

February 15, 2018
GWCC Meeting

In Attendance: Colin Dewey, Meddie Perry, Sille Larsen, Patti Casey, Jon Kim, Rodney Pingree, Marjie Gale, Zeno Levy, Robert Pelosi, Shaun Felder, Scott Stewart, Kasey Kathan

Organization of the GWCC

In order to better define the role and functioning of the GWCC members, a set of by-laws is being drafted. The goal of these bylaws is to better define the process by which a formal recommendation would be made to the Agency. The draft will be circulated to the whole group for comment prior to finalization.

Groundwater Awareness Week

National Groundwater Association has announced National Groundwater Awareness Week to be March 11-17. They have some resources available ([here](#)) on the messaging of Test. Tend. Treat.

Action: SS Coordinating with Agency Director of Communications and Outreach: Elle O'Casey on promoting groundwater topics during this week and press release for GW Management Plan.

Discussion of Implementation Plans

General – need to better address funding aspect (expectation, reality, needs) within the implementation plans. Current plans would be for full funding scenarios (which is unlikely). Recommended to have some narrative discussion on what the return on investment is with anticipated associated costs

Task 2 –

- a) Sille: working on developing a USGS and EPA funded project to support private well sampling in the NEK. Source of funding would be CDC funds that must target protection of vulnerable populations and users. DOH has a vulnerability study that would support the NEK and private well testing being considered for use of these funds. Project is in preliminary stages but may be worth mentioning in this task as a potential additional study.

Action: add a line item for this study/type of work

- b) Jon and Sille: have been contacted regarding a student project out of Johnson State. Project would be water quality oriented, but GIS based. Potentially looking at gross-alpha, uranium and radon concentration and correlating those to radon in air levels (still determining scope).

Action: add some discuss/exploration of ways to leverage university and college students within the state to support projects within the management plan

- c) Nitrates – discussion of how incorporation of nitrate considerations into source protection plans could continue to protect individual homeowner information
 - a. Ability to show general areas of concern, separate from the SPAs
 - b. General promotion of testing and treatment methods – the goal of incorporation into SPAs could be to get more testing completed
 - c. General consideration of land use activities within the SPA
 - d. In writing SPAs ability to query database for sampling that has already occurred for an established public water system is one of the primary sources of information – it might be good to incorporate any other surrounding area data. DOH may have data available that would be shareable

Action: explore potential approaches for data sharing with DOH

- d) Legislative action on private well testing – bill has been proposed that is essentially the same bill as last year – DWGPD has testified. There’s also a biosolid committee that is looking at a broader theme as a group on testing

Task 3 –

- a) Determining sources of available data

Action: explore potential MOU development between DEC and DOH for data sharing

- b) GW interference database – summarized history 30-40 new permits are in the process of being added
- c) Well Drillers Database/Well completion reports – USGS grant work by Colin has started this, getting around 50% of well locations verified (Lamoille, Orange and Washington County). Changes made are reflected on the atlas and VCGI open data portal
- d) Long-term monitoring network – also is being considered in the state hazard mitigation plan for drought management, should maybe have some climate change language incorporated

Action: confirm that this is discussed in the GW Management Plan

Task 4 –

- a) Ensure that language identifies currently funded vs. potentially funded
- b) Statewide recharge rate and area – would be the ultimate goal of the water use work and timeline should reflect this order of completion
- c) Ecosystems Impact – consideration of ecosystem impact may be missing from the mapping work/discussion – interference questions should also address baseflow
- d) Drought Reporter – drought reporter page was publicized during the drought, but doesn’t get maintained in the long-term and there isn’t any long-term tracking.
 - a. Information of funding available for well replacement/repair should also be publicized
 - b. If old data is still available it should be compiled to evaluate potential susceptibility. Jerett or Nate from DOH may have worked with the data

Action: Sille in work on drinking water websites will look into linking this data

Upcoming Meeting Topics

Suggestions – March Class II procedures

April: Stormwater and Groundwater – FED looking at green stormwater infrastructure projects and the need to consider environmental impact from such projects – look at H.777 (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.777>). The bill passed out of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions at cross-over and will continue to move forward

Other

Sille – had inquiry on the use of crushed ledge used in dug well design elevating iron and manganese – generally may need to consider updating guidelines/bmps to describe this risk