

02/20/2020

Groundwater Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Rodney Pingree, Jon Kim, Silje Larsen, Patti Casey, Julia Boyles, Marjie Gale, Diana Butler, Nathan Kie, Laura Ranker, Kasey Kathan, Scott Stewart
(Skype/phone) – Ben Copans, Mark Johnson, Angela Shambaugh, Miles Waite, Joe Buford
(speaker) – Marcel Belaval

A) Talk and Discussion: Down and Out: Hydrogeology and Nitrogen Transport on Cape Cod, MA

Marcel Belaval, Hydrologist from the Water Division of EPA Region 1, graciously presented on work that has been completed evaluating nitrogen transportation by groundwater that contributes to nitrogen impairment within the bays. The primary source of the nitrogen loading is attributed to septic systems. Work was presented on three main areas of research: 1) baseline groundwater monitoring for nitrogen, CECs and other indicator parameters prior to a neighborhood sewer connection being established; 2) an assessment of permeable reactive barriers; and 3) mapping of groundwater seeps to identify sources areas within watershed to prioritize for nitrogen reduction.

B) Source Protection Collaboration between NRCS and VRWA

Diana Butler walked through the collaborative process NRCS and VRWA have been involved in to identify priority areas where NRCS can work to address source water protection challenges associated with agricultural land uses. This is in pursuit of utilizing funding from the 2018 Farm bill dedicated for source protection.

For those interested in this work, there is an upcoming meeting March 19th that will discuss this topic at the regional level – fly attached to these minutes.

Other Notes of Interest:

Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Montreal -- October 2020

The call for session proposals just passed – Jon Kim put in a proposal for a session on PFAS fate and transport and Silje knows of a proposal for a session addressing concern/ for manmade contaminants vs. naturally occurring contaminants.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2020 1pm, ANR Annex

2018 Farm Bill and Source Water Protection

Hosted by American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA)-a Section of AWWA

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (lunch will be provided)

March 19, 2020

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH

The American Water Works Association is hosting a meeting to bring together partners in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Participants will include representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, both the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), as well as water utilities, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state drinking water programs, conservation districts, and other entities.

The 2018 Farm Bill has a focus on source water protection. This a great opportunity to form new partnerships to address source water protection challenges associated with agriculture and forestry practices. New England states are leaders in source water protection. The meeting will focus on how partners have been collaborating with each other, with a specific emphasis on understanding how NRCS programs can help protect drinking water supplies.

Speakers will offer advice on how they have implemented projects on the ground. The meeting will include an overview of success stories in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Examples include collaborating on watershed protection, the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), and Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) projects.



Photo courtesy of Manchester Water Works

The meeting will include presentations describing the structure of NRCS, an overview of NRCS programs, and facilitated discussions. Attendees will learn how to work with NRCS and other partners to utilize Farm Bill funds to protect sources of drinking water.

Goals for the meeting:

- Highlight how partners have worked with NRCS in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine to promote source water protection
- Provide a roadmap for how to identify opportunities to work together
- Educate water suppliers about NRCS programs that can help protect their water supplies

Speakers will include:

- Rick Knowlton, President, Maine Water Company
- Laurel Jackson, Water Resources Specialist, Portland Water District
- Juan Hernandez, Maine State Conservationist, USDA NRCS
- Vicky Drew, Vermont State Conservationist, USDA NRCS
- Rick Ellsmore, NH State Conservationist, USDA NRCS
- Karl Honkonen, Watershed Forester, USFS, State & Private Forestry
- Liz Royer, Executive Director, Vermont Rural Water Association

For more information, please contact:

Kira Jacobs, Drinking Water Program, EPA Region 1 (617) 918-1817, jacobs.kira@epa.gov

Chi Ho Sham, Eastern Research Group, Inc. and AWWA Technical & Educational Council and Board of Directors (781) 674-7358 or (617) 347-3639, ChiHo.Sham@erg.com

Kirsten King, New England Water Works Association (508) 893-7979, kirsten@NEWWA.org

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Register at newwa.org under “Training & Certification – Upcoming Courses & Events,” or fill out the below and return via email to **Mary Keating** at mkeating@newwa.org or fax to **(508) 893-9898**:

Name(s): _____

Company/Organization/System name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

[] Check here if you have a disability and require accommodations to fully participate. 