

GWCC Meeting:

July 20, 2016

In attendance: Marjie Gale, Liz Royer, Jordyan Geller (intern), Darlene Autrey, Don Maynard, Linda Elliott, Lynda Provencher, Scott Stewart, Michael Smith, Kira Jacobs (call in)

First and Significantly, we learned the Gail Center will be retiring at the end of the week (officially August 1). This is a sad day for us and anyone who has worked with Gail (Scott started work with Gail at VDH over 27 years ago). There is unanimous respect for Gail and the huge amount of work she has done, her experience and input she has provided on various committees (plumbers board, Water Well Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, etc.), the “my water smells funny” expert, water supply design and treatment, etc. Her willingness to help, her professionalism, advice and overall knowledge will be sorely missed. We wish her well in what the future holds and at least a break from all the phone calls she used to take in a day!

- 1) Jordyn Geller, UVM Rubenstein School student was introduced as the Source Water Protection Intern working with VRWA (Liz Royer) and DWGWP (Rodney Pingree). She will be working with towns statewide to look at Town Plans and zoning for mention of Source Protection Areas, what Source related terms are used and our SPA layer on the ANR Atlas. She will also be looking to refine Dept of Housing and Urban Development lists, if Tier 2 Hazardous materials are stored and finding 5 plans to use as examples of GW protection. The result of the project will be a master sheet or list of findings.
- 2) **PFOA update:** Michael Smith
IBM used PFOA/S in their processing and sampling shows presence in the overburden/shallow materials. 2 bedrock wells just outside the mile investigation radius will be sampled. Other bedrock wells were non-detect.

Champlain Cable is being investigated but the area is underlain with lacustrine clay so impact to groundwater is not likely.

A site in Shelburne is being evaluated. EPA helped sample. 4-5 private wells were clean (non-detect).

The labs that analyze PFOA/S are swamped with samples, no in-state lab is available. There are wait times of 2 weeks to 2 months, luckily there are no hold times.

The Shaftsbury [landfill has been sampled, and has had a detection of 25ppt, so continued investigation within a 0.25 mi radius of the landfill is occurring. Other sites are being considered. ~~Ratti landfill and others will be evaluated/sampled.~~](#)

- 3) **Update on Sites Management rule-making (iRule)** – Linda Elliott and Lynda Provencher
The Investigation and Remediation of Contamination practice is going thru the rule-making process and the draft has had initial comments and now is being reviewed by Matt Chapman with late August expected for the next draft. Then it will be sent to VDH and agencies for review in mid-September and ICAR in November.

One of the changes is the home heating oil will not be on the state sites list (considered a spill instead – not an active Hazardous waste site) which should shorten the process. The Atlas layer will be modified (spill layer vs sites layer). The change is due to homeowner claims are draining the Petroleum Cleanup Fund (PCF), there is less clean up, the consultants can handle it, and there is less stigma on the homeowners.

- Site Activity Complete Letter (SMAC) requires notice in the land records.
- Background soil study conducted looking at urban vs non-urban levels of lead, arsenic and pH.
- Soil numbers are in the procedure – EPA regional screening levels have been used. VT Dept of Health is developing new soil numbers.

GWPRS: still on hold while “emergency” rule has been filed with ICAR (only to include the PFOA/S GW enforcement numbers). The rule committee will pick up the draft of the whole rule in August-September. The IROC will need to incorporate the various components from the GWPRS, so will follow in time.

4) **Overview of GW workshops with Regional Planning Commissions** – Liz Royer, Marje Gale, Kira Jacobs.

The “Fab Four” of Liz, Marje, Kira and Rodney got together a few years ago to look at topics such as promoting Class II areas (Brandon), coordination with Watershed Management, Source Protection Areas, and updating “An Ounce of Prevention” and “Protecting GW in Vermont”. From this they developed a plan for outreach to Towns and set up 4 workshops that included 9 out of 11 of the Regional Planning Commissions. They covered: VGS well locations, protecting areas of recharge, source protection, Federal perspective – sole source aquifer program, ASDWA, NRWA and American Planning Association.

Next steps: Set up workshops at 2 Vermont locations probably in October with EPA funding (funds need to be used by – date to be determined). Other topics may be Brownfields, Private Well Testing, State Revolving Loan Funds, how to develop a Source Protection Plan, Source Yield/allocation, Sole Source designations, (extension of) Public Water System service area. **Keep the ideas coming in to Rodney and Liz.**

5) **Well Driller Database upgrades** – Scott Stewart

Scott is in the initial stages of gathering input for upgrades to the Well Driller Database (110,000 Well completion reports). This is one of the foundational databases and ANR Atlas layers used but has limitations in data accuracy and access/export. There is significant use of the data by VGS (Geology), Waste Management Division, the public and consulting community. This ties in with a USGS Water Research Grant DWGWPD and VGS will be applying for, one aspect of which would be using interns to field locate known wells to be better locations statewide.

Some suggestions were working with WMD to get the well location data they have when site investigations area conducted and data from focused study areas Geology is working on (PFOA, nitrates, etc.). Another idea is a simple format for submittal of the Well Completion Reports (electronically since the drillers have accepted providing GPS data). N-forms could be looked at as one method, the UIC program is re-evaluating floor drain registration and well locations (GPS?) could be added.

Please send any suggestions for improvements to Scott.

6) **USGS Report on Potential Corrosivity of Untreated GW in the US** – Scott Stewart

With minimal fan-fare and almost no notice, USGS presented this study on corrosivity of groundwater, with Vermont being “high prevalence” next to the other NE state being “very high prevalence”. This hasn’t seemed to make any sort of splash in the media or any calls to DWGWPD. Scott suggested that this would be another concern and reason for private well testing. Corrosive water can leach out lead and copper. There is a well-established EPA/DWGWPD program for pb/cu testing for public systems but not for non-publics.

If you have any agenda topics for upcoming meetings, please send them to Scott or Kasey.

NEXT MEETINGS: For those that regularly can’t make the Thursday meeting due to scheduling conflicts, we will try to hold occasional Wednesday or Friday meetings.

THURSDAY August 25, 1pm at the Annex

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