

**Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
of
March 20, 2007
Wade Trim Conference Room
25251 Northline Road, Taylor, Michigan**

Council Members

Jon Allan	Rich Bowman
James Clift	Jon Coleman
Michael Gregg	Kurt Heise
Fred Henningsen	Craig Hoffman
Michael Newman	Bill Pearson
Scott Piggott	Dr. Paul Seelbach
Dr. Alan Steinman (phone in)	

Guests

Jeremiah Asher – MSU	Mary Ericson – NWF
Patricia Fouchey MDNR	Fred Goldberg MMLOJ
Dave Hamilton MDEQ-LWMD	Shaw Lacy U of M
Bobbi McClead – Nestle Waters	Jim Nicholas USGS
Howard Reeves USGS	Dr. Ed Rutherford U of M
Frank Ruswick MDEQ	Gene Smary WNJ
Grenetta Thomassey Tip of Mitt	Troy Zorn (Phone in)

Introductions / Meeting logistics

This is the first time the GWCAC has meet in Wayne County. The Council tries to move around the State. All of the GWCAC Meetings are open to the public. Lunch was being provided thanks to Wade Trim Associates, Inc. Everyone introduced themselves.

Policy Knobs

Jon Allan with facilitator Jim Nicholas led a discussion on policy knobs. The Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool works as it is suppose but there is policy that needs to be decided. The GWCAC is required to make a report to the Legislature in July in which a water withdrawal assessment tool is suppose to be presented along with policy recommendations. This is a very difficult discussion because it is abstract. What is the standard we what to apply? If standard is met is there to be mitigation? What is an ARI (adverse resource impact)? Is an adverse impact a 10% change, 50% or 100%? What is the change - fish, water? The water withdrawal assessment tool is only a screening device. How conservative should the water withdrawal assessment tool be? Must weigh risk / uncertainty to cost.

Final Report

Jim Nicholas will be writing the final report. He recommends a short report between 10 to 15 pages. Jim Nicholas recommends that a question / answer type framework be used. Mr. Nicholas will put together a group of questions. He will start with the questions the legislation charged the council with.

Subcommittee Updates

Sustainability

Dr. Alan Steinman reminded the Council Members of the Groundwater Sustainability Workshop to be held Monday March 19. Senator Patty Birkholz will speak, unless an emergency session is called in Lansing. Dr. Alan is working with the presenters and fine tuning the framework.

Legal

Since the last GWCAC Meeting the legal subcommittee discussed Frank's Ruswick diagram which James Clift distributed to all present. The next meeting for the Legal Subcommittee will be on Friday March 30, 2007, from 12 to 2.

Mitigation

There were no mitigation meetings since the last GWCAC Meeting. On March 30 starting at 2:30 and April 12 starting 10:00 Mitigation meetings are scheduled in Mr. Newman's office. Conference calling willing be available.

Assessment Tool

A PowerPoint presentation titled: WWAT Hydro Mar20, 2007 was presented by Dave Hamilton. The presentation was on Hydrology using site specific analysis then statewide regression.

A site specific evaluation pin points where the water withdrawal will be. Site specific means having measurements from site. Site specific data is related to a similar long term gauge not random gauge, so is very accurate. This uses best available data. Will look at the geology. If no data at that spot will use measurements that DEQ or USGS went out and took from a similar hydrological location. DEQ / USGS have gauges that measure stream flow measurement throughout the State. DEQ will pick a location with similar ecology, where a gauge is then crunch numbers. Using best information on hydrology will come up with index flow. Than with fish model will come up with about what flow it would take for an adverse resource impact. Data difference is in stream flow. Biology data always stays the same. Geology is a good predictor of flow. Using 6 models came up with the index flow throughout the state showing how much water there is. As in all models a predictive error is built in. Where do we draw the line? Dave is comfortable with the factor of 2 which takes away 85% of error.

Dr. Paul Seelbach presented the PowerPoint presentation titled: GWCAC- Status Mar 16.ppt. The presentation reviewed the development and progress of the fish model into the water withdrawal assessment tool.

Jeremiah Asher logged onto the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool and demonstrated its use. The user has multiple ways to locate the position of water withdrawal. The user can click and point on the map, locate by county or locate by address.

Jeremiah Asher opened the drop down county box and picked Newaygo County. Once the highlighted county appeared so did tools to left. The user can turn on features (layers) of state roads, stream flows q50, grouped watersheds, base flow, reach watershed and county from the bottom left side of the screen. Zoomed in and picked area.

From the left top will enter withdrawal characteristics by clicking on set withdrawal. A window opens for user to enter information. It shows two graphs: All of the water available and the proposed withdrawal. Since the tool is not yet live it currently shows both graphs. What the final display will be has not yet been decided. Using it now to make sure the water withdrawal assessment tool comes up with correct answer. Screen is given 5 years pumping time. It automatically gives distance from nearest stream

The tool gives options if user doesn't pass on how to go back and maybe allow a green screen. Input on timeframe for pumping is ready to be added but not in yet.

Guiding Principles

Scott Piggott distributed a lumped together version of the Guiding Principles along with the previous drafts to be reviewed before the next meeting.

Next Meetings - April 19, 2007, from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm at the RAM Center in Roscommon.

May 15, 2007, from 10:00 till 3:00 in the President's Room at the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing.

June 8, 2007 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm in the Lodge Meeting Room at 33494 S. Maxton Road on Drummond Island.