

Water Use Advisory Council (WUAC) Meeting

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

Tuesday, August 8th, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET

Turtle Creek Casino and Resort
7741 M-72, Williamsburg, Michigan 49690

Remote Option Available Via Teams

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 248-509-0316,445615282#](tel:+12485090316445615282) United States, Pontiac

Phone Conference ID: 445 615 282#

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome

Bryan Burroughs, Co-chair, welcomed members and guests and shared the logistics for participation in the meeting. He will cover all agenda items.

2. Roll Call

WUAC Members/Alternates Present at Casino & Resort

Doug Needham, Michigan Aggregates Association

Rachel Proctor, Consumers Energy

Abigail Eaton, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

Frank Ettawageshik, United Tribes of Michigan

Christine Alexander, EGLE

WUAC Members/Alternates Present via Teams

Bryan Burroughs, Michigan Trout Unlimited

Megan Tinsley, Michigan Environmental Council

James Clift, EGLE

Tom Frazier, Michigan Townships Association

Jay Wesley, Department of Natural Resources

Margaret Bettenhausen, Attorney General

Pat Staskiewicz, Ottawa County

Buddy Sebastian, Michigan Ground Water Association

John A. Yellich, Michigan Geological Survey

Dave Maturen, Michigan Lakes & Streams Association

WUAC Members/Alternates Absent

Laura Campbell, Michigan Farm Bureau

Steve Kohler, Local Watershed Councils

Dwayne Loper, Lansing Board of Water & Light

Kelly Turner, Michigan Potato Industry Commission
Charlie Scott, Non-agricultural irrigators
Jim Nicholas, Professional Hydrologists and Hydrogeologists
Jim Johnson, MDARD
Jason Walther, Michigan Potato Industry Commission
Kyle Rorah, Wetlands Conversation Organization

Non-members Present or Attending via Teams

Briana Hammontree, JetCo Solutions
Jim Milne, EGLE
Younsuk Dong, Michigan State University (MSU)
Megan Cameron, EGLE
Sherry Thelen, EGLE
Megan Napier, AKT Peerless
Hannah Arnett, EGLE
Andrew LeBaron, EGLE
Todd Feenstra, Tritium, Inc.
Clayton Joupperi, EGLE
Nathaniel Shuff, EGLE
Jeremiah Asher, MSU
Austin York, EGLE
Ross Helmer, EGLE
Grant Poole
Emily Finnell EGLE
Katy A. Lindstrom
Joel Henry, Fishbeck
Richard Bowman
Ben Tirrell
Michael Frederick, The Frederick Group
Sara Pearson, EGLE

3. Approval of Agenda-Roll Call Vote

There is no quorum so the agenda could not be approved.
No issues with the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes-Roll Call Vote Discussion

Christine Alexander addressed previous issues with the June minutes; corrected draft minutes from June were sent out to attendees. No action can currently be taken but members were advised to review. Needham clarified that he was present at the June meeting.

5. Public Comment (Three Minute Limit)

No public comment.

6. Overview of Site Visit

Frank Ettawageshik provided a high-level summary of the site visits conducted at the Turtle Creek and Grand Traverse Report water facilities. Two tours highlighted water treatment, use of water, and compared the two water systems at each site. Highlighted how it serves community members and non-Tribal members. Discussed how it is used for housing and administrative buildings. Chairman David Arroyo from the Grand Traverse Band welcomed the group and lead discussions on Tribal history and Tribal relations over lunch.

7. Committee Chairs Report

a. Data Collection Committee, Burroughs

Nothing new to comment on. Will be working on scheduling future meetings.

b. Models Committee, Milne on behalf of Hamilton

Waiting to hear back from the chair of the committee. Dave Lusch is chairing a work group and asked EGLE staff to give a presentation on transition probability mapping.

c. New Topics Committee, Staskiewicz

No new topics with the committee.

d. Conservation and Efficiency Committee (CEC), Finnell

Noted CEC is continuing monthly meetings the first Thursday of each month via Zoom. Reach out to Finnell or Turner if interested.

Noted that CEC held a working session to debrief on past speakers and future work. The brainstorming identified the following potential topics: case studies on water energy, pilot metering projects, reviewing Alliance for Water efficiency Scorecard 2022 report to identify future recommendations, and EPA WaterSense program resources.

CEC was able to identify some topics and speakers for knowledge on potential CEC priorities. They have reached out to Carmelita Nelson from Minnesota to share information on their water conservation program.

Reminder the Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) will coordinate a review of 2023 Water Conservation and Efficiency Program annual assessment report and 5-year program assessment required by the Great Lakes Compact.

Provided an update on implementing CEC 2020 recommendations. Moving forward on Advance MI Water Conversation and Efficiency Efforts. OGL developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) with CEC and agencies to fund one project. The RFP has been released and applications are expected by end of August. Progress made on 2020 Recommendation for Increasing Water Conservation & Efficiency Practices in the Agriculture Industry. MSU provided the final workplan and applications due August 21. Anticipated to begin October 1.

If there are any additional questions on sections, encouraged to contact Finnell for follow-up.

e. Implementation Committee, Needham

Committee meeting held on August 3rd. Noted all of the plans have moved forward to get 2020 recommendations addressed. Question about the type of funding available to address recommendations in the 2022 report and for future budgets in 2024. Ettawageshik asked how we will learn more, Milne said we will be able to learn more from EGLE update.

8. EGLE Update

Provided an update on the 2020 recommendations. Milne noted the MI Hydrologic Framework is on the agenda for the August 22 State Administrative Board meeting. A work plan and project schedule have been developed, but waiting on budget from MSU. The Transition Probability Mapping RFP is currently under review within EGLE and a presentation will be provided at a future Models Committee work group meeting.

Noted the WWAT Aquifer Properties RFP is currently under review and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Stream Gages may see additional funding heading its way to increase the number of gages from 12 back up to 20 using the \$250,000 previously allocated for the master environmental database. The \$250,000 for the Michigan Integrated Water Management Database is not needed because separate funding is available for the EGLE groundwater data management system (see the budget update item below). EGLE will work with USGS on creating a new joint funding agreement for the new stream gages.

EGLE staff currently developing field Geographic Information System applications to document well locations and well conditions for the National Ground Water Monitoring Network. USGS awarded EGLE a \$92,915 grant to become a new data provider to the National Ground Water Monitoring Network. The grant funding is available for two years, ending in July 2025. EGLE will have to apply for future grants to cover activities like installing equipment in wells, repairing, or abandoning wells, and drilling new wells.

EGLE Groundwater Data Management System RFP is to be released in summer 2023. The bid deadline will be in fall 2023 and start date of contract is set for the 1st quarter of the Calendar year 2024.

Noted that for Aquabounty – Ohio DNR approved their monitoring plan. EGLE submitted comments and some were adopted. Agreed to use Rotosonic or hollow-stem auger well-drilling, which recover more intact geologic core sections. Asked them to share half of the recovered core sections with the Michigan Geological Survey but AquaBounty will keep all of the core sections at the AquaBounty facility. AquaBounty was denied access to rights-of-way for piping; there is currently a court case in Ohio. Finnell noted that AquaBounty ran out of money and stopped work. USGS will

continue to create and calibrate a groundwater model for the Michindoh Aquifer. EGLE, WRD will also provide funding to EGLE Remediation and Redevelopment Division, Geological Services Section, to drill monitoring wells in AquaBounty's predicted zone of influence in the State of Michigan. EGLE will share their comments on the AquaBounty project with the WUAC.

Staffing change: Nathaniel Shuff transferring to Municipal Permits Unit. The vacant position in the Water Use Assessment Unit will be back-filled.

Update on Budget: It was noted there is funding to ground water of up to \$15 million, however not sure who it is going to. EGLE awarded \$7 million IT Investment Fund for the EGLE groundwater data management system. Water Resources Division got \$2 million for ground water data collection. Already started developing fiscal year 2025 budget and asking for input from departments. No further funding updates.

9. Future

- a. 2023 Meeting Dates (at Con Hall unless others offer to host)
 - October 10
 - December these 12
 - Between dates, Executive Committee will begin determining 2024 meeting dates
- b. Formats
- c. Quorum

10. Temporary Executive Committee Vacancies

Bryan noted that the Executive Committee has two vacancies. Currently down one co-chairperson and one Executive Committee member overall. Not trying to officially fill positions yet but looking for temporary interest while we wait for the Governor, Speaker of the House, and the Senate Majority Leader to continue making their WUAC member appointments. Once the appointments are made, the Committee wants to officially fill executive positions. Maturen volunteered for the member position and Staskiewicz volunteered to help co-chair on a temporary basis.

11. Open Comments (Three Minute Limit)

John Yellich provided a quick summary on the Michigan Geological Survey (MSG) "Michigan Water Needs Data" Project. Provided an overview of when the project began and found initially 560,00 wells, with an estimated number of 700,000. MGS was used to ensure that the Welllogic data was validated from the project. MGS began a triage project to review and verify data. The project is 63 percent complete. This data was used to generate cross sections in mapping to confirm geological drilling and found incorrect data in various counties. Currently 26 counties have been completed, with 46 initiated and are expecting to be completed in 2025.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Bryan moved to adjourn; meeting ended at 2:20 p.m.