



## **Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network**

Monday, March 2, 2015

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Holiday Inn – Kearney, NE

### **Present:**

Marty Link – Nebraska Department of Environment Quality (NDEQ), Jason Moudry – Lower Loop NRD, Scott Smathers – Nebraska Sportsmen’s Foundation, Lindsey Phillips – NDEQ, Ryan Reisdorff – South Platte NRD, Jason Garber – NDEQ, Chris Witthuhn – Lower Platte South NRD (LPSNRD), Ryan Rezac – LPSNRD, Craig Romary – Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Carla McCullough - NDEQ, Ryan Chapman – NDEQ, Dan Schulz – LPSNRD, Jenny Sidlo – Hastings Utilities, Courtney Widup – Upper Big Blue NRD, Marie Krawnsnick – Upper Big Blue NRD, David Miesbach – NDEQ, Adam Rupe – JEO Consulting, Russell Oakland – Lower Platte North NRD, Larry Angle – Lower Platte North NRD, Mike Lorenz – Lower Loop NRD, Daryl Andersen – Little Blue NRD, Dick Ehrman – LPSNRD, Sam Capps – NDEQ, Cindy Kreifels – The Groundwater Foundation (TGF), Jessica Wheeler – TGF, Anthony Lowndes – TGF

Anthony Lowndes (The Groundwater Foundation) – Called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and went over the agenda.

### **Cindy Kreifels – The Groundwater Foundation Nebraska MEDS Coalition**

- I. Pharmaceuticals in Groundwater
  - a. A study by the USGS in 2002 found small amounts of pharmaceuticals, prescription and nonprescription drugs as well as steroid, hormones and personal care products in groundwater
    - i. Study included groundwater and seven streams in Nebraska
- II. MEDS Coalition
  - a. Formed in 2007-2008
  - b. Dedicated to educating patients on proper disposal of leftover medications
  - c. Take back program

- i. Pilot run in Lincoln area spearheaded by Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department
  - 1. Extensive media campaign aligned with educational and promotional materials
  - 2. 40 pharmacies participated in Lincoln and Lancaster county
- ii. Statewide Disposal Initiative
  - 1. After the success of the pilot program it was rolled out to the rest of the state
  - 2. There are now 194 participating pharmacies
- iii. What you can do
  - 1. Inform the communities you live and work in of this opportunity
  - 2. Take back your own medications

*For Cindy Kreifels' full presentation see her PowerPoint presentation in the Agenda and Presentation Slides section*

**Scott Smathers - Executive Director of the Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation and member of the Natural Resources Commission Task Force**

- I. Background on Resources Development Fund
  - a. Set up to assist in water related projects across the state
  - b. Lost funding and there is still \$18.7 million in several projects that have not been reimbursed
- II. LB 1098
  - a. Restructured the Natural Resources Commission
    - i. 13 members from river basins
    - ii. 14 Governor appointed members from various stakeholder entities
- III. Preliminary rules and regulations discussed: subject to change or omission
  - a. Funding will shift from a three year cycle to ten year cycle
    - i. Would allow for no cap on funds
    - ii. After appropriation of funds to a project those funds would move to a separate account so they could not be allocated elsewhere
  - b. Subcommittee of nine volunteers will be responsible for scoring/grading applications and making recommendations to the full commission
  - c. Projects smaller than \$250,000 will compete in a separate pool

**Nebraska Wellhead Protection Program Updates:**

Dick Ehrman (LPSNRD): Has been conducting airborne electromagnetic survey work and Valparaiso, Brainard and Dwight study is complete. Valparaiso and Brainard have gotten WHP plans in and are awaiting approval. They are also conducting vedose zone sampling for nitrate down to the water table. This information will help in getting a baseline for how contaminates move and hopefully be able to be used to predict future contamination.

Ryan Chapman (NDEQ): Working in Edgar with Tom Moser, and DHHS to determine if there is a perched layer; doing geo probing to determine if monitoring wells are needed. A new graduate student from UNL has begun age dating of Edgar's water to determine its source and potential nitrate contaminate sources. Student is also working to update contaminate source management options for WHP.

Dave Miesbach (NDEQ): New employee, Samantha Capps is working on WHP program. Getting reports in to the Legislature on nitrates and working on review and update of well network to determine what is abandoned or has no boring logs and other problems.

Larry Angle (LPNNRD): Groundwater declines in mid-summer in Platte and Colfax County. Will be starting allocations and water metering this year.

Sam Capps (NDEQ): Continuing to approve plans and maps. Having communities calling in with issues; wanting to use their WHP plan as a jurisdictional tool.

Ryan Reisdorff (SPNRD): Has been working with Potter and Rural Water to write their WHP plan

Jason Moudry (LLNRD): Finishing a grant from the DEQ to do isotope sampling and will be getting the samples back from Dan Snow soon. Trying two techniques to seal annular; slot the casing from the inside and force concrete in or inject slurry into annular using geoprobe. Wheeler county, northeast of Bartlett is experiencing increasing nitrates.

Adam Rupe (JEO): Superior has finished their WHP plan, waiting for approval. Currently working with Osmond, Duncan and York. Creating 50 year times of travel for York.

Mike Lorenz (LLNRD): Finished last round of reports for phase III nitrogen management area recommendations. Maintaining facilities in Duncan to address high nitrate levels.

Chris Witthuhn (LPSNRD): Decommissioning wells and working on an in the field data management app to get it back to the office more efficiently.

Russ Oaklund (LPNNRD): Phase II nitrate areas went down from 32 sections to 21 sections and there is only one Phase III area. The Richland/Schuyler area has very high nitrate spots and is a concern for these communities.

Daryl Andersen (LBNRD): Working on WHP plans as well as watershed plans. Endicott through Steele City and Chester, Byron and Hubbell are looking at regional water systems. They would like to see a 50 year time of travel for these areas. Also looking at getting help for communities through the Municipal Water Assistance Program.

Jenny Sidlo (Hasting Utilities): Undergoing WHP plan 5 year review. Will be sampling all of the wells and redoing vadose zone sampling this year. Their experimental dual pump strategy is working.

Courtney Widup (UBBNRD): York is creating a WHP plan. Many communities are unaware of their WHP plans and associated ordinances and are now looking to NRD and DEQ to enforce them. However this is not within their jurisdiction. Hamilton is moving to a Phase II and Hastings will be moving to Phase III next year.

Cindy Kreifels (The Groundwater Foundation): The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference will be this fall in Lincoln, a call for presentations has been sent out. A new app is being developed to track individual water use and promote lowering usage.

Craig Romary (NDA): Pesticide monitoring program and immunoassay test kits are both resources provided for NRDs. They are working on a link in the clearing house for a database to retrieve the immunoassay data.

Lindsey Phillips (NDEQ): Request for Source Water Protection grants is out. They are due April 27<sup>th</sup>.