



Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network

Friday, May 7, 2010

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Monsanto's Gothenburg Water Utilization Learning Center
76268 Hwy 47, Gothenburg, NE 69138

Ryan Chapman – Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), Daniel Krol – NDEQ, Ralph Pulte – Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Mary Link – NDEQ, David Miesbach – NDEQ, Mary Schroer – NDEQ, Dick Ehrman – Lower Plate South Natural Resources District (NRD), Jamie Oltman – The Groundwater Foundation, Gerald Huntwork, Randy Gunn – South Central Nebraska Resource and Conservation Development, Roger Andrews – Grand Island Groundwater Guardian Team, Ken Gnadt – Former Mayor of Grand Island, Ne, Cory Steinke – Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Cindy Kreifels – The Groundwater Foundation, Chandler Mazour – Monsanto Water Utilization Center, Harold Reynolds - Midwest Assistance Program (MAP),

Cory Steinke – an engineer for Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, deals with surface water and manages releases from Lake McConaughy.

Gerald Huntwork – Involved with Hays and Frontier County Planning and Zoning, monitoring Wellhead Protection efforts.

Mary Schroer – RFP for Source Water Protection grants are out. Public Water Systems are eligible for funding.

Dick Ehrman – Management of groundwater/7 different management areas in the Lower Plate South NRD for nitrate concerns including Elmwood, Otoe County Rural Water #3, Weeping Water/Cost-share programs and technical assistance for communities.

Dave Miesbach - NDEQ Groundwater Unit supervisor/update legislature with report

Ralph Pulte – 12 communities on Administrative Order for nitrates/Village of Allen can no longer because nitrates fell/WHP was used as a means to return to compliance/of the 12 communities 6 use WHP as a means to return to compliance/Nebraska is the only state to allow this.

Daniel Krol – mapper for NDEQ

Jamie Oltman – a subgroup of the WHP has meet and will meet to discuss tools for WHP education/other ideas or location for meetings please let her know/working with Hastings, Beatrice, and Seward on area management/Foundation Green Site program recognition for groundwater friendly practices.

Harold Reynolds – working with Linwood and Rosalie. Rosalie passed a WHP ordinance/MAP hired new employee for western portion of the state. Also working with Crawford and Chadron.

Ryan Chapman – Wellhead Protection coordinator for NDEQ/Fremont's WHP was recently approved/updating old WHP newsletter and publication/will be using students to help with WHP educational resources/working with Burwell – small CAFO going in next to wells/working on finding out more about County Zoning and will come up with a brochure on what County's could do and what some have done.

Gerald Huntwork – Overlay districts have been in place for six years.

Ralph Pulte – Humboldt under Administrative Order for nitrates/7-8 years under WHP for AO/take off WHP as a means to return to compliance/ good data from the area that shows improvement though/Richardson County in AO as well.

--- --- ---
Presentation:
--- --- ---

Chandler Mazour, Manager of the Monsanto Water Utilization Center discussed the projects and research being done at the Center.

The Learning Center mission is to increase yields using less inputs/Inputs being water and fertilizer. Use the systems-based approach three parts: genetics, agronomic practices, and biotechnology. The focus is on water utilization.

The center was built in central Nebraska because of amount of irrigated acres, arid/dry land and rain fed acres. The center opened in June of 2009 and can provide a customizable experience for those visiting the facility. The center will see 2-3 groups everyday from mid June through September.

Research done to learn to grow more corn/with increased population farmers will need to grow as much corn in the next 40 years as they did in the last 10,000 years.

3,600 people visited the center in the first year it was open/from all over the world/from youth, crop consultants, businessmen, universities, wall street investors, and farmers come/the projects and education being done should be replicated around the world.

How much crop per drop? In 1960 farmers could raise 5 bushels per inch of water in 2009 farmers could get almost 10 bushels per inch of water.

Continue to research and provide education.

--- --- ---
Presentation:
--- --- ---

Cory Steinke, Civil Engineer
Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District irrigates 100,000 acres.

Manages the water/return flows for Lake McConaughy.
Has to figure out how much water to release or not and still provide enough water for irrigators to get yields that they want/need.

2004 last year of full irrigation in the District/there has been 6 consecutive years of record low inflows/the inflows are not the same as in the past/Groundwater development upstream and depleted inflows to the lake/there is a link between groundwater development and decrease in stream flow/normal isn't normal anymore.

What is needed? More precipitation/heavy snow in Wyoming/full irrigation in Wyoming so we get the returns in Nebraska

Last few years amount of water in the lake has doubled/good news the South Platte is flowing and reservoirs are full.