



Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network

Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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

Present: Amy Vrtiska – JEO Consulting, Alyssa Smola – Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD), McKenzie Barry Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD), Pat O'Brien NRAD, Ralph Pulte Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, David Lathrop – City of Seward, March Schroer – Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), Daniel Kroll – NDEQ, David Miesbach – NDEQ, John Keith – City of Lincoln Water System, Harold Reynolds – Midwest Assistant Program (MAP), Sharon Skipton – University of Nebraska Extension, Marty Link – NDEQ, Russ Gierhart – Upper Big Blue NRD, Ryan Chapman – NDEQ, Will Myers – NDEQ, Daryl Andersen – Little Blue NRD, Randy Gunn – South Central Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development, Dick Ehrman – Lower Platte South NRD, Jenny Sidlo – Hasting Utilities, Elbert Traylor – NDEQ, Cindy Kreifels – The Groundwater Foundation, Brian Reetz – The Groundwater Foundation, Jamie Oltman – The Groundwater Foundation

Nebraska Wellhead Protection Program Updates:

Harold Reynolds – working with the Village of Linwood which has no public water system/community private wells and septic systems/new lagoons for nitrates/working with other communities on point of use/RO units to clean water

Sharon Skipton – private septic systems/POE POU systems water treatment education

Marty Link – next Network meeting March 1, Holiday in Kearney before NARD Water Programs meetings/Have drawn individual WHPA for small town private wells.

Russ Gierhart – Seward plan completed after 2 years, county involved in the plan/Goehner approved/also working with Hastings

Ryan Chapman – the new Bruce/updating WHP maps

Will Myers – with assessment/newer to the group

Daryl Andersen – Ohioa plan sent to NDEQ/working with Hubble and Glenville

Randy Gunn – work directly with a lot of communities/help find the right resources/Ameri Corp project could provide communities with additional assistance

Dick Ehrman – working on groundwater management plan/8 studies past year/Phase II and III for nitrates/WHPA advisory team set up in the next year/might consider Otoe County and Weeping Water together/evaluation to adjust boundaries.

Dave Miesbach – Ryan is going through every WHP file/getting more organics/new maps updated/info hasn't changed just more data available/making towns/villages more aware that need to have maps not only for public water but all drinking water/remodel map before making any decisions/communities think map is "bible" but they don't have a plan/Daniel is updating all 600+ maps/need to know where all wells are/ Many homes build before 1993 may not have registered wells

Daniel Kroll – drawing maps/finding ways to make map better

Mary Schroer – Source Water Protection grants/projects starting

David Lathrop – Oil pipeline in WHPA/WHP Grant for weather stations in field with WHP/WHP filed with state/January 14 meeting about upcoming activities/February meeting and education about WHP and weather stations

Ralph Pulte – Nitrate monitoring/has seen a decrease in Administrative Orders for nitrates/13 left WHP used to get off AO/Pioneer Hybrids AO nitrates/non community system with WHP, first to try/584 wells being monitored for nitrates/number of bilateral compliance agreements

Jenny Sidlo – sampling all wells (500+) in area/Kick off public education plan/developing a unique logo and slogan for Hastings WHP/looking for more money

Pat O'Brien – March 2 is the NARD meeting/can get 5 CEU's for training/potential new program for FSA/USDA, 1/27 million acres potential for 20 year TOT only will go to 10 year TOT/advantage to get past the 2000 feet radius/farmers may not take advantage of it

Elbert Traylor – NPS management program/funding flat/2010 also flat/big adjustment from EPA, too much money spent

McKenzie Barry – education efforts/worked with city of Ashland/event in January and February to share information

Alyssa Smola – PR for NARD

Amy Vrtiska – filling in for Jon Mohr/JEP working with Auburn/DEQ updated map/completed contaminant source inventory/abandon 6 wells/GIS inventory wells/Village of Allen - updating plan/new contaminant source inventory/abandon wells properly/installing monitoring well

John Keith – 6 well being decommissioned due to groundwater rule

Jamie Oltman – working with Beatrice, Hastings and Seward on WHP area management

Cindy Kreifels – two new programs Local Leaders education series and TAPS youth activity and teacher training/also working on GGAN

Brian Reetz – GGAN – reaching out to larger groups/radio spots and news/education within the communities

Public Education Session

Jamie Oltman led a discussion on wellhead protection and public education. The objective of the discussion was to “identify potential strategic approaches for building stronger public awareness on wellhead protection in Nebraska.”

Questions posed of the Network included:

How can the experiences and expertise of the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network be utilized to help enhance the overall success of the Nebraska Wellhead Protection program?

How can the Network improve efforts when it comes to public education and awareness?

*What is beneficial to a community/agency/etc. when building public awareness regarding Wellhead Protection?

*What resources are available which enhance public awareness of Wellhead Protection?

*What are potential barriers to a community/agency/etc. when building public awareness regarding Wellhead Protection?

*What resources may be needed to enhance public awareness of Wellhead Protection?

The discussion led to the following summary of feedback based on the last four questions list above:

Benefits to Communities:

Crisis

Economic Savings

Proximity creates awareness

Key Selling point (something they can relate to)

Focus message to audience

Visible projects

Clean drinking water (not war their water may not be clean)

Perception problem

Resources:

Neb Guides (UNL Extension)

Water.unl.edu

Septic System State Toilet Paper (UNL)

UNL List of publications on tear off note pad

Farm*A*Syst (out-dated needs revision)

NARD Newsletter (will run WHP news)

JEO – bathroom kits

Partnerships (Farm Services Agency newsletter)

NDEQ Newsletter (online/printed as needed)

Database of partners (NDEQ)

GF WHPAM manual

GF Keeping Your Water Safe WHP brochure
WHP Brochures (UBB NRD)
Personalize Brochures to community
Source Water Collaborative website/brochure template

Barriers:

Inertia/attitude
Competitiveness
Politics
Community relationships
Funding – will cost us
Strategies to help?
Afraid to offend those who elect them
Confusing – misunderstanding
Choice of language
Lose acronyms
Rural/urban conflict
Groundwater – hidden resource
No problem – no concern
Educating community board (decision makers)
Quality vs Quantity (quality hard for people to grasp)
Indirect impact to people
Work with those who can make an impact (farmers)
Over watering – over irrigating
What is good/quality water?

What's needed:

Interactive exhibits
Modern videos
Gimmicks to create interest
Celebrity spokes person (Larry the Cable Guy)
One-on-one w/ leaders
Water fee rates
Newspaper ads/Radio TV spots
Focused statewide media blitz
Understandable message
Youth education – broader/mandatory curriculum
Science fairs
Money – list of resources
Better definition of WHP
Revamp WHP signs
Tie groundwater to drinking water
Money secure sources (NET? original legislation for money)
State regulations
Better hydrogeographic information and way to organize it
Legislation
Onsite demonstration (drill rig example) “Where does water come from?”
More resources for one-on-one
Marketing

Virtual image trailer of aquifer
Wii water game
Crisis to create interest (document them)
Movie trailers (entertaining)
Mascot
Branding/slogan
Pepsi/Groundwater on the label
Placemats
Community involvement events
Huge groundwater model (UNL)
Runoff management model (UL)
Background guide for media (online and printed)
Billboards