencies will be handled.

b. NGWMAC

Dick Ehrman also stated that the NGWMAC elections will be held next spring. Dick has determined that his ten years of service as chair are probably enough and that someone else should take the chairperson position. Thank you for your contribution to the group Dick. Dick also mentioned that the LPSNRD is in the process of working on a voluntary integrated management plan. More information regarding these planning efforts will be provided in the coming months.

Dave Miesbach is working on the annual groundwater report to the legislature. Over 4,000 nitrate samples were added to the clearinghouse this year. Overall, long term trends show some declining nitrate levels but local problems still persist.

Jane Griffin provided some brief highlights of the Groundwater Foundation National Conference held in October. Details of the conference and the proceedings can be found at <http://www.groundwater.org/>.

Larry Angle gave an overview of this year's Phase II area nitrate sampling and other district water quality sampling efforts. Also, the LPNDRD is currently looking at adopting a voluntary integrated management plan and is in the planning and stakeholder outreach phase.

Ryan Chapman mentioned the NDEQ has approved four new community wellhead protection area plans. In addition, a new drinking water protection area sign has been approved for use. The sign will be fabricated and distributed to communities in the coming months. Details are available on NDEQ's webpage under the news section.

Ginny McQuire gave an overview of sampling efforts in Lincoln and Papillion Creek areas.

Jenny Coughlin gave an update on the rare earth mineral exploration activities in the Elk Creek area. The exploration drilling efforts have been completed and the company is performing analysis to look into prospective future activities.

Pat O'Brien announced an upcoming groundwater technician training opportunity in Kearney for CEUs. This training will be held on March 6, 2012. Contact Pat for additional details. Also, Pat gave an overview of recent groundwater sampling efforts using Ion Selective Electrode (ISE) technology for nitrates. This sampling was conducted with several contract labs and NRDs this past summer with the goal of validating the results and to explore potential future applications. Results of the findings will be available in the coming months.

3. Presentations

Two excellent presentations were given. Dave Rus gave a presentation on the use of the SPARROW watershed model. This model is a web browser based model that can be used to describe nutrient sources and transport in the Missouri River basin. Additional information for this model and applications can be found at <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/sparrow> . Jenny Coughlin gave a presentation of the *In-Situ* Uranium Mining activities at the Crow Butte mine near Crawford Nebraska. Jenny gave an overview of the mining process and the history of development to the present day activities taking place at the mine. Contact Jenny for additional information.

4. Next meetings

- a. NSWMC: Tentative date: Wednesday, April 4, 2012
- b. NGWMAC: Tentative date: Wednesday, April 11, 2012

5. LUNCH! BBQ 4 U!

The highlight of the meeting again this year!!! The joint meeting concluded around 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Myers
NSWMC Chair