

GWCC Meeting: March 22, 2018

In Attendance: Scott Stewart, Zeno Levy, Marjie Gale, Patti Casey, Mary Clark, Robert Pelosi, David Wilcox, Kasey Kathan

Guest Speaker: Padaric Monks, Stormwater Program

Welcome -

David Wilcox – representing FPR on the GWCC

David works as the watershed forester for FPR and while he's relatively new to this position, he formerly worked as a Forester out of Barre.

Mary Clark – The Program Manager of the Indirect Discharge Program and Underground Injection Control Program

Stormwater – Green Infrastructure

H.777 – has moved from the House to the Senate (statement of purpose below) and has spurred the desire to discuss the types of natural resource projects that might be considered under this legislative change and what considerations may need to be made regarding groundwater in these decisions

H.777 - Statement of purpose of bill as introduced:

This bill proposes to amend the criteria for loans from the Vermont Environmental Protection Agency Pollution Control Revolving Fund and the Vermont Pollution Control Revolving Fund (SRF Funds) for the capital costs of clean water projects. The bill would define "clean water projects" as water pollution abatement and control facilities and natural resources projects that are needed for the prevention, management, treatment, storage, or disposal of stormwater, sewage, or waste. The bill would also establish a program to provide loans from the SRF Funds to private entities for the capital costs of clean water projects. The bill would establish conditions, eligibility, and priorities for loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for the capital costs of private clean water projects.

Padaric – Provided overview of gray stormwater (catchbasins, pipes – move water away) vs. green infrastructure (infiltrate – replicate naturally occurring processes)

Stormwater permits discharges from impervious surface designed in compliance with the stormwater manual. Stormwater manual was updated in 2017 with better incorporation of green stormwater practices. Stormwater rules are currently under revision, but there's not significant technical practice changes proposed within the rule. Less than 10% of all impervious surfaces within the state are under a permit currently. For the protection of groundwater, the stormwater manual does identify setbacks and hotspot locations (infiltration not permitted).

Discussion –

Does the stormwater manual consider areas of identified groundwater contamination? Not directly. Infiltration wouldn't be permitted on a contaminated site, but there currently isn't consideration/identification of adjacent properties that may be identified as contaminated sites or the impacts of increased recharge around these areas. If H.777 were to move forward, existing sites would be identified as part of the NEPA review.

Use of the ANR Atlas in Permitting Decisions – May be beneficial to consider having a 'permitting' layer on the Atlas which would turn on all layers that would be required for site map for any permitting decision

Green Infrastructure Maintenance – Going to have to be built in to approvals, maintenance is needed to prevent failure

Class I and II

See attached powerpoint slides

Zeno provided an overview of the history of Class I/II groundwater and the differences between SPAs and reclassifications (existing vs. future)

Reclassification may be most useful for – areas with multiple municipal boundaries, ability to provide some potential cost savings in allowing phased development of a supply

There currently is some interest in Weathersfield in potential reclassification

Road Salt

Webinar – Originally forwarded to the group by Jon Armstrong – Recorded Version Here: [How State Highway and Drinking Water Programs Can Work Together for Mutual Benefits and Reduce Impacts from Road Salt](#)

Overview of how New Hampshire and Maryland have approached drinking water protection and road salt application. Approaches discussed included source protection measure and MS4 permits.

Vermont's multisector general roads permit now has required hydrologically connected roads to be mapped on the ANR Atlas – there may be some opportunity there for groundwater considerations.

Microplastics and Pharmaceuticals

In reviewing the Groundwater Management Plan DEC's Commissioner commented that consideration of microplastics and pharmaceuticals would be useful, at a minimum to maintain consistency with the messaging on surface waters. Discussion – no need to specifically focus on these potential contaminants, general work on emerging contaminants for the group to consider:

[Barnstable County Dept. of Health and Environment: White Paper: Contaminants of Emerging Concern from Onsite Septic Systems](#)

Toxic Chemical Legislative Report, 2017: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/2017-1-13-FINAL-Act-154-Legislative-Report-and-Appendices.pdf>

DEC Watershed Management Plan for Toxic Substances and Chemicals of Emerging Concern: http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/documents/wsmd_swms_StressorPlan_Toxics.pdf

Upcoming Topics?

Comment Period on pollutant discharges from point sources that reach surface waters via groundwater – see Clean Water Act Coverage of “Discharges of Pollutants” via Direct Hydrologic Connection to Surface Water https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-02/documents/direct_hydrologic_connection_frn_signed_20180212.pdf

Next Meeting: May 3rd, Montpelier Room, Davis 1 National Life