

Stakeholder Workgroup Charter: *Groundwater Quality Issues*

Scope

This workgroup will consider statewide and regional groundwater quality issues resulting from land use and management. The discussion will focus on nitrate and microbial contamination of groundwater.

Background

The workgroup will review key background information, including:

- WI Groundwater Coordinating Council 2015 report:
 - Nitrate - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/groundwater/documents/GCC/GwQuality/Nitrate.pdf>
 - Microbes - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/groundwater/documents/GCC/GwQuality/MicrobialAgents.pdf>
- Groundwater Collaboration Workgroup Report: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/groundwater/collaborationworkgroup.html> .
- Northeast WI Karst Task Force Report: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/G3836.pdf>
- Excerpts from Wisconsin Water Law in the 21st Century (Paul Kent, author) <http://wisconsinlandwater.org/files/events/BookandPreclude.pdf>.

Questions

The workgroup will consider the following questions:

- What is the current extent of nitrate and pathogen contamination of Wisconsin groundwater?
 - What are the contamination sources and their relative contributions?
 - What are the impacts on community and private drinking water supplies?
 - How are current land use trends affecting contamination risks?
 - Is the situation getting better or worse? Why?
- What are the real incentives, if any, for landowners to adopt and maintain effective groundwater protection practices?
- What are our “bottom-line” groundwater quality goals? How soon, if ever, do we expect to achieve our goals?
- What, if anything, are we doing currently to meet our groundwater quality goals?
- Are we making significant progress toward our goals? If not, why not?
- If progress is currently inadequate, what more could we do to achieve goals?
- What will it cost to achieve our goals? What are the trade-offs?
- How will we know if our strategy is successful? How will we measure success?

- Where do we go from here?

Committee Co-Chairs:

- Chuck Wagner, Private well owner, Kewaunee County
- Kevin Masarik, Groundwater Education Specialist, UW Stevens Point

Facilitator: Ed Odgers, Retired State Conservation Engineer - DATCP

Committee Members:

- Al Sweeney, Rock Co. Board of Supervisors, Vice Chair
- Dale Konkol, Door Co. Conservationist
- Davina Bonness, Kewaunee Co. Conservationists
- Eric Allness, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships
- John Pagel, LCC Chair, Kewaunee County Farmer
- Kevin Erb, Conservation Professional Development and Training Coordinator, UWEX
- Madeline Gotkowitz, Hydrogeologist Professor, Wisconsin Geological & History Survey
- Mark Borchardt, U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center
- Mark Garthwaite, Home Brewers and Tasters Guild
- Maureen Muldoon, Hydrogeologist UW Oshkosh
- Sara Walling, DATCP
- Don Niles, Dairy Dreams, Kewaunee County
- Keith Foye, DATCP