

Meeting Minutes

Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council
July 18, 2006, Annis Water Resources Institute, Muskegon, Michigan

GWCAC meeting attendees, July 18, 2006

Council Members

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Guests

Dave Hamilton MDEQ-LWMD 517 335 3174 hamiltod@michigan.gov
Patricia Fouchey DNR Secretary 586-465-4771 fouchey@michigan.gov

Organizational business

Due to the power outage causing all traffic lights to be a four way stop Kurt Heise didn't open the meeting until 10:15. Dr. Alan Steinman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and revised.

Budget update

DEQ received a funding of \$500,000 from General fund money. Jim Cleland hopes the funding will be renewed yearly. The funds are to be used for implementing the water withdrawal statutes, for support and maintenance of new groundwater data bases and for contracting. This funding will not be available until Oct 1, 2007, for the 2007 fiscal year.

GWCAC Webpage

DNR Webmaster Tina Stojakovich has worked on and changed the GWCAC information from DEQ to DNR.

Some of the information is out of date. Suhmed Bahl and Rod Mersino were assigned to review the website and make recommendations on changes / additions.

Second tier distribution list

Looking for rosters of organizations that would be interested in groundwater conservation. Members will be asked to supply a list of interested parties. Pat Fouchey will send out an email requesting names of those who would be interested in being on an email GWCAC guest list. Pat should contact Erin Dreeland for lists.

Scheduling future meetings

Tuesday August 22, 2006, in Lansing 10 to 3 at Constitution Hall.

Wednesday September 20, 2006, 10 – 3 at Prein & Newhof in Grand Rapids.

Wednesday October 25, 2006, 10 – 3 at RAM Center.

Sub Committee Updates

Sustainability

No report, still waiting to see if the Star Grant is approved. Approval will not be known until September / October.

Mitigation

Fred Henningsen said a meeting was held. Mike Newman chaired the meeting. As of yet no summation has been given out to those that attended. Mike Newman will be asked to submit a report via email to all of the council members.

Assessment tool

All members who were present have seen the assessment tool. The committee has considered other assessment tools that are already available. Minnesota maybe has some tools that were developed within the last 10 years.

The assessment tools subcommittee would like to have meetings around the state for public input within the next six to eight months when tool should be in “middle” of its development.

This subcommittee will meet again on August 3, 2006. MDNR fish modelers will be at August meeting.

In early November a national panel will be asked to attend a session to familiarize these experts with the assessment tool. In December they will be asked to return for a full review of the assessment tool. The panel has not yet been put together. Paul Seelbach will accept recommendations.

In April the Assessment Tool Subcommittee would like to have a draft policy sent out for review. In July a report is due to the Legislature. We expect Jim Nicholas to write the report.

We do not expect the assessment tool to yield perfect results for every location because the variables are so complex to model. Our goal is to make a good tool for guidance to water users on a regional basis.

USGS has accepted the assignment of tying groundwater use to surface water hydrology. This has never been done before.

Milestones / Work Plan

We are requesting subcommittees to bring a timeline for completion of activities to the next meeting. Guiding Principles were not reviewed at this meeting but we agreed to consider those for discussion at the next meeting. The committee agreed to develop new guiding principles specific to the new mandates in legislation.

Adjourned 2:59