



**Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network
Monday, March 7, 2011, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn – Kearney
110 S Second Ave., Kearney, Nebraska 68847**

Present:

Adam Rupe – JEO Consulting Group - Lincoln Office, Daryl Andersen – Little Blue Natural Resources District (NRD), Ryan Chapman – Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), Marty Link – NDEQ, Mary Schroer – NDEQ, Elbert Traylor – NDEQ, Brian Henkel – Papio-Missouri River NRD, Jason Moudry – Upper Niobrara White NRD, Craig Romary – Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), David Miesbach – NDEQ, Rod DeBuhr, Upper Big Blue NRD, Courtney Woodman – Upper Big Blue NRD, Pat O'Brien – NARD, Thomas Trehitt – NDEQ, Galen Wittrock – South Platte NRD, Ryan Reisdorff – South Platte NRD, Travis Glanz – South Platte NRD, Mike Lucas – Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA), Dick Ehrman – Lower Platte South NRD, Brian Reetz – The Groundwater Foundation, Jamie Oltman – The Groundwater Foundation

Jamie Oltman (The Groundwater Foundation) – welcomed the participants to the meeting. Oltman reminded everyone that if there is a specific topic or issues they would like to learn more about or if there is a project or place they would like to tour contact her with suggestions. Oltman then led the group into the roundtable discussion.

Nebraska Wellhead Protection Program Updates – Round table:

Daryl Andersen (Little Blue NRD) – continues to work in Hastings. A bus tour was planned to look at the various Wellhead Protection projects in the area. A third committee is being formed to add to the Hastings Wellhead Protection Advisory group, currently there are two committees, the Education Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee. Also working in Glenville, consulting with Jack Daniel on well construction there. Hastings Museum is working with a group out of Boston to design and develop the groundwater wall model in the museum. Projected date for completion is August 1st. Hastings is also looking at the 50 year time of travel and expanding the Wellhead Protection Area, will be working with the Central Platte NRD with expanding area.

Elbert Traylor (NDEQ) – is working on new projects, Wellhead Protection area focus.

Mary Schroer (NDEQ) – Source Water Protection RFP will be out the week of March 14th. Changed qualifications last year to small communities, 10,000 or less with priorities to communities with nitrate issues. Low competition last year since changes. \$100,000 in Source Water Protection fund available.

Jason Moudry (Upper Niobrara White NRD) – Worked on Wellhead Protection in the past, working with Crawford and uranium hearing public outreach and education. Moving to the Lower Loup NRD in June. Will be working with municipalities, 13 now to 45 after move.

Brian Henkel (Papio-Missouri River NRD) – is new to the group. First meeting was at the Capitol in January.

Galen Wittrock, Ryan Reisdorff, Travis Glanz (South Platte NRD) – are working on Wellhead Protection this past year. First plan completed Sidney. Also working with Kimball (middle of planning stage), and starting with Chapel's CSI. Received a 319 Wellhead Protection grant and will be looking at future storm-water BMPs in Sidney adding more to management of the WHP plan.

Mike Lucas (NeRWA) – has been working with 14 systems. 1 system investigating blocking the upper screen. Have been receiving more calls from attorney's than systems lately. Lots of interest in atrazine, at high Nitrates. Education and Wellhead Protection funded by EPA right now future funding is still in senate for approval.

Tom Trehwitt (NDEQ) – works more on the livestock, in the Ag Chemical Containment Chemigation program.

Courtney Woodman (Upper Big Blue NRD) – is working in Doniphan, updating plan for subdivisions. Also interested in education opportunities like in Hastings, mulching blades and rain sensors.

Rod DeBuhr (Upper Big Blue NRD) – McCool Junction and Crofton work being done. Sensors deep nitrate testing in those communities.

Ryan Chapman (NDEQ) - Passed out handout with listing of communities with updated plans. 89 plans have been state approved. He also discussed new set back distances in 179 NAC 7 and provided a hand out. DEQ will be sending out a letter to NRD managers regarding contact information and notes on who is working on Wellhead Protection projects. A new online database will be available to NRDs to access community maps and information. Hopes to help everyone communicate and know what is going on. This will be password protected but all agencies will receive a password to access information. Chapman also discussed the new suggestions for the road sign design. A copy of the handouts with the designs is included.

Dave Miesbach (NDEQ) – 2010 Groundwater Quality Report is complete. (Copies were available, it's also available in PDF online.) Groundwater unit looking at nitrates outside of the area, working with Jack Daniel (HHS), there are spots in Nebraska that may not recover from high nitrate levels. Also wanting to do more education with other groups such as the Cattlemen so that we are all working together. Do something now not just when it's over the 10 ppm mark. Farmers say they are doing better. (Rod DeBuhr– groundwater quantity issues in the past use to complain about 16 inches limit to irrigation and last year used 5 inches. Has seen improvement with quantity issues but thinks that nitrates have a long way to go before see drastic improvement.) (Daryl Andersen – thinks that things are optimistic as he has seen proactive solutions in Hastings.) (Rod – also need to work with industry not just farmers, would Co-ops work to reduce fertilizer sales in spring?)

Marty Link (NDEQ) – Nothing specific – role as a knowledge source right now.

Adam Rupe (JEO) – Working with Allen, Auburn, and Wayne. First meeting he has attended.

Craig Romary (Department of Ag) – works in the pesticide program, regulations for use. Has been working on a study on pesticides of interest and monitoring active ingredients. Also works in

the certification program for applicators with the UNL Extension and covers groundwater and wellhead protection in the course.

Growing Groundwater Awareness in Nebraska – Presentation:

Brian Reetz from The Groundwater Foundation presented information on the Foundation's community programs, Groundwater Guardian and Green Sites as well as the Let's Keep It Clean Communities.

Groundwater Management Plans, Overall Thoughts and Actions – Presentation:

Dick Ehrman from the Lower Platte South NRD presented on the work the NRD has done in the Groundwater Management areas within the Lower Platte South district. (The full PowerPoint of the presentation is available at <http://www.groundwater.org/pe/newhp.html>).

Oltman closed the meeting and let everyone know more information about the next meeting will be coming out. Meeting time and location has yet to be decided but will likely take place in June.