



Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network Meeting Notes

Monday, March 2, 2009, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's Van Dorn Facility
2717 S. 8th Street, Lincoln, NE

Present:

Dave Miesbach, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ); Russ Gierhart, Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District (UBB NRD), Ralph Pulte, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Heather Easton, Two Rivers Public Health Department, Clancy Dempsey, Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department, Jim Newman, Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department; Greg Steele, United States Geological Survey (USGS); Jeff Brady, City of Wayne; Tony Jelinek, City of Kearney Utilities, Kirk Stocker, City of Kearney Utilities, Dawn Miller, Adams County, Terry Julesgard, Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District (L&C NRD), Rachael Herpel, UNL –Water Center – Rural Initiative, Mary Schroer, NDEQ, Randy Gunn, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) – South Central Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D); John Keith, Lincoln Water System, Robert Swanson, USGS, Jamie Oltman, The Groundwater Foundation (TGF); Jane Griffin, TGF

I. Welcome and Introductions:

Jamie Oltman (TGF) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Nebraska Wellhead Protection Program and Field Updates

Greg Steele (USGS) The magnetic surveys have/are primary in the west, starting this summer in the east.

Rachael Herpel (UNL) UNL water website, www.water.unl.edu, well and wellhead area page linked to NDEQ site.

Kirk Stocker (City of Kearney) Kearney has WHPA within city of Kearney, zoning regulations develop.

Tony Jelinek (City of Kearney) Assistant to Kirk, development review team – develop in city and jurisdiction pre-application

Russ Gierhart (UBB NRD) is currently working on 3 WHP Plans currently. One of which is the City of Hastings, two NRDS are working on this, WHPA is all outside of city zoning.

Heather Easton (Two Rivers Public Health Dept.) Work on pharmaceutical take back events

Ralph Pulte (DHHS) Monitor water for state. Involved with WHP admin orders, soil sampling.

Dawn Miller (Adams County) Working with the City of Hastings on their WHP Plan

Mary Schroer (NDEQ) Source water protection grants

Dave Miesbach (NDEQ) gave an update on the State Approved Wellhead Protection Plans. There have been 82 community plans approved and he expects to see another half dozen plans come into DEQ this year. Hastings has the largest WHP in state of Nebraska, started public process, it will be interesting. Bruce will be retiring in June. DEQ recently hired an intern who knows mapping and working on updating WHP maps and re-review so that mistakes are caught. Also he is trying to get j-peg maps with boundaries, if you need them.

Russ Gierhart (UBB NRD) asked if the communities with new wells in the last few years will be looked at?

Dave Miesbach (NDEQ) Yes, those will especially be looked at. For those communities if they have an approved WHP plan and the map is a little bit different they may have to go back through part of public awareness process.

Russ Gierhart (UBB NRD) When new wells are drilled how is DEQ notified?

Dave Miesbach (NDEQ) is copied on list to be notified from HHS. The village/city is responsible for letting DEQ know, especially if they take a well out of service. Blue Hill error was caught and 2 square miles were added on.

Randy Gunn (NRCS/RC&D) Working somewhat on Hastings WHP Plan, interesting project because it includes the town of Juniata and is very close to Prosser. Other project working on include organic farming transition.

Jamie Oltman (TGF) handed out a sheet with a few updates from TFG. These included the new WHPN Calendar. Any WHPN member can submit events related to WHPN in Nebraska to be posted on the calendar. The Groundwater Foundation is looking for guest bloggers or blog ideas. If any WHPN member would like to submit ideas or a blog is welcome. The Groundwater Foundation will be developing a wellhead protection brochure to complement the Wellhead Protection Area Management Project. The brochure will guide readers to other resources for more detailed information (websites, agencies/organizations, etc.) Anyone who was interested in giving feedback regarding information to include in the brochure or related website was encouraged to do so.

III. Presentation Bob Swanson USGS Recent Developments in the USGS Groundwater-Water Program

(See attached summary of the Bob Swanson's presentation)

IV. Adjourn

Jamie Oltman thanked everyone for coming and encouraged everyone to use the remaining time to chat, network, and meet members attending who you do not know.