



## **Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network Meeting Notes**

Thursday, June 25, 2009 - 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's Van Dorn Facility  
2717 S. 8th Street, Lincoln, NE

### **Present:**

Jennifer Wemhoff, The Groundwater Foundation (TGF), Will Myers, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), David Miesbach, NDEQ, Lee Orton, Nebraska Well Drillers Association, Mary Schroer, NDEQ, Marty Link, NDEQ, Pat O'Brien, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD), Jim Newman, Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD), Greg Steele, US Geological Survey (USGS), Craig Romary, Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NE Dept of Ag), Rachael Herpel, University of Nebraska Water Center (UNL), Michelle Bucklin, Cargill Team Blair Groundwater Guardian (Cargill), Bruce Hanson, NDEQ, Daniel Kroll, NDEQ, Harold Reynolds, Midwest Assistance Program (MAP), David Lathrop, City of Seward Water/Wastewater (Seward), David Hunter, City of Auburn Board of Public Works (Auburn) Ken Swanson, Auburn, Russ Gierhart, Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District (UBBNRD), Elbert Traylor, NDEQ, Jenny Sidlo, City of Hastings Utilities (Hastings), Marty Stange, Hastings, John Keith, City of Lincoln Water System (Lincoln), Mike Schwab, JEO Consulting (JEO), Jon Mohr (JEO)

### **I. Welcome and Introduction**

Jamie Oltman (TGF) welcomed members and started a roundtable of introductions.

Bruce Hanson (NDEQ) was awarded a certificated presented by the Network honoring him and his work in Wellhead Protection in Nebraska.

### **II. Presentation: Jon Mohr and Mike Schwab, JEO Consulting**

Jon and Mike presented information regarding the Source Water Protection Project JEO Consulting is working on with the City of Auburn.

Jon gave a summary of the project JEO is currently working on with the City of Auburn. (See *attached project description*.)

Mike talked extensively about the contaminant source inventory (CSI) and the GIS technology they used when recording the inventory. The CSI was extended beyond the Wellhead Protection Area to accommodate future growth of the area. A database of site types was created. When a site is selected all the common potential contaminants related to that type of site are also selected. Modifications can be made to each entry but the generated list is typically a good starting point.

Mike provided a brief simulation of how they have used the GIS to perform the CSI in Auburn.

Dave (Auburn): Legal authority to inspect septic systems as a potential contaminant is recognized in Auburn. Because of the shallow wells they are trying to be proactive to prevent issues. No nitrate issues now but no other place to get water in the area. Chlorinate to remove iron but besides that Auburn has no real disinfection plan.

Currently GPS is being used to record location of septic systems. This data will be added to the GIS.

### **III. Presentation: Marty Stange, Hastings Utilities**

Marty spoke briefly about the history of Hastings and proceeded in discussion with information regarding the Wellhead Protection Planning committee that was formed in Hastings and the advantages of this committee. He also discussed several projects the planning committee has recommended for the Hastings Utility Board to consider. (See *attached information*.)

His goals would be in the short term to be able to get a handle on the groundwater contamination and avoid treatment for as long as possible.

### **IV. Nebraska Wellhead Protection Program Updates**

David Miesbach (NDEQ) gave an update on the approved Wellhead Protection Plans in Nebraska. To date there are 83 communities with approved plans. (See *attached list*.)

Jamie Oltman (TGF) asked the group to share any updates or programs/projects of interest to the Network.

Dave Miesback (NDEQ) – DEQ has intern helping with updating maps

Jamie Oltman (TGF) – Community-based Wellhead Protection Area Management Planning project is going well. She is currently working with Beatrice, Hastings, and Ohioa.

Jennifer Wemhoff (TGF) – passes around a brochure with information regarding the Water System Council's wellcare, Well Owners's Network.

Brian Reetz (TGF) – Introduced Brian, a new staff member at TGF

Will Myers (NDEQ) – Introduction of Will, a new staff member at NDEQ

Lee Orton (Nebraska Well Drillers Association) – also works with NOWWA. Trying to develop interest in water quality testing for well, new well construction and have baseline numbers. Way too many onsite waste water systems we don't know about. Iowa real estate transfers require water quality testing.

Mary Schrorer (NDEQ) – Source water grants due August 7<sup>th</sup>, call with questions

Pat O'Brien (NARD) – Fairly new and has source water background so learning new things

Marty Link – nothing new, passed around a sheet for the group to sign to be given to Bruce

Jim Newman (LLHCD) – work with those with onsite wastewater systems. 357 private wells in Lincoln.

Craig Romary (NE Dept of Ag) – pesticide regulators, environmental programs, and state buffer strip program

Bruce Hanson (NDEQ) – gratitude for all those publicizing WHP! More time for map revisions and plan review.

Daniel Kroll (NDEQ) – I'm new (Bruce's assistant)

Harold Reynolds (MAP) – vulnerability assessments, update CSIs.

David Lathrop (Seward) – close to passing WHPP, needs to go to county, new round of meetings.

Rachael Herpel (UNL) – keeps track of water-related research at UNL.

Russ Gierhart (UBBNRD) – Upcoming WHP Plan to submit – Shelby is 1/2 done.

Elbert Traylor (NDEQ) – Nonpoint Source program, revising state Nonpoint Source management plan for EPA, more specific in groundwater. Plan to visit EPA in September and 319 RFPs due same time as NE Environmental Trust, first of September.

Jenny Sidlo and Marty Stange (Hastings) – getting plan ready to go, writing grants for activities, July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with Board of Public Works about WHP Plan.

Jon Keith (Lincoln) – sending water to Lincoln!

Mike Schwab and Jon Mohr (JEO) – mapping Auburn's WHP Area

## **V. Adjourn**

Oltman closed the meeting thanking everyone for their time to present and attend.