

CITIZENS (WOOD COUNTY) GROUNDWATER GROUP MEETING

DATE: Monday, May 17, 2021
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Teleconference via WebEx

Present: Caleb Armstrong, Ray Bossert, Rhonda Carrell, Bill Clendenning, Bruce Dimick, John Endrizzi, Gordon Gottbeheit, Russ Groves, Tamas Houlihan, Ben Jeffrey, Kim Keech, Julianna Kollross, Klayton Kree, Dustin Ladd, Bill Leichtnam, Matt Lippert, Jen McNelly, Michael Tiboris, Gregg Wavrunek, Rachael Whitehair, Shane Wucherpennig, Tim Wuebben and Don Ystad.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Bill Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Shane Wucherpennig mentioned that they were encouraged by the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Director to reach out to the Joint Finance Committee for the Governor to encourage that committee to vote in favor of the additional funding for the County Conservation offices. A letter was drafted to support conservation funding and water quality funding proposals to the Joint Finance Committee. The Governor has included parts of what used to be the “13 water bills” in the proposed budget. The Conservation, Education and Economic Development Committee will review the letter on Tuesday, May18th @ 9:00 a.m.

UPDATE: *Conservation, Education and Economic Development Committee approved 5-1 the support letter to encourage conservation and water quality funding proposals to the Joint Finance Committee.*

3. **Speaker – Dr. Russ Groves, Entomologist, UW-Madison; “Neonicotinoids”**
Dr. Russ Groves is a Professor, Extension Specialist and Department Chair with UW Madison Entomology Department.

Highlights of “Neonicotinoids” presentation:

- What are neonicotinoid insecticides? Developed in early 90’s as a safer alternative to older, toxic insecticides. Applied as a seed coat, soil drench or foliar application. Water soluble. Makes up 25% of the global pesticide market.
- Neonicotinoid detection is widespread.
- Groundwater contamination susceptibility published in 1987 by DNR, USGS, Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey and UW Madison. Contamination susceptibility + neonicotinoids applications = groundwater detections
- Summary of well detections: 69% above limit quantification. Mean: 0.221-0.375 ppb. Maximum: 1.69 ppb. Most samples very low (6 samples above 1.0 ppb). Seasonal fluctuations in thiamethoxam detections. Region and Farm: Significant differences in means.
- What might help explain the high variation observed within and between wells? Characteristics of the individual wells (depth, age). Neonicotinoid inputs and agricultural intensity (crops). Leaching rate and groundwater flow paths.
- Are associated streams susceptible to contamination? Sandy, fast-draining soils. Unconfined aquifers close to surface. These aquifers also feed surface water systems.
- Pilot Study (2017-2020): Sample sites along Wisconsin River Watershed. Includes Ten Mile Creek, Fourteen Mile Creek, Four Mile Creek, Big Roche-a-Cri and Little Roche-a-Cri. Found Thiamethoxam and Imidacloprid detections.
- Leola Ditch (2020-2021): Neonicotinoid sampling at a spatial scale within Fourteen Mile Creek. 10-15 sampling sites around 3.5 miles. Sampling surface and groundwater monthly. Identify small scale fluctuations. Analyze stream chemistry and identify neonics entering streams.
- Proposed NR140 – Cycle 10: Focus is on preventative action limit measures versus enforcement standards.
- Where do we go from here?
Bio rational Insecticides: <https://www.openpr.com/news/2170008/global-biorational-insecticides-market-2020-forecast-to-2028>

Precision Farming: <https://www.ingenia.org.uk/Ingenia/Articles/83bfc7e2-3a34-4a97-ad26-5986cedd39a0>

- Options in Agriculture – Next Steps: Advance and potential new type of biotechnology products. Risk analysis system for biotechnology products. Risk relative to existing products and organisms. Scientific capabilities, tools, and expertise critical for regulatory agencies to support oversight of potential future products of biotechnology. Future Biotechnology Products and Opportunities to Enhance Capabilities of the Biotechnology Regulatory System: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/future-biotechnology-products-and-opportunities-to-enhance-capabilities-of-the-biotechnology-regulatory-system>

Discussion followed.

4. **Correspondence/Updates/Handouts/Reports:**

Bill Clendenning shared that any resolutions for the Wisconsin Counties Association State Conference are due to the Judicial & Legislative Committee by June 27th.

5. **Action Items proposed by Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group** None.

6. **Roundtable**

- A. Don Ystad – Shared that the 14 Mile Watershed rewrote their goals to be better aligned with the Nine Key Element Watershed Plan. The group was primarily a lakes group but wanted to be inclusive by reaching out to all stakeholders upstream along the watershed which is mainly agriculture producers. Group name is now known as 14 Mile Watershed Alliance. IRS approval as a 501c3 for non-profit status. New status allows for more funding opportunities. Nine Key Element Watershed Plan is a 10 year plan. Name change assures the groups existence during the Nine Key Element Watershed Plan.
- B. Bill Clendenning – Don Ystad is the contact person for the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance. The 501c3 status of the organization is a benefit.
- C. Tamas Houlihan – Don Ystad gave a presentation and update of the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance at the Water Task Force meeting of the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association. 14 Mile Watershed Alliance is inclusive and building relationships with neighbors.
- D. Don Ystad – John Endrizzi was one of the original founders of the 14 Mile Watershed and instrumental in water testing. The group is not a one man show but a group of 6-8 people who have put the effort into the program.

7. **Announcements of members / visitors (upcoming parallel events / meetings)**

Joint meeting of the Portage County Land & Water Conservation Committee and Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee Thursday, June 3rd @ 6:00 p.m. Conference Rooms 1 & 2 @ 1462 Strongs Avenue, Courthouse Annex, Stevens Point. Speakers: John Exo and Chris Clayton to discuss NR151 changes.

Wisconsin Gannett article “Farmers Pioneer Innovative Practices” published on May 12, 2021. Highlighted Fond du Lac County and Outagamie County.

Wisconsin Gannett article “Study finds state lakes data on algae blooms” published on May 10, 2021. Discussed algae blooms on Wisconsin 15,000 lakes.

8. **Future Speakers:** June - Scott Provost, “Neonicotinoids”

9. **Agenda Items for next meeting** Agenda items should be submitted to Bill Leichtnam or Kim Keech by the second Monday of the month.

10. **Next Meeting** Monday, June 21st, 2:00 p.m. (VIRTUAL)

11. **Adjourn Groundwater Group Meeting** Chair Bill Leichtnam adjourned @ 3:22 p.m.

Notes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office