

# Water Use Advisory Council (WUAC) Meeting

Hosted by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

**Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

**1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.**

Lee Walker Conference Room, North Atrium, Constitution Hall  
525 West Allegan, Lansing, MI 48933

Remote Option Available Via Teams

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## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome

Laura Campbell, Co-chair, covered agenda items 1-5. She welcomed members and guests and shared the logistics for participation in the meeting. Noted would be sharing the chair role with Burroughs and Eggers.

### 2. Roll Call

#### **WUAC Members/Alternates Present at Constitution Hall:**

Laura Campbell, Michigan Farm Bureau

Christine Alexander, EGLE

Bryan Burroughs, Michigan Trout Unlimited

Brian Eggers, AKT Peerless

Doug Needham, Michigan Aggregate Association

David Hamilton, Nature Conservancy, retired

Rachel Proctor, Consumers Energy

Megan Tinsley, Michigan Environmental Council

#### **WUAC Members/Alternates Present via Teams:**

Buddy Sebastian, Michigan Ground Water Association (MGWA)

Frank Ettawageshik, United Tribes of Michigan

Sherry Thelen, EGLE

David Lusch, MSU, retired

David Maturen, Statewide Conservation Organization

Rick Solle

John A. Yellich, Michigan Geological Survey

Grant Poole

Steve Kohler, EGLE

Jill Van Dyke, EGLE

Michael Frederick, Frederick Group

Clayton Joupperi, EGLE

Margaret Bettenhausen, AG

Danielle Sirianni  
Pat Staskiewicz, Ottawa County  
Austen York, EGLE  
Hannah Arnett, EGLE  
Tom Frazier, Michigan Townships Association  
Howard W. Reeves, USGS  
Evangelia M Murgia, Michigan Geological Survey  
Andrew LeBaron, EGLE  
John Esch, EGLE  
Todd Feenstra, Tritium, Inc.  
Nathanial Shuff, EGLE  
Sara Pearson, EGLE  
Jason Gerber  
Lyndon Kelley, MSU/Purdue Extension

**WUAC Members/Alternates Absent:**

James Clift, EGLE  
Jay Wesley, DNR  
Charlie Scott, Non-agricultural Irrigators  
Jim Nicholas, Professional Hydrologists and Hydrogeologists  
Jim Johnson, MDARD  
Jason Walther, Agricultural Irrigators  
Kyle Rorah, Wetlands Conversation Organization

**Non-members Present:**

Ben Tirrell, Michigan Farm Bureau  
Bri Hammontree, JetCo Solutions  
James Milne, EGLE  
Jessica Sweet, JetCo Solutions  
Lena Pappas, EGLE  
Val Vail-Shirey, Prairie River Water User Group  
Younsuk Dong, Michigan State University

**3. Approval of Agenda-Roll Call Vote**

Noted there is not a quorum in person today so the approval of agenda could not be voted on.

**4. Approval of Minutes-Roll Call Vote**

Noted there is not a quorum in person today so the approval of minutes could not be voted on.

Corrections noted for minutes to February.

**5. Public Comment (Three Minute Limit)**

No comments on agenda items.

### **Council Membership: Reappointment process reminder**

Bryan Burroughs, Co-Chair, took over handling this agenda item and agenda items 6 and 7. He will follow up with an official message to council members to determine their availability and interest in being reappointed to the council and enclose the council's 2022 final report. Ettawageshik indicated he would seek reappointment.

## **6. Committee Chairs Reports**

### **a. Data Collection Committee**

#### **i. Includes Prairie River data update**

Burroughs noted the committee had three meetings since the last council meeting. The DNR reached out to the Executive Committee requesting WUAC involvement regarding stream temperature data. The DNR decided on three-year of collection of stream temperature data. DNR has decided on two paths of approach for determining classification of stream temperature classifications. A short-term approach that will provide relevant and appropriate information to DNR for reporting. The long-term approach will focus on larger data collection and assist in identifying different topics to discuss for future research. Data collection will begin in June and go through September for three years. Data will be collected at 30-minute sampling time intervals, based on practicality. Watershed management will be broken into five locations, exact locations to be determined based on river changes. Air temperature logger use to be determined. This work will be performed by a yet to be named contractor.

Jay Wesley (DNR) noted the scope of work for the proposed project is under evaluation and he is waiting on follow-up feedback from the committee to determine the vision of what practices for standard policies or guidelines will look like.

An Informational presentation to be planned and brought to the committee upon indication.

No fish sampling/surveys to be a part of the contract. Fish survey expected by DNR for summer of 2023.

Campbell noted concerns for how weather may impact survey. The committee is still determining how to overcome this though Burroughs noted that fish population and varying age classes might be better than a singular measurement.

Additional Questions can be directed to Jay Wesley for DNR related questions, Bryan Burroughs, or Megan Tinsley.

### **b. Models Committee**

Dave provided an update on the council recommendations being investigated by the model's subcommittee, including the following:

- 2022 web-squared depletion allocation,
- 2020 Michigan Hydrologic Framework,
- 2020 Transition Probability Modeling of two Counties, and
- 2020 Aquifer Parameter Updates.

Additional work was completed to further evaluate the application of web-squared approach to well depletion allocation between water management areas. All depletion values obtained using web-squared depletion allocation were summarized for the 30 example WMA and compared to the total depletion estimated using the current tool approach of inverse distance allocation. WMA zone classification change was evaluated as well.

The MHF is going to be developed by IWR and USGS under a grant. Meetings with EGLE WRD, DTMB, IM, EGLE procurement, USGS, and IWR are underway, and the grant proposal is being finalized.

Transition Probability Mapping of Cass and Calhoun Counties is being prepared as an RFP that will compare statistical estimation methodology to 3D Glacial deterministic mapping.

Dave mentioned no additional work has been done to date on the update to aquifer parameter recommendation; however, he expects it will progress quickly once initiated.

Milne indicated he will be following up to determine what items will be required for a grant agreement. Dave to provide Campbell with Zipper papers on the web-squared depletion allocation method for Laura to review.

Todd Feenstra previously suggested that he makes a presentation at a future Models Committee meeting to address issues with individual site-specific review (SSR) files. Milne awaiting any outstanding items and individual SSR files from Todd Feenstra so that EGLE can prepare a presentation at a future Models Committee meeting.

**c. New Topics Committee**

No new topics.

**d. Conservation and Efficiency Committee**

Chairs were not present. Dong indicated that the committee met last week and discussed the State scorecard and how each state has been responding to water use efficiency. The committee is currently in the process of assisting MSU Extension with hiring extension educators.

The committee is looking to hold a meeting site in the field. Ettawageshik suggested a visit to a tribal water treatment facility. Co-Chair Burroughs said the WUAC would be open to an alternative meeting location. This would potentially be in August in Harbor Springs/Traverse City area. Manistee/Mount Pleasant are also possible tribal locations with nearby hotel accommodations.

Campbell also shared that Feenstra offered to host a field day. Need to determine if this would be a committee or council meeting or a separate day. Burroughs indicated he would follow up during the next executive call. Those wishing to host a site visit would attend executive call and pitch their suggestion with details on time, place, and where it falls on the meeting calendar including length of site visit.

#### **e. Implementation Committee**

Needham said the committee met on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Indicated calendar year 2023 is well advanced, and tasks must be completed. Currently working on building support from the new legislature, providing 2022 Recommendations will help. Provide any updates to Campbell or Needham.

The Governor's budget recommendation was 23.5 million for groundwater resources – it was unclear what this could be spent on. The expected completion date of funding will be 2028.

#### **7. Topic Presentation discussion**

Burroughs noted a reminder to share new topic presentations for future agendas. They have received a few topics and are working on a list and may include dual presentations.

Campbell said current and future case studies will be reviewed by the committee and then to the full council. Feenstra will share list for future committee meeting and EGLE will wait for specific topics.

Feenstra indicated a potential field trip for stream/well monitoring. Would be a full day event on a non-council day. Campbell and Hammontree to send out proposed dates to the council on when they can meet.

#### **8. EGLE Update**

Co-Chair Brian Eggers took over handling the remaining agenda items.

Milne discussed the fiscal year 2024 budget. Indicated Division Director Seidel will be presenting at the House and Senate Appropriation Subcommittee hearings to get funding for groundwater proposal for change and groundwater data management system in April.

Milne provided a report on Groundwater data management system. Currently no central area exists to store data (data is siloed in the various EGLE divisions) and EGLE's data is a mix of electronic and hard copy formats. EGLE has proposed a new solution that will provide common storage, analysis and sharing of groundwater data across EGLE. Frank noted a concern on fracking being tracked within this data. Milne to follow-up with the Emerging Pollutants Section in the Water Resources Division and with the Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division to find out additional information. Next meeting will cover this information.

Milne updated on AquaBounty Monitoring Plan. AquaBounty is an aquaculture facility used to raise salmon for food production; the model is predicting the well field's impact will extend into Michigan. Milne noted local interest on this topic – press coverage and concern from citizens regarding impact on private water supply wells and irrigation wells. Received from Ohio DNR in March; under review by EGLE and comment to provide to Ohio DNR. Michigan doesn't have direct regulatory due to the well field being in Ohio. AquaBounty's withdrawal doesn't fall under the Great Lakes Compact because it is less than 5,000,000 gallons per day (5 MGD) consumptive use.

Buddy expressed concerns about several existing irrigation wells located near the proposed industrial project near Marshall. Need to manage and review current irrigation locations to ensure no issues arise. Milne to check in and Buddy to provide support to Milne as needed.

Milne provided update on National Ground Water Monitoring Network (NGWMN). EGLE applied; waiting for confirmation if it was accepted. If awarded, the grant funds will not be available until July.

Jon and Evie provided an update on triage data collected. Noted that over 500 wells needed to be upgraded and over 700 in historical data needed to be corrected. Quarterly reports have been prepared to indicate what is being completed with the funding. Over 400 well locations have been updated and corrected. Digital input for paper and data logs has been updated for Well Logic database. Nearly half of the project is complete; the expected completion date to be 2025. Dave inquired if survey indicates how/why something is incorrect in the current system, geological survey does convey this information. Dave indicated a future breakdown of this information would be beneficial for review.

Indicated that the Wellogic model will be effective and simple for future use; improving the ability for drillers and departments to look up relevant information for needed data. Indicated the last 10-12 years has GPS coordinates in system, anything prior does not. Currently there is no way to determine if they have been recently surveyed. Recently released a map that allows individuals to see a map to determine if reports are relevant. Unvalidated data needed to be printed out and compared currently.

## **9. Future**

### **a. 2023 Meeting Dates (at Con Hall unless others offer to host)**

- June 13
- August 8
- October 10
- December 12

## **10. Open Comments (Three Minute Limit)**

Eggers last meeting will be in June, set to retire.

Question regarding Prairie River stream re-classification progress. On hold for three years while stream temperature data is collected. Burroughs shared that the Acting DNR Director decided they will not be making any changes pending additional data collection.

## **11. Motion to Adjourn**

Motion adjourned by Eggers.