



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUNDWATER (ICCG) MEETING MINUTES

July 28th, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Mississippi River Conference Room. Rick Cobb chaired the meeting of the ICCG for Marcia Willhite. The following were in attendance or on phone conference:

Bill Compton	Groveland Township Water Department
Bob Kohlhase	Farnsworth Group
Jack Norman	Kaskaskia Group of the Sierra Club
Allen Wehrmann	ISWS/University of Illinois
Doug Yeskis	USGS
Evelyn Neavear	Tazewell Co. Health - Environmental Health
Mark Mitchell	IRWA
George Czapar	ISWS/University of Illinois
Vickie Broomhead	IDNR/OMM/LRD
Allan Kingsley	ISWS
Nathan Banion	ISWS
Amanda Jones	ISWS
Dave Johnson	IDPH
Richard Rice	ISGS
Arlan Juhl	IDNR/Water Resources
Gary R. Clark	IDNR/Water Resources
Gary McCandless	IEMA/DNS
Cassandra McKinney	McHenry County
Clay Simonson	IDPH Rockford
Paul McNamara	Southwest IL Metropolitan and Regional Planning
Commission/GAC	
Dan Guif	Northern Groundwater Committee
Marcia Willhite	IEPA/ BOW Chief
Rick Cobb	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Anthony Dulka	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Ed Wagner	IEPA/ Groundwater Section
Rachel Morgan	IEPA/ Groundwater Section

The following ICCG representatives were not in attendance:

William H. Olthoff	Agriculture
Shelly Bradley	OSFM
Warren Goetsch	IDA
Steven Gobelman	IDOT
Don Keefer	ISGS/ University of Illinois

C. Pius Weibel
Scott Fowler
Dan Wheeler
Todd Rettig

ISGS/ University of Illinois
IDNR - Office of Mines and Minerals
DCEO - OCD
IDNR - OREP

Approval of the April 28th, 2011 Minutes

Marcia Wilhite called for a review of the minutes from the April meeting. No corrections. Marcia asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Reports and Updates

Round Robin

IDNR - OWR - The flooding issues have subsided. No report.

ISGS - No report.

IEPA - Anthony Dulka reported that 2011 is a reporting year and that we should be looking at our respective sections for the Biennial Report. Tony asked if everyone could have their material to us by October 20th, prior to the next meeting on October 27th. January of 2012 is the publishing date.

Rick Cobb reported that the IPCB had their first hearing for the Maximum Setback Zone petition for Fayette Water Company. The IPCB can impose more stringent requirements for the pipeline company than a local ordinance could. Rick also reported that there are six new petitions for Class III Designated Groundwater areas. Lastly, there should be an update on the ash impoundment plan soon.

IEMA - No report.

CRGC - Evelyn Neavear reported that there is a Central Committee meeting in Tremont August 23rd. The snow and ice operators conference will be held October 28th in Peoria.

NRGC - The Northern Committee has nothing to report at this time.

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

IDPH - Dave Johnson presented information on the closed loop legislation. Closed loop well contractors will be required to be registered, wells to be registered, and the establishment of a certification board. Dave ran through the specifics of the Bill. One of the big points of the Bill is that does not affect the installation of horizontal closed loop systems.

There were several questions about the construction of closed loop systems. There are two kinds: one where the loops are inserted into wells that are bored, some exceeding 500 feet deep, and the other where the lines are laid out in trenches or beds laterally, usually in the upper 10 feet of soil. Local geology, heat transfer characteristics of the soils, and land availability affect which system is used.

Anthony Dulka asked the question how does this affect those counties which already have some kind of permitting system in place. Dave responded that usually State law supersedes local and that local law has to be as stringent or more stringent than the State requirements.

Guests and Presentations

Regional Water supply Planning Update

Gary Clark updated us on four items. First, the Kaskaskia River basin is the next water supply planning region. The committee was formed late last year. Thus far they are working the demand numbers. The numbers for the three scenarios have been approved and given over the Water Survey for their calculations.

The next development is that under contract from the Illinois Clean Coal Institute, the Surveys have produced a background document on the water supply resources of the Kaskaskia Basin. A section was written by the Office of Water Resources as well, outlining the State's management of the resources in the reservoirs.

Rick Cobb had a question about the specifics of the definition of Public Water Bodies in the Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act. Gary replied that it all goes back to when the federal surveyors decided that a stream was or was not "navigable."

The other two Regional committees are still active in trying to implement the specific plans. They are also trying to sustain the effort in the future, possibly by another Executive Order or Act of the General Assembly.

One more effort of the continuation of water quantity planning is that IDNR has a drought response plan that has never been updated or re-formalized. A new plan has been put together and it is now up for internal review on the State Water Survey's Website. Additionally, Lakes Carlyle, Shelbyville, and Rend Lake are being reanalyzed as to the potential yields.

McHenry County Update

Cassandra McKinney, via phone conferencing, reported on the status of McHenry County's water planning. The 2010 Census placed the population at 308,000 and the county is projected to add 200,000 people by 2030. Some of the major communities are projected to have water shortages as soon as 2030, based on a study by Baxter and Woodman.

The biggest concern is that groundwater is the only source of water in the county, and development of other sources is unlikely. It is too far from Lake Michigan to be included in that allocation. A 3-D mapping project is underway with the Geological Survey and a groundwater flow model is being worked on with the Water Survey. Water usage and management is being analyzed, through the use of satellite monitoring units recording water levels and stream flow.

In 2007 Cassandra developed a Groundwater Protection Task Force. The task force developed a comprehensive water resources action plan, completed in 2009. Since 2010, seventeen of the thirty municipalities have adopted the plan. An important part of the Plan is that the county produces a zoning overlay of the Class III Special Uses Groundwater areas. Other efforts

include groundwater recharge maps and trying to encourage regulated recharge areas for all the municipalities. At first there was confusion, but many people and communities are seeing the wisdom of protecting the quality of the water.

The snow and ice workshop will be offered again this year, with two sessions this year. This is the third year for it, and they have trained 400 people in the previous two years.

A question from the floor asked if they have seen any decrease in the use of road salt. Cassandra replied that the major response she has seen is that operators were not aware of the impact on the environment. There are a few communities that are seeing a decrease in the usage though.

Cassandra was also asked what the major resistance has been to the water resources action plan. One of the top reasons is that the municipalities do not have the staff resources to dedicate to the plan. Also, the lack of awareness by elected officials, which reflects how the staff are directed.

Prompted by a question from Cassandra, Rick Cobb explained Class III areas in detail. The EPA takes the non-degradation standard in those areas very seriously, and if anyone causes, threatens, or allows the release of any contaminant, it is a violation of the Environmental Protection Act.

EMOR - Electronic Monthly Operating Reports

Allen Wehrmann gave a presentation on the EMOR system. It is a way for water systems to report their monthly records electronically and not have to create, send, and file paper reports. It is a requirement of each system that reports are submitted and this will make it easier for field offices to access and track the data. It is planned that the IEPA will be able to analyze the data electronically.

One of the biggest challenges is that each system has "evolved" their own forms over the years. Changing to standardized forms may be an issue for some systems. There probably will not be 100% participation until it is required by the EPA.

The site is functional for uploading, renaming, and viewing the files. There is about 50 communities who are participating - it is voluntary at the moment. They still have to submit paper reports at the present.

To get involved with the program email Tim Bryant at tbryant@illinois.edu Each participant has a login and password, as this is an https: secured Website.

GAC Meeting

The GAC meeting was postponed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16