



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUNDWATER (ICCG) MEETING MINUTES

April 28th, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Mississippi River Conference Room. Rick Cobb chaired the meeting of the ICCG for Marcia Willhite. Rick welcomed everyone and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. The following were in attendance:

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| Bill Compton | Groveland Township Water District |
| Jami Tosetti | IDPH (for Jerry Dalsin) |
| Bob Kohlhasse | Farnsworth Group |
| Jack Norman | Kaskaskia Group of the Sierra Club |
| Allen Wehrmann | ISWS/University of Illinois |
| Don Keefer | ISGS/ University of Illinois |
| Steven Gobelman | IDOT |
| Doug Yeskis | USGS |
| Evelyn Neavear | Tazewell Co. Health - Environmental Health |
| Mark Mitchell | IRWA |
| C. Pius Weibel | ISGS/ University of Illinois |
| Scott Fowler | IDNR - OMM/LRD |
| Dan Wheeler | DCEO - OCD |
| Todd Rettig | IDNR - OREP |
| Frank Pisani | IDNR - Office of Water Resources (for Arlan Juhl) |
| Dan Horvath | N.E. Groundwater Committee |
| Rick Cobb | IEPA/ Groundwater Section |
| Anthony Dulka | IEPA/ Groundwater Section |
| Ed Wagner | IEPA/ Groundwater Section |
| Joe Konczyk | IEPA/ Groundwater Section |

The following ICCG representatives were not in attendance:

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| Marcia Willhite | Illinois EPA |
| Paul McNamara | Southwest IL Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission/GAC |
| Vickie Broomhead | IDNR/OMM/LRD |
| Shelly Bradley | OSFM |
| Gary McCandless | IEMA/DNS |
| Warren Goetsch | IDA |

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Approval of the February 24th, 2011 Minutes

Rick Cobb called for a review of the minutes from the February meeting. On the attendance list, Dan Wheeler is from DCEO, not DECO. Under the Round Robin section, the ISGS update was incorrectly titled "USGS." Rick asked for a motion to approve the minutes, with corrections. The motion was made by Scott Fowler and seconded by Doug Yeskis. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Reports and Updates

Round Robin

IDPH - Legislative updates - Jamie Tosetti reported that House Bill 308 has been passed by the house and gone on to the Senate. Further, Senate Bill 1682 has passed and is in the House right now. The Bills set up a Licensing Board and a fee program for geothermal well installation. It also includes an installation tracking system, through permitting.

Jamie also reported that IDPH is also working on their Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) system, updating to the current version. Additionally, Jerry Dalsin is planning on retiring at the end of the year.

USGS - Doug Yeskis stated that they had nothing new to report at this time.

IDNR - OWR - Frank Pisani reported that they are overloaded right now with flooding issues, especially in southern Illinois - hence the reason that he is stepping in for Arlan Juhl today.

IDNR - OMM/LRD - Scott Fowler reported that the underground injection at the Shay mine is in the application phase, having been returned for being incomplete. They are planning on injecting fine refuse slurry into abandoned mines at depth, below potable water resources in the area. The slurry water would be recycled, leaving behind only the solid material in the shafts.

ISGS - Don Keefer reported that they have done some reorganization and he will be replacing Dave Larson as the ISGS representative. The Delta Institute in conjunction with McHenry County will be sponsoring a one-day workshop next Wednesday on sustainable water management at the local level, and then Friday the Delta Institute is sponsoring a workshop with CMAP with similar issues but focusing on regional issues. The Survey is actively involved in mapping with McHenry and Lake Counties. They are doing some 3-D mapping to locate aquifer/ non-aquifer distributions for flow modeling in McHenry County.

Rick Cobb stated that the IEPA has done modeling around McCullom Lake, with the UL private residential sampling data. There is a lawsuit that is ongoing regarding brain cancer rates. No distinct plume geometry was found.

Sierra Club - Jack Norman reported that there is a draft guidance on the Clean Water Act definition of "waters of the United States," and it is out for comment now.

IDOT - Regarding the disposal of clean fill, Steve Gobelman reported that the IEPA is reviewing comments from all the users and will have new revised Part 1100 regulations out for comment at the end of this month.

IEPA - Rick Cobb reported that 2011 is a reporting year and that we should be looking at our respective sections for the Biennial Report. Also, the IEPA has received applications for a new set of Class III groundwater designations, with six locations all together. We also have an on-going case with Bluff City Materials, within the Bluff City Fen, regarding an uncovered pile of salt.

Additionally, the Fayette Water Company maximum setback zone proposal has been submitted to the Pollution Control Board. In regional news, the Central and Northern Regional Committees are celebrating their 20th anniversaries.

Central Region Groundwater Planning Committee

Due to an increasing trend in chloride concentrations, McHenry Co. started a snow and ice operators conference. The Central Committee is in the process of starting a similar program for the 4-county area of Tazewell, Woodford, Mason, and Peoria. The next meeting of the workgroup is May 6th. The IEPA would like to see something like this developed in each of the groundwater regions, and the IEPA would support it with the money provided to the Committees.

Mark Mitchell reported that the IRWA had Cassandra McKinney give her presentation at a source water planning meeting in Freeport, IL. Most of the participants “wear multiple hats” and do the water system, wastewater, streets, etc. Mark said that it does “create discussion” among public works people.

Eveleyn Neavar stated that this first workshop will be a learning experience. The main targeted audience is the commercial operations, such as parking lots. A lot of these people are landscapers, farmers, etc., so the workshop is planned for October - after the harvest, but before the snow flies.

Rick reported that the Illinois section of the AWWA does have a source water protection committee. They could include this as one of their educational activities.

Guests and Presentations

Water Supply Planning Committee

In 2009 the DNR initiated its third water supply planning area as the Kaskaskia River Basin. Gary Clark, retired now, worked with the coal section at DCEO and then worked with the Illinois Clean Coal Institute of Southern Illinois to get grant money. The angle used was that the Kaskaskia Basin has potential for coal development. The Water Survey was provided with funds to start the supply study. DNR chose the Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation District to serve as the lead entity to form the Committee. The first meeting was last December, with several meetings since then.

The Kaskaskia was not only chosen because of the coal potential, but also because it is one of the most managed basins in the State, with two lakes, locks and dams, water supplies, and other managed projects. The study area is larger than the basin extents because of the management complexities. The project will run at least through 2012.

IEPA Projects

Ed Wagner reported that one of the Groundwater Section's interns created a series of four posters with maps of well and aquifer data within each of the Priority Groundwater Regions. The original maps were about 15 years old. The maps contain a main map with all the infrastructure, well locations, and wellhead protection zones and a region location map. Four additional maps are also on it. The first inset map is land use/ land cover to show what kinds of activities are going on in the region. The second map has potential for aquifer recharge and the main types of aquifers - sand and gravel, shallow bedrock, and deep bedrock. The third map has the well density per township, which includes private and community wells. The fourth map shows the locations of the non-community wells. All the maps have the municipal boundaries on them, for a frame of reference. The Northern and Central maps are pretty much done, with a few tweaks to be done to the other two.

Every two years the IEPA groundwater Section runs a fixed station Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Network. This consists of 350 community wells around the state. In the interim years we come up with other programs, such as SOC or new wells networks. This year we are picking up new wells as well as a Trend Wells Monitoring Network. It consists of three subsets of Ambient wells, being monitored for chlorides - NE Illinois only, nitrates - statewide, and those in the Mahomet Aquifer - central-eastern Illinois.

These wells are being sampled every two months. On the Mahomet network, Alan Fuhrmann worked with Allen Wehrman to pick those wells. Selection issues included field conditions (seasonal accessibility), facility conditions, and the supply's personnel availability. The nitrate wells were picked for the presences of nitrates, local conditions (depth, geologic susceptibility) and the pattern of dispersal, which sometimes resulted in wells with lower levels being selected to get that spatial coverage. The chloride wells were sampled for similar reasons, choosing ones with elevated concentrations of chlorides (above background.) Water level data is also being collected when possible, especially on the Mahomet wells. Inorganic samples only are being collected.

Doug Yeskis reported that the USGS has been in a project with McHenry County for real-timing of 41 wells, collecting water level readings every 15 minutes. Some of the wells are also going to be monitored for conductivity, indicating seasonal changes in chloride levels.

Rick Cobb thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM.

GAC Meeting

The GAC meeting was postponed until July 28th.