



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR

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## INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUNDWATER (ICCG) MEETING MINUTES

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Mississippi River Conference Room. Marcia Willhite chaired the meeting of the ICCG and asked for introductions. The following were in attendance or on phone conference:

Rick Cobb	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Bill Compton	Groveland Township Water Department
Marcia Willhite	IEPA/ BOW Chief
Jack Norman	Kaskaskia Group of the Sierra Club
Bob Kohlhasse	Farnsworth Group
Susan Barron	IDOA
George Czapar	ISWS/University of Illinois
Kelly Warner	USGS
Jerry Dalsin	IDPH
C. Pius Weibel	ISGS/ University of Illinois
Vickie Broomhead	IDNR/OMM/LRD
Tammy Yasar	IDNR/OMM/LRD
Evelyn Neavear	Tazewell Co. Health - Environmental Health
John Liberg	IAGP/GAC
Gary R. Clark	IDNR/Water Resources
Dan Wheeler	DCEO - OCD
Don Keefer	ISGS/ University of Illinois
Allen Wehrmann	ISWS/University of Illinois
Bill Buscher	IEPA
Anthony Dulka	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Ed Wagner	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Steven Gobelman	IDOT
Mark Mitchell	IRWA
Paul McNamara	Southwest IL Metropolitan and Regional Planning
Cassandra McKinney	McHenry County
William H. Olthoff	Agriculture

The following ICCG representatives were not in attendance:

Shelly Bradley	OSFM
Warren Goetsch	IDA
Dave Johnson	IDPH
Richard Rice	ISGS
Arlan Juhl	IDNR/Water Resources
Gary McCandless	IEMA/DNS

## Approval of the July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Minutes

Bill Compton announced that there will be no separate GAC meeting and that it would be incorporated into the ICCG meeting. Marcia Willhite called for a review of the minutes from the July meeting. There were no corrections. Marcia asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Al Wehrmann made the motion and Jerry Dalsin seconded it. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Marcia recognized Jerry Dalsin and Al Wehrmann for their years of service to the Committee and their respective organizations and presented them with plaques. Al and Jerry had a few parting words, thanking the Committee and the members for the opportunity to work with them.

## Reports and Updates

### Round Robin

**USGS** - Kelly Warner reported that the USGS is getting ready to publish a large regional circular on chloride, arsenic, manganese, nitrate, pesticides, major ions, uranium, and radon. Complimentary copies are available if anyone wants one because one of those is your area of interest.

**IDPH** - Jerry Dalsin reported that House Bill 0308 was passed August 16<sup>th</sup>, and became Public Act 97-0363. The six members for the Contractor Certification Board have been appointed in October, with the first meeting scheduled to be December 8<sup>th</sup>. IDPH has completed draft changes to the Illinois Water Well Construction Code, mainly pertaining to the registration of closed-loop contractors and permitting the closed-loop systems. IDPH and the new Board are reviewing the draft and hope to get it passed and the registration/ permitting process in place by August of 2012.

Jerry Dalsin later announced that Dave Johnson will be his replacement. He also noted that the following people from local health departments are assisting IDPH with the new geothermal codes: Evelyn Neavear from Tazewell County, Tom Anderson from McLean County, and Donny Simmons from Livingston County. IDPH would like to get input from the local health departments.

**Central Regional Groundwater Committee (CRGC)** - the next meeting will be December 1<sup>st</sup> at TCHD. There were 90 participants at the Snow and Ice conference on October 28<sup>th</sup>. It was a huge success. About a third were IDOT staff. There was no private business representatives there, only municipalities, highway departments and state employees. Certificates are going out this week. Marcia commented that this is very important and that these workshops need to continue because of the impact on the surface water and groundwater of our state.

**Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals** - John Liberg followed up Jerry Dalsin's report and stated that the IAGP worked tirelessly and spent thousands of dollars on trying to get the geothermal bill passed. A similar bill passed in Iowa as well, which is a hotbed of geothermal wells. Geothermal installers now have to come up to the same level as the water well contractors. Jerry Dalsin noted that water well drillers are already licensed and thus don't have to take the examination.

**DCEO/OCD** - Dan Wheeler reported that they commissioned a study for Bob Mosher at IEPA. There has been an issue with some of the environmental groups regarding metals and the issuing of coal mine NPDES permits. The first workgroup meeting was yesterday. The study is looking at arsenic, zinc, mercury and selenium. They hope to have a report ready in the next 8 months and that Bob can take it to public meetings and hearings for support documentation.

**ISWS** - Al Wehrmann reported that Walt Kelly will be taking over interim Director of the Center for Groundwater Science. ISWS is finished up several reports for Kendall County, East-Central Illinois, and Northeast Illinois. They will be published before the end of the calendar year.

**ISGS** - Don Keefer reported that they are working on a project with Cassandra McKinney in McHenry County and one in Lake County. They have a long term project in McHenry county, through the USGS Great Lakes Geologic Mapping Coalition. Also, the CO2 sequestration project started up last week, but they had some technical problems. Lastly, the "Geology of Illinois" book is now available on-line.

**IEPA** - Ed Wagner attended the Snow and Ice Conference and brought the folder of materials used, to pass around the room. There was some interest in portions of it, which were copied and distributed afterwards to several interested parties. Even though there were no private operators there, it was a real eye-opener for the municipal, county, and state attendees.

**IEPA** - Rick Cobb reported that the Pollution Control Board (Board) went to first notice on the amendments to the groundwater quality standards. There are 39 new chemicals proposed and one of the objectives is to improve protection for community wells. We incorporated the wellhead protection area/ recharge area in the compliance point determination section. The purpose of this is expand the zone which would have to meet a higher set of cleanup standards. IEPA has completed our technical review process and is sending in a proposal to designate six more Class III groundwater areas to the Board. We have. The salt pile issue within the Bluff Springs Fen Class III groundwater area has been removed, per a Section 43 enforcement referral. There was impacts above background levels. A fine was issued.

## Guests and Presentations

### IGPA Update

A copy of the draft IGPA recommendations was sent around and a few minutes were taken to review amendments or additions. Some items were previously mentioned from before, like source water protection workshops. New items are being updated such as the Source Water Assessments with "Right to Know" and Groundwater rule evaluations.

IEPA is working with USGS on a proposal with USEPA for a Chromium-6 monitoring network, under the "Emerging Contaminants" section. The subset of fixed network wells being used for the chromium 6 study is the same subset that were sampled for pesticide break-down products. The USGS proposal also includes the development of a statistically based network of intakes for surface water where chromium-6 could be sampled. The random selection is by stratified different types of reservoirs. The USGS compiled a draft and a proposal will be put together to send to USEPA.

Currently, in conjunction with USEPA, sampling is being done for Perflourinated Compounds (PFCs) in groundwater. They have been detected near Cordova (PFC's). We want confirmation

on those samples first though. Minnesota has done sampling for PFC's and published on their Website. The Surface Water Section also working with USEPA to sample surface water. In the recommendation section of the proposal, it was recommended that chromium-6 be specifically mentioned.

Also, Tim Loftus and CMPA is integrating groundwater into watershed plans in Northeastern Illinois.

The time frame for providing IGPA recommendations is December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Recommendations can come to Rick, Ed, Bill or Anthony.

Several committee members wanted to know the origins of PFC's. PFC's are used in Teflon manufactures and some compounds that are used for de-greasing operations. They may be released as a result of that. In Minnesota metal plating operations are associated with the solvents, and were primarily associated with 3M and Teflon. A 3M plant in Cordova had very high PFC contamination concentrations. The Community Water Supply (CWS) wells that were sampled are upstream from this plant. Moreover, there were no detections in the Mississippi River upstream from the CWS wells sampled. There are some potential plating job shops in wellhead protection areas though. In Minnesota, certain PFC concentrations were contributed to landfills, while in rural areas it may be coming from precipitation. USEPA is conducting the PFC analysis of this study. Minnesota is the only state with a health-based level; there is no federal standard. It is both a surface water and groundwater issue.

The question was raised whether PFC's are on the 39 chemicals being added to the list for the new groundwater standards. They were not because the proposal for the 39 contaminants was submitted to the Board in 2008 and this was before we were evaluating PFCs. Many states are trying to gather information and are exploring levels to develop standards in surface and groundwater.

It is emphasized that comments on IGPA need to be forwarded by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Regional Water Supply Planning Update**

Gary Clark reported that the regional water supply process continues. The efforts are on the third basin, the Kaskaskia Basin. Staff from the Southwestern RC&D has started to draft the report that ties water demand numbers into supply numbers. The models are scheduled for February and March. This will address future demands in the basin. Many committee members are moving up the learning curve.

### **McHenry County Update**

On October 18, 2011, the Water Resource Action Plan was adopted in McHenry County and is currently in the process of being implemented. Seventeen of thirty municipalities have also adopted the plan and are working on implementation sections of the plan that as they apply to them. Crystal Lake and Algonquin are the furthest along in the implementation of the plan. The Winter Snow and Ice Workshops portion of the plan was emphasized within the plan; for training and certification purposes. Over-salting on commercial lots by contractors was of great concern in McHenry County, in which a regulation implementation was recommended to minimize the over-use of chlorides for de-icing. Also, there have been several wells that have become

contaminated and unable to be used for private water supplies due to improper salt storage. Chloride levels exceeding drinking water standards are of great concern in McHenry County.

There is a growing interest in regulated recharge areas. A question was posed in regards to the hazards of high salt content within the water. Prevention and groundwater non-degradation is the primary issue for contaminants that cannot be removed by ordinary treatment techniques.

### **Ash Impoundment Strategy Update**

The IEPA has been implementing, for a few years, a strategy to evaluate and address groundwater contamination issues as a result of coal ash management. Companies have done initial assessments, and there have been impacts found. The sites are being evaluated closer because some of them have other landfills on-site. The final step is finding remedial options. Specifics are in the report that was handed out and is also on the Web.

As some might recall, a dam on an ash-filled gully right on a lake in Wisconsin failed on Halloween. For that and other reasons, each site in Illinois will have to be looked at because each one is unique. One success story though is the Havana ash impoundment. They have enacted a groundwater management zone and constructed a 96 acre 3-unit pond for treating the ash, which is compliant. There is a Class III, high-hazard, dam too, it being classified so because there is dwellings near it and not because it has structural issues. The classification is based on risk if breached.

There was discussion of how the regulations on state and federal levels interact. Illinois moved into the vacuum of no federal regulation of certain areas of ash disposal, and now the Feds are starting to catch up. Comingling of the regulations will occur in the future.

### **Draft Source Water Protection Planning Update**

In the last few biennial reports we have had a recommendation to require source water protection. There is a rising trend in the VOC detections. The purpose of this presentation is to get your input in developing a plan.

We propose that each plan, there should include the following:

Vision statement: The CWS's policy and commitment to protecting source water, explanation of the CWS resources and/ or barriers, and identification of individual who develop the vision statement.

Source Water Assessment: You try to figure out the susceptibility, including delineation, water quality, and documentations of contamination, existing activities, controls, and management practices within the delineation area. Under Section 17.1 i of the Act, communities under a certain size can request us to do a hazard assessment.

Source Water Protection Objectives: They must address the specific problems or issues in the assessment and consider the current and future issues.

Action Plan: The plan should be realistic and measurable, and would include: mitigation of existing and future threats, description of projects programs, and activities developed by the CWS, establish a schedule for implementation, identify potential problems/ obstacles, and monitor and document how the plan is implemented.

Pekin, along with the Central Committee and a special team, developed a plan, and an overlay zoning ordinance. Marengo adopted the same ordinance, but implementation wasn't realistic or

measurable for them. They are a much smaller community. They did not have the budget, resources, or commitment.

There are a couple of other states in Region 5 that have wellhead protection requirements in place already. We are proposing a phased-in approach similar to what is done in Minnesota and Indiana, as follows: 2 years for a CWS serving over 50,000, 3 years for the 3,000 to 50,000 bracket, and 5 years for the less than 3,000 bracket. Most of our systems are small systems, but of course the majority of people are supplied by the large systems. The contents of the plan mimics the American Water Works Association (AWWA) standard G300, with some of our own criteria added.

Al Wehrmann asked if we are continuing the capture zone maps and atlas. Rick Cobb replied yes and that there are 900-plus wells with delineations which represent two to three hundred systems.

The system which our data is stored in is now functioning so the sourcewater assessments are being updated. Mark Mitchell asked if the addition of new wells is accompanied by the updating of the source identification, and the answer was "yes." We are currently working on updating the assessments where RTK and groundwater rule have been an issue. Any system can ask us to update their SWAP. Currently, when we get information on a new well, the delineation is completed and then sent to the supply when they get an operating permit. The supply can then use that to do a source ID for their plan.

It is recommended that the issue of source water protection plans be taken under consideration and it will be brought up again at the next meeting for action to be taken. There was some discussion on how to get the CWSs to implement the plans. Unless there is an immediate threat, we would try using non-compliance advisories.

### **Other Business**

Bob Kohlhase asked the question about the GAC stance on the PCB landfill that PDC is pursuing near Clinton. George Roadcap was on public television, and the MAC has it on their agenda for their next meeting. Rick Cobb said that it is really in the USEPA's Region 5 hands. It's not a state decision at this point. Several cities have thought about filing a lawsuit to try and force USEPA to not issue the permit. Discussion of the waste and permit ensued, but no one member knew all the answers. It is a USEPA issue.

Marcia wished Al and Jerry best wishes again and the meeting was adjourned.

### **GAC Meeting**

The GAC meeting was incorporated into the ICCG meeting.