

GWCC meeting 10/2/15

Attendees: Kim Greenwood, Ellen Parr Doering, Meddie Perry, Rodney Pingree, Don Maynard, Michael B. Smith, Jeff Comstock, Miles Waite, Scott Stewart

- 1) We discussed the membership of the committee and past practice from 1996. It was agreed to keep this an open group to allow a diverse perspective on groundwater protection and process.
- 2) Jeff Comstock discussed the RAP (Required Agricultural Practices) draft comment period ends the end of October with a public meetings being held thru November and December and going to the legislature in January.
- 3) The GWPRS subcommittee will be meeting Friday 10/9 from 10-1 in the Winooski room to start on draft review. If you are interested in joining, please contact Scott. Michael B. Smith has/will send out a MS Word version. We will be working off a single document with track changes so a “final” draft can be offered by the end to the comment period (10/23).
- 4) The attendees then discussed the role of the GWCC as a whole. We reviewed the statute granting the Secretary authority as a starting point. We developed a list of topics:
 - a) Review of rules and procedures (in rough order of how soon they are moving forward):
 - Agricultural Practices (RAP)
 - Storm water manual
 - GWPRS
 - IROC
 - Potable Rule/Water Supply Rule
 - UIC
 - Indirect Discharge
 - Comprehensive Energy – DPS

Action Item: We were concerned with the timing of the several rules and practices being reviewed and Scott was going to work with Ellen to find out from the Deputy Commissioner if we could get a rough timeline for the various rules in draft. We also would like each division to provide at least a contact person (or member) to be on the emailing list for the GWCC.

- b) Comprehensive Groundwater Protection Program:

The committee is set up to assist in development of a comprehensive groundwater management plan to address 9 items.

Next steps: Examine existing methods used to meet required actions (1-9) by secretary listed in statute, and identify gaps and needs as well as ways fill that gap.

1. Technical review of rule and procedure revisions that would impact groundwater quality and quantity, including interagency documents [e.g. Required Agricultural Practices*, Groundwater Protection Rules*, Stormwater Manual*, Investigation of Contaminated Properties Rule*, Water Supply Rule, Underground Injection Rules, Indirect Discharge Rules, Department of Public Service Comprehensive Energy Plan (due to geothermal aspects), and others]. We have helped already with groundwater reclassification procedures, large groundwater withdrawals. These reviews should include recommendations on technical accuracy and implementability as well as policies regarding groundwater as implemented in rules and procedures.
 2. Assist coordination between agencies and departments (DOH, Agriculture, State Geologists' office) in relation to groundwater issues.
 3. Issues of private water supply coverage/management (currently controlled by potable water supply permits).
 4. Technical assistance to municipal bodies
 5. Promoting education of public
 6. Evaluation of emerging technologies (e.g. geothermal heat transfer, hydrofracturing) as they relate to groundwater and the potential need for regulation.
 7. Evaluation of identified potential chemical risks to groundwater quality (e.g. perchlorate, pharmaceuticals, tritium).
- c) Private well issues – quality, loan program for failed sources (water and wastewater).

Consensus:

GWCC should be an inclusive group, allowing willing volunteers to participate. Perhaps the Agency should recommend that each department have an assigned representative as the contact person to receive email (meeting minutes, etc.).

Meetings should have an assigned secretary, and minutes of each meeting.

Should include a list of current active members.

Scott will check in-house as to status of nine points for Oct. 28 (Ottauquechee room) entire GWCC meeting, and status of revisions of various ANR program rules that will impact GW. Report of GWPR

revisions will be provided at that time. Ag. will provide status update of RAPs (and technical considerations, distance to water supply, secondary standards, etc.). Kim will provide draft timeline of rule-making for compliance with Act 64 Clean Water Bill status. Goal is to identify pre-rulemaking schedules so GWCC can assist in assuring that rules do not contradict each other.

GWPR aspects and topics:

Consider mass flux – ability to use as a water supply

de minimus conditions

Kim: need to assess implication on public trust (contrary to legislative intent?)

Kim officially requests technical impracticality document from Mike Smith.

All members will bring their comments for 1st subcommittee meeting on Oct. 9th 10-1pm Winooski room.

Remaining subcommittee meeting to be scheduled Oct. 9th.

GWCC full committee meeting Oct 28th 9-noon, Ottawaquechee room.