

Groundwater Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 10, 2019

Location: Annex, Montpelier

Attendees: Graham Bradley, Kasey Kathan, Scott Stewart, Miles Waite, Craig Heindel, Rod Lamothe, Liz Royer, Diana Butler (new to VT Rural Water, source water protection), Diane Sherman, Rodney Pingree, Dave Wilcox, Sille Larsen, Jon Kim, John Schmeltzer, Ernie Christensen, Patti Casey

Introductions: Liz Royer, is now the head of Vermont Rural Water Association (congratulations!!) and introduced Diana Butler who is taking her place doing Source Water Protection and Outreach.

Private Well Subcommittee for new wells serving Single Family Homes

Sille- proposal to form “private well” (wells serving single family homes now required to conduct water quality sampling) network with the goal of creating a community for discussion on improving outreach and education on well testing. Testing will be required beginning in July, or with the adoption of the potable rules, which may be by the end of February. Following discussion, the group agreed that the best place to form the network would be as part of the GWCC, with GWCC members forming a core work group and every three months, that monthly GWCC meeting would have at least a portion of the meeting dedicated to Single Family Home network activities.

Tasks/Next Steps:

- Review the preliminary contacts provided by Sille (attached Contacts.xlsx) and let her know (sille.larsen@vermont.gov) if there are others that should be contacted with an invite to be on the subcommittee.
- Sille will contact the non-GWCC entities interested in participating in such a group and invite them to the March GWCC meeting.
- At the February GWCC meeting – dedicate time to reviewing and providing feedback on the well driller and realtor fact sheet (attached) and compiling a preliminary task list for the broader private well network to begin work on at the March meeting.

Road Salt

Sille – has initiated work with the USGS, as part of a drinking water grant through the CDC, to compile 2011-2018 data to look at road salt application impacts. Work will be evaluating statistical variability within and outside of a 100 m buffer zone around paved roads. Also looking at salt storage and geology. Goal is to present at NEGSA in March with a fact sheet completed potentially late in 2019.

VDH Lab-reporting forms

Sille – lab reporting forms have been updated to include requests for –well tag numbers (for new wells), distinction between drilled and dug well and indication of flushed or first draw lead, along with softeners or treatment.

Bennington Reclassification Petition

Scott – provided overview of the changes from the historic management of reclassifications and the management of reclassifications as part of corrective action plans moving forward.

John – Pursuing groundwater reclassification for both the east and west side of Bennington. In the areas with available water line extension, drilling will not be permitted by the reclassification, areas outside of the water line extension will need approval prior to drilling new or replacement wells. Replacement wells have begun being drilled in the contaminated areas to access uncontaminated drinking water with success.

The reclassification petition has been drafted and DEC comments are currently being returned on the draft. A finalized draft will be presented for public comment, hopefully in the first six months of 2019 and the GWCC will be notified of the public comment period.

Vermont Groundwater Association (Well Drillers) Annual Meeting – March 1, 2019

Coming up in March – there are a number of topics from these GWCC meetings that should perhaps be brought to that group. Discussion by VDH on the new sampling requirements, DWGPD should discuss the Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy, changes to reclassification process, ANR atlas and associated app for reporting and the well drillers on-line report submittal form. DWGPD has an hour or so on the schedule to present at the meeting in Montpelier Capital Plaza.

PFAS MCLs

NH and NY have introduced MCLs for PFAS chemicals.

NH – Beginning public hearings in next few months, looking to finalize this summer, first contaminant with NH mcl (defer to federal for all others)

PFOA – 38 ppt; PFOS – 70 ppt; combined 70 ppt. PFHxS – 85 ppt; PFNA 23 ppt.

NY – PFOA 10 ppt; PFOS 10 ppt – going through similar process as NH, but sites program is adopting use of the numbers.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/media/pr/2019/2019-0102-pfas.htm>

https://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2018/2018-12-18_drinking_water_quality_council_recommendations.htm

Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy

Passed ICAR and public meeting dates have been established
January 28 – 2pm at the ANR Annex in Berlin

January 29 – 5 pm at the Essex Regional Office

February 4 – 4 pm at the Rutland Police Dept. Community Room

Written Comments can be sent to Scott Stewart with a deadline submittal date of February 11th.

Notes of Interest

American Institute of Professional Geologists National Conference – September 14-17 in Burlington: Geology in the Green Mountains: Scenic Beauty and Economic Engine

National Groundwater Association Conference on Fractured Rock and Groundwater – September 23-24 Call for papers currently in effect with a submission date of February 8

Next Meeting February 21st 1 pm at the ANR Annex