

## Notes from Groundwater Coordinating Committee - (2/17/11)

**Attendance:** Rodney Pingree(WSD), Michael Smith(WMD), Gail Center (DOH), Liz Royer(VRWA), Eric Hansen (VRWA), Don Robisky (FED), Jeff Fehrs (WWMD), Larry Becker (VGS), Kim Greenwood (VNRC), Carey Hengstenberg (WMD)- (Carey Hengstenberg – Minutes)

Meeting Purpose: Brainstorming agenda items, preliminarily prioritizing them, and potentially identifying people who will be responsible for coordinating them through the Committee

We reviewed previous brainstorming list from February 2009 – discussion focused on the top priorities from that list and included several new ideas.

Agenda items/activities for the GWCC for 2011 (not prioritized)

- 1) Develop a groundwater science website as a portal for information exchange**
  - Website could include a library with ANR publications and other technical references (ex. Contaminant studies such as arsenic).
  - GIS based application to search for groundwater information by town
  - There is an existing webpage on the Geologic Survey site – the idea is to expand/revise <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/geo/grndwaterinx.htm>

*Follow up: Michael and Larry to discuss before the next GWCC*

- 2) Committee could act as a technical resource for ANR staff or others working in groundwater field**
  - Example: Moretown landfill is applying for an expansion. There is naturally occurring manganese and arsenic in the bedrock aquifer above primary standards. What method should be used for determining background concentrations to determine compliance with the Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy? Should there be a guidance or procedure?

*Follow up: GWCC members will submit items for inclusion on the Agenda as they come up.*

- 3) Continue to learn about Geologic Survey projects and student College/University related to groundwater. Use the committee as a resource for project planning and to identify areas for research.** (note: this could apply to other programs working on research related to groundwater – Solid Waste, Sites, etc...).
- 4) Re-vive the annual report but make it a several page summary document that highlights new developments with groundwater. Use as an educational/outreach tool.**

- 5) **Committee (or some subcommittee) should be reviewing all ANR and possibly other state rules that permit activities that could impact groundwater to make sure the Groundwater Rule is correctly applied and that there is consistency among Rules.**
  - Example: Stormwater Rules have never been looked at by GWCC, recent revisions to Solid Waste Rules related to composting.
  - Apparently, this type of coordination occurred 20 years ago but may have degraded over the years.
  
- 6) **Discussion about Groundwater in the Public Trust**
  - What does it mean?
  - How does it influence Rules, permitting and policy?

*Follow up: Rodney will contact staff attorneys to attend GWCC meeting for discussion (Their availability possibly pending outcome of some current litigation)*
  
- 7) **Discuss proposed legislation and provide comments to the Secretary**
  - Example: S.77 - Bill requiring testing of private water supplies for real estate transactions; H.11 – disposal/collection of pharmaceuticals
  
- 8) **Advise the Secretary and Commissioner on groundwater issues**
  - Schedule a meeting with Commissioner Mears
  
- 9) **Reach out to other programs not regularly represented on the Committee**
  
- 10) **Revise the Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy**
  - Major revision
  - Updates of groundwater quality standards – possibly coordinate Health Department's current review of chemical health advisories.