

Water Quality Taskforce Public Hearing Recommendations

TAKEN FROM THE INVITED SPEAKERS SUBMITTED TESTIMONY FOR THE 13
PUBLIC HEARINGS, FOUND ON THE WQTF WEBSITE.

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**Water Quality Taskforce
Recommendations**

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Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

AGENCY HEARING – March 20, 2019

Department of Natural Resources:

Lead

- Provide additional funds to water utilities specifically for LSL replacements beyond what is currently available in the federal safe drinking water loan program.
- Provide funding for lead removal in schools and daycares to supplement the new U.S. EPA grant program funding for lead testing.
- Leverage the safe drinking water loan program to provide increased capacity for funding of all project types, including LSL replacements.

Nitrates

- Identify sensitive areas based on geology and soils where nitrate is present in groundwater.
- Modify well compensation program to allow for funding private well replacement for low-income well owners where nitrates exceed 10 mg/L.
- Implement nitrate initiative pilot recommendations, including developing a nitrate fertilizer decision support tool for nutrient management protective of groundwater quality.

Emerging Contaminants

- Research staff and funding – develop a model to identify and prioritize PFAS contamination sites – conduct fire-fighting foam survey and develop best management practices.
 - Need to: Better understand probable sources of PFAS in Wisconsin. Better understand the fate and transport of PFAS in the environment. Evaluate health effects and set appropriate groundwater, drinking water and surface water standards in Wisconsin. Develop new analytical methods to detect PFAS in drinking water, wastewater, surface water and soil. Develop a PFAS risk communication protocol
- Establish multi-media clean-up standards.
- Evaluate what other states are doing to identify PFAS sources, impacted citizens and the environment

Nonpoint Source Pollution

- Fully implement statewide and targeted performance standards and prohibitions (via NR 151)
- Consider additional targeted performance standards.
- Expand partnerships with DATCP, county governments, and municipalities on outreach efforts and develop innovative practices.

Nutrient Loading

- Funding for planning, outreach, and implementation.
- To further DNR's effort to implement these compliance options, additional funding to help WPDES municipal facilities investigate and apply for these compliance options is needed.
- Additional staff positions to provide advice to WPDES permittees on navigating these compliance options would also better serve the regulated community and likely result in quicker water quality improvements. Resources for outreach, consulting/compliance assistance, and project costs are needed.
- Funding invested in the outreach component will assist WPDES permittees in overcoming the primary barrier to entry in these programs.

Contaminated Sediment

- Partnering on legacy contaminated sediment clean-ups.
- Leverage state sediment bonding, local, and other non-federal funds with EPA GLRI Legacy Act funds.

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

Department of Health Services:

Bacteria

- Explore methods to maintain adequate and stable levels of support for applied groundwater research.
- Consider prioritizing projects addressing public health assessment and communication challenges associated with interpretation of data from microbial source tracking techniques.

Nitrates

- Improve alignment of funding and eligibility criteria of Well Compensation Program with current knowledge of groundwater-related health risks
- Explore and promote innovative management strategies to reduce nitrate contamination of groundwater.

Lead

- Ensure adequate support for lead testing in schools and childcare facilities.

Arsenic

- Support state and local agency community engagement efforts about arsenic and the importance of well testing.

Emerging Contaminants

- Support implementation of a state water quality monitoring strategy to assess for the occurrence of emerging contaminants.

Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection:

Agrichemical Management Bureau (ACM)

- Develop an electronic repository of ACCP case files for efficient, long-term record recovery.
- Support DATCP, DNR and DHS in identifying groundwater standards for new pesticide compounds.
- Support efforts of the Groundwater Coordinating Council and provide additional financial support for groundwater research projects.

Land and Water Resources Bureau

- Provide sufficient funding to support the county land conservation dept's role in implementing the agricultural performance standards.
- Provide additional resources for nutrient management and bondable cost-share practices for farmers.
- Maintain the increased level of financial support to Producer-led Watershed Protection Grants.
- Work with agency partners and ag groups to increase training for and participation in nutrient management planning activities.
- Work with partners to identify effective mechanisms for increased NM planning.
- Identify additional incentives and structures to support development in Agricultural Enterprise Areas.
- Expand Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) eligibility to additional counties

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

MADISON HEARING, Invited Speakers – April 3, 2019

Wisconsin Farm Bureau:

Nitrates/Nonpoint pollution

- Support increased investment in research dollars at UW-Madison and Cooperative Extension for applied agricultural research. Funding research and positions for state integrated research specialists.
 - In the last four years, funding for integrated research specialists at UW-CALS has decreased by \$865,000 and resulted in the loss of eight specialist positions.
- Support the county Land and Water Conservation offices and collaborative work.
- Support ongoing implementation of the nonpoint source pollution program through increased cost-share funding to assist more farmers with implementing additional nonpoint source pollution practices.
- Support the development of targeted, science-based regulations that recognize the needs and challenges of different geographic regions of the state.
- Allow farmers to continue to help develop local water quality solutions by supporting grassroots water quality initiatives such as DATCP's Producer-led Watershed Grant program as one of the keys to success.
- Collection of on-farm data → UW Discovery Farms

Wisconsin Farmers Union:

Nitrates/Nonpoint pollution

- Incentivize farmers to adopt better management practices.
- Fully fund agencies protecting public and environmental health to adequately enforce clean water standards.
- Research: we need to understand where we are seeing the biggest problems and what the major causes are.
 - Conduct county-by-county groundwater testing and mapping.
 - Minnesota County Geologic Atlas
 - Budget: Add 1 FTE (\$150,000-\$200,000) at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey to update groundwater maps. Provide \$2.5 million/year for county-by-county groundwater mapping
- Remedies: offer immediate help to anyone in the state who is currently drinking contaminated water.
 - Improve Well Compensation Grant Program. Increase number of eligible households, raise income eligibility requirement, households with nitrate-contaminated wells are eligible regardless of livestock ownership, prioritize households with highest levels of nitrate contamination
 - Budget Recs: Increase funding for well testing and remediation from \$400,000 to \$2 million/year.
- Prevention: state incentives for farmers to adopt better management practices, and we also recommend greater enforcement of clean water standards.
 - Managed grazing is the best management practice to control soil erosion and phosphorous pollution.
 - Restore Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (2000-2010)
 - Budget recommendations: Add 1 FTE at DATCP dedicated to Grazing Education and Coordination, Restore Grazing Land Conservation Initiative competitive grants at \$2 million/year, provide \$200,000/year in Grazing Research and Education competitive grants for University and Extension grazing research.
 - Incentivize cover crops – Iowa
 - Greater enforcement and higher standards by restoring local control of livestock siting, allowing areas with sensitive groundwater and geologic factors to adopt more stringent livestock siting standards, increasing CAFO monitoring and oversight at DNR
 - Budget Recommendations: Add \$300,000 per year for CAFO monitoring and oversight at DNR
- Continue funding the Producer-Led Watershed Grant Program at \$750,000 per year.
- Fully fund County Land and Conservation staffing grants at \$12.4 million/year

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

Wisconsin Land+Water:

Nitrates/Nonpoint pollution

- Commitment to funding conservation and water quality initiatives
- Launch a robust effort to obtain a comprehensive and verifiable picture of conservation and water quality programs across the state, and across agency programs, optimizing and aligning all programs.
 - Evaluating progress toward implementation of statewide agricultural performance standards, identifying the financial commitment necessary to achieve implementation (including evaluating current cost-share funding levels), and assessing program tracking and verification.
- Fully fund DATCP county conservation staffing and support grants at a baseline of \$12.4 million annually.
- Provide adequate financial support to groundwater mapping, outreach, and education.
- Support clean water initiatives in Governor Evers' proposed budget.
 - Increases in DATCP bonding for cost-share from \$3.5 to \$5 million annually.

Wisconsin Conservation Voters:

Agriculture pollution

- Ban on winter manure spreading
- Expand NR 151 changes to additional sensitive areas
- Increase CAFO fees
- Cost-share: fund it or get rid of it for enforcement requirements

Emerging Contaminants – PFAS

- Shorten process for creating health protections when new contaminants are identified
- Set standards for classes of chemicals, like PFAS

Lead

- Support \$40 million in the Governor's budget to replace lead laterals.
- Ensure all childcares and schools are leadfree.
- Repeal limits on loans or grant amounts for lead lateral replacements.

Clean Wisconsin:

Lead

- Gov's budget proposal of \$40 million in bonding to help families and communities replace lead service lines. DHS and DNR to have the resources they need to protect families from lead.
- Exploring and recommending additional steps to remove and replace lead service lines as quickly and cost effectively as possible.

Nitrates

- The Governor's budget proposal of increased well compensation funding to help families access clean water by drilling new wells.
- The budget proposal to help farmers implement some conservation practices
- Resources for counties to assist farmers
- Funding to support producer led watershed groups.
- Raising permit fees for large farms and directs that money to DNR staff positions to oversee a permit program intended to reduce the risk of water contamination from the significant volumes of manure these farms handle.

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- Invest in farmers we need to use conservation practices that have long been required of all farms but never adequately implemented or enforced.
- Fully implemented nutrient plans
- Farmland Preservation Tax Credit tie use value assessment, which helps farmers manage their tax burden, to the implementation of conservation practices.
- Limiting the amount of nitrogen, we put on certain fields

PFAS

- The Governor’s budget proposal of 2 DNR science staff positions that will support and inform our state’s response to PFAS contamination and allow the DNR to take steps like the development of clean-up standards.
- Executing cleanup efforts now to make contaminated groundwater safe to drink again.
- The state must work to provide access to safe drinking water to affected families
- DNR and DHS must have resources to develop health-based standards for drinking water and better assess and track contamination occurrences
- A robust commitment, in conjunction with manufacturers and users of PFAS, to clean up contaminated groundwater.

Wisconsin Corn Growers Association:

- “We will not be making recommendations to the committee today, but rather want to highlight the work that farmers are already implementing and the challenges they face in adopting these practices.”
- “Programs such as Soil Health Partnership, along with sound science from university trials, ag retailers and farmer ingenuity, need to be supported to resolve these issues.”

Wisconsin Water Quality Association:

Themes identified: Lead, Nitrates, Arsenic, and PFAS

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

LANCASTER HEARING, Invited Speakers – May 8, 2019

Wisconsin Pork Producers:

Nitrates/Nonpoint runoff

- Apply manure at the right time – avoid applying on snow melt
- Utilize WDATCP's Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast as a tool to winter spreading if applicable
- Protect surface runoff and groundwater impact by identifying fields with lower risk
- Understanding crop needs to produce healthy commodities while protecting water
- Establishing cover crops
- Applying nitrogen at optimum times to reduce concentrations
- Research Funding for Watersheds like Yahara Pride and Discovery Farms
- Producer-led Watershed Grants
- State Integrated Specialists – CALS/UWEX Staff & Projects

UW Platteville Pioneer Farms:

Nonpoint Runoff

- Investigating the relationship between crop nutrient management on groundwater nitrate and bacterial contamination in the Driftless Area of the Upper Mississippi River Basin.
- State support for research

Discovery Farms:

Key lessons in working with farmers

- Controlling soil losses is the first step to managing phosphorus loss.
- Equally important is timing of manure and fertilizer application. Placement of nutrients also needs attention.
- Land use and soil characteristics influence runoff and losses. Some of those things are under your control, some are not.
- Nitrogen use and corn production are unique in Wisconsin and need a larger farmer-driven database to uncover solutions.

Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance (LASA):

To protect and to improve surface water:

- Reduce soil and nutrient loss: Cover crops, Reduced tillage, Buffers, Low-disturbance manure application, Application rates and timing, and Soil health.

To protect groundwater

- Prevent contamination in karst topography: Identify depth of soil over bedrock, conduct well-water sampling on member farms, and Collaborate with SWIGG research project.

Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study (SWIGG):

Possible Solutions based on research:

- IF contamination is correlated to well design: Well code updates and region-specific standards, Well testing and inspection programs.

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- IF contamination is correlated to septic systems: Upgrade old septic systems, analyze if current septic system standards can handle modern needs.
- Incorporate groundwater considerations into land use planning and zoning.
- IF contamination is correlated to livestock: Alternate manure handling methods and technology, Balance surface, groundwater, and odor concerns of manure management
- Nitrogen:
 - Develop nitrogen recommendations for groundwater protection
 - Demonstrations of soil health and profitability with different nitrogen strategies
- Incentivize and facilitate adoption of conservation-based farming systems

Next Steps:

- Continue outreach & education
- Communicate with stakeholders
- Complete the study
 - Base any further action on the data
 - Collaborate with stakeholders
 - Seek region-specific, feasible, & effective solutions

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JANESVILLE HEARING, Invited Speakers – May 29, 2019

Rock County:

Nitrates

- Formation of a Farmer-led Nitrate group:
 - Create practical and effective solutions together
 - Lead to positive change and greater efficiency in production
 - Save on inputs while maximizing economic return
 - Proactive approaches help decrease regulation potential

Wisconsin Soybean Association:

Nitrates/Nonpoint Runoff

- Looking Ahead - Collection of on-farm data is critical
 - Support Funding for UW-CALS and Extension State Specialists in Budget Bill
 - Fund Farmer-led Programs at DATCP
 - Support Nonpoint Source Pollution Program
- One size fits all approaches to nutrient management will not improve water quality
- Approaches must be customized for each field and the resource concern
- Practices may produce tradeoffs between surface water, ground water, and air quality

Wisconsin Septic Trades:

POWTS

- WCCA would recommend a portion of the \$100.00 ground water fee from each Sanitary Permit issued by County Departments be used for Performance Monitoring.
- Recommend consistent agency regulations
 - DSPS all aspects up to operation of POWTS (including large POWTS)
 - DNR all aspects upon operation (Pumping, Transporting, Treating, Disposing)
- Maintain 3-year maintenance schedule in statute
 - 145.20(5) (b) The maintenance program shall include a requirement of inspection or pumping of the private on-site wastewater treatment system at least once every 3 years
- Maintain occupational licensing for Designer of Engineering System – Private Sewage System
- Recommendations for elimination
 - Job duties could be picked up by other professions
 - License requirements are steep
 - No other states have this type of license
- POWTS Grant Program
 - Extend PR-funded grant program beyond 6/30/21
 - Expand eligibility for POWTS installed before 7/1/97
 - Current date of eligibility: 7/1/78
 - Re-establish GPR funding for program
 - Update household income requirements (currently \$30k-45k to qualify)
- Create university/state-based research and testing analysis program
- Funding source – adjust current groundwater fee within state budget
- Re-establish execution of DSPS performance monitoring
 - SPS 383.70(2) - Purpose of performance monitoring

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- Provide additional information on the long-term performance of the various POWTS methods and technologies, to confirm their reliability, and to provide data for improvements
- Monitor the various methods and technologies relative to long term compliance with the groundwater standards
- Create statutory definition of: “New large septage storage facility”
 - Problem 1: outdated/overdue code not consistent with Wisconsin’s current generated septage
 - Problem 2: possible non-compliance with septage spreading requirements
 - Solution: increase capacity from greater than 25,000 gallons to greater than 250,000 gallons
- Maintain land spreading/injecting on DNR-approved fields

Wisconsin Biomass Energy Coalition:

Digesters

- Better solutions for the back-end outputs are needed
- Policy goals:
 - Gain access to intrastate pipeline for producers to sell RNG in a national marketplace.
 - Accelerate R&D focused on the technology and economics of a state-wide renewable nutrient standard in fertilizer.
 - Develop innovative incentives to spur cost-effective solutions returning water to its natural state.

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

MAUSTON HEARING, Invited Speakers – June 12, 2019

Trout Unlimited:

- Protect surface and groundwater
- High Capacity Wells: Assess Cumulative Impacts Periodic Review for changed conditions
- Phosphorus/pollution trading credit

Wisconsin Association of Professional Agricultural Consultants (WAPAC):

Resolutions

- Nutrient management implementation. Relevant committees or workgroups should be comprised of at least 50% active farmers and professional agricultural consultants.
- Promote research based nutrient management as a tool for improving water quality. Advocate for WAPAC and FARMER input on any revisions to nutrient management regulations in Wisconsin.
- Continued cooperative efforts between farmers, agency staff, and professional agricultural consultants to address environmental concerns that maintain or improve our soil and water resources.
- Efforts to expand fertilizer research in Wisconsin with emphasis on increasing both yields and profitability on the farm while protecting the environment.
- Promote science based Integrated Pest Management research and implementation in Wisconsin.
- Right to Farm legislation, the objectives of the Farmland Preservation Program within the Working Lands Initiative and Use Value Assessment to keep Wisconsin land in production agriculture.
- Initiatives for broadband access in ALL areas of Wisconsin

Juneau, Sauk, and Wood Counties:

Nitrates/Nonpoint Runoff

- Their MOU:
 - Clean Drinking Water Plan—free water testing, followed by bottled water and point-of-use RO system for all those over 10mg/L nitrate. - Outreach to over 1000 private residential well owners whose wells were not yet tested.
 - Notification of concerns of high nitrate levels in the area, Health information on nitrate in drinking water, offer of a free nitrate test to be analyzed at a DNR certified lab.
 - Groundwater Hydrogeology, Agricultural Practices, and Monitoring Plan
 - Two Year groundwater Study -WDNR
- Farmer Led Initiative: Two-year program to evaluate ag impacts on groundwater in the study area.
 - Farmers will work with WDNR and counties
 - This initiative has not begun. They are waiting for water test results.
- Working with UW-Extension to develop a producer-led watershed program and nutrient management training.
- Education and collaboration.

Algae public health impacts

Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association:

Issues identified: Phosphorus, Nitrogen and Chlorides

- Senate Bill 91, an innovative plan to create a clearinghouse for farms to sell nutrient credits and permit-holders to buy credits, can incent more nonpoint run-off control while keeping compliance affordable.
- Innovation, Communication, Science

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Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards:

Algae/Phosphorus Nonpoint Runoff

- Collaboration
- Cover Crop and No Till
- Farmer led Councils
- \$12.4 million to fund the county conservation staff
- Adequate funding for DNR to implement TMDL
- Continue funding for Farmer Led Councils
- Increase funds and support for non-point runoff

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

LA CROSSE HEARING, Invited Speakers – June 13, 2019

Wisconsin Rural Water Association:

Nonpoint runoff

- Affordable funding be made available to the small; rural water systems
- Non municipal sources of groundwater contamination be held responsible (legally and fiscally)

PFAS

- Base PFAS Standards on Science
- Urges Wisconsin to closely study the issue based on the best available science and not rush to setting a standard
- Municipal water utilities are not responsible for PFAS contamination, we ask that any legislation or rules addressing PFAS provide funding to help offset the costs water utilities are required to bear to remove the contamination

Rural Systems

- Review Re-Write of Water Utility Regulations “PSC 185”
- Municipal water utilities are concerned over numerous proposed changes in the last draft of the proposed rule.
- Provisions in the most recent draft will inhibit small water systems from treatment and compliance

Phosphorus

- Extremely low phosphorus limits have cost rural WI wastewater systems many millions of dollars while major contributors are not monitored, thus phosphorus problems are not reduced

Lead

- Municipal water utilities support the removal of public and private lead service lines.
- Last session’s passage of 2017 Act 137 was an important step forward in providing financial assistance to fund private lead service line replacement, but the lack of initial program funding and the need for PSC approval has limited the use of the program to date
- More financial assistance options are needed for private lead service line replacement
- Funding critical for smaller, more rural communities that may just have some clusters of lead laterals
- Additional resources will ensure that homeowners have immediate financing resources needed to remove their portion of the lateral when the municipality is replacing the utility-owned portion of the line.

Midwest Environmental Advocates:

Issues identified: Lead, PFAS, Nitrates, Heavy Metals,

- The DNR needs adequate resources to protect public health and the water we all own together
- Fully fund County Conservationists and provide them the resources they need to ensure best management practices are used to protect our surface water, groundwater and ultimately the water we drink.
- The DNR needs adequate staff and resources to better understand these discharges and promulgate proper standards to manage stormwater runoff to protect our health and our public waters.
- Adequately fund our public agencies and make resources available to local governments to ensure everyone at risk knows how to keep their family safe.
- Repairing WPDES program our most powerful tool to protect water already has a road map for repair. Adequate resources for DNR staff are essential to recover our onetime excellence in water management and protection.

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La Crosse County Staff:

Nitrates/Nonpoint runoff

- Looking for solutions to share data between the DNR and La Crosse County Health Department to monitor compliance with WPDES.
- Gaps in Funding For:
 - Testing and/or remediation for areas impacted by contamination
 - Studies to define contaminated areas
 - Sourcing of contaminants
 - Staffing & Maintenance for useful tools for mapping contaminated areas (UW Stevens Point Water Quality Viewer)
 - Data Sharing between agencies and organizations
 - State Regulations to protect all Susceptible Soil Type Areas
- Recommendations for Nitrates:
 - Close the gaps in funding and eligibility criteria of Well Compensation Program with current knowledge of groundwater related health risks.
 - Close the gaps in funding for local programs addressing contamination issues, conducting well water testing programs, and/or conducting well monitoring programs.
 - Explore and promote innovative management strategies to reduce nitrate contamination of groundwater.

State of Minnesota:

- County Geologic Atlases are a set of maps and reports that show the distribution of rock, sediment and groundwater in a county.

Carbon Cycle Consulting LLC:

Nutrient Recycling from Dairy Manure.

- Currently working with multiple dairy farms to create an “on the farm-site” composting program to reduce the amount of liquid manure handled and applied to the land, reduce groundwater contamination, value-added soil nutrients, build up the soil, generate a revenue stream for the dairy farm by creating a secondary marketplace, reduce cost of handling manure, partnering with dairy producers, create composted bedding alternative.

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

RACINE HEARING, Invited Speakers – July 11, 2019

UW Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences:

- A system-wide, one-of-a-kind network of undergraduate programs in Freshwater
- Solution-focused research on Wisconsin's (& the world's) water issues

Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program – Frank Masters:

Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program (ACCP) under DATCP:

- 2017 changes made to increase the lifetime cap for eligible costs and decrease the revenues to the ACCP fund.
- There will be continuing needs for the fund because of spills, continuing obligations and property transfers.
- Additional corrective action costs may be incurred at closure sites as facilities upgrade or land use changes (i.e. contamination left in place to be removed at future date when building or containment structure is removed).

Municipal Environmental Group (MEG) and Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District:

Challenges identified

- Managing stormwater
- Point vs nonpoint pollution control
- Cost of maintaining infrastructure
-

Racine County Initiatives:

Watershed-based planning/Nonpoint runoff

- Promote Watershed Groups - Incentivize formalization of non-profits in order to pursue EPA Nine Key Element Plans which enhance project grant opportunities
- Increase funding for grants to DATCP Producer Led Watershed group program – Promote formation of watershed restoration plans
- Increase DNR Targeted Runoff Management Grant
- Increase cost share funding for DATCP Soil and Water Resource Management Plan projects – Identifies more projects rather than more funding per project
- Support DATCP funding of County Conservation staffing and grants at minimum \$12.4 million annually
- Revamp criteria for application approval within the In-Lieu Fee (ILF) program – Ease restrictions on site qualifications in urban watersheds
- Adopt and fund the Food, Land, Water initiative – Created by WLWCA and adopted by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board
- Establish Statewide special fund to serve Conservation projects and needs, such as Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, & Legacy Amendment
 - Paid for by increasing state sales tax by 3/8 of a cent, for 25 years

The Water Council and Alliance for Water Stewardship:

Dedicated to solving critical global water challenges by supporting innovation in freshwater technology and driving new solutions to the industries that need them.

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

TOMAHAWK HEARING, Invited Speakers – July 23, 2019

Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA):

Nonpoint runoff

- Groundwater quantity – high capacity wells: Goal is to participate in the legislative process and protect our groundwater resources while at the same time providing an adequate water supply for agricultural producers.
- Little Plover River Flow Enhancement Project
 - Revitalize the river by increasing stream flows, improving water quality, and improving aquatic health.
 - Funding is needed: Support our efforts and provide a similar \$100,000 DNR grant to the Village to implement the flow enhancement project and complete the wetland restoration project.
- DNR needs additional funding to complete the field study portion of the statutorily required groundwater research at Long Lake, Plainfield Lake and Pleasant Lake watersheds.
 - Support DNR's request to fund the second part of the study required as a part of 2017 WI Act 10.
- Support Ag Research Funding
 - Support funding for applied agricultural research, UW-Madison CALS state integrated specialists (CALS faculty with joint appt. UW-Cooperative Extension)
 - Funding for state specialists has been steadily declining. We need more attention to the science of farming.

National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI):

PFAS

- Considering the diversity of structures and potential toxicities among the thousands of compounds in this class, regulating them as a class is not scientifically defensible.

Wisconsin Paper Council:

Groundwater standards/PFAS

- Concerned with the process for setting groundwater standards having a lack of transparency and lack of stakeholder/industry input. Want input on DHS process.
- Process for Setting Groundwater Standards Goals of Process Reform Efforts
 - Require transparency and stakeholder input at every decision point for groundwater standard development.
 - Prescribe in statute the acceptable risk by requiring PRA method be used.
 - Give industry time to adapt and build processes around the regulation.
- PFAS Regulation Suggestions for Reasonable Regulation
 - Address 'hotspots' through program independent of groundwater standards
 - Allow science, including health impacts and testing option, to develop
 - Be realistic with standards that balance cost and benefit

Lincoln County Land Services Department and Lincoln County Health Department:

POWTS

- Enhance POWTS educational efforts for accreditation and require more continuing education to maintain accreditation.
- Continued state financial investment in Wisconsin Fund program with a reconfigured reimbursement process.

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Nonpoint Runoff

- Target landowner cost-sharing towards implementing existing agriculture nonpoint pollution performance standards (NR 151), with a goal of statewide compliance.
 - Minimum conservation expectations originally adopted in 2002
 - State law requires 70% (public) cost-sharing for crop and livestock facilities in existence since 2002
 - Post 2002 or “new” must meet performance standards w/o cost-sharing
 - Counties should and need to monitor compliance status with periodic visits
 - In 2000 DATCP and DNR estimated annual implementation cost to be between \$39.5 - \$63.5 million. Since 2000, additional performance standards have been added, the cost of which were not incorporated in this outdated estimate.
- Provide sustained baseline funding for county land and water conservation staff to provide technical support to implement conservation practices
 - County conservation departments are the primary way landowners achieve conservation goals, such as agriculture performance standards
 - Develop working relationships, and build trust with landowners
 - The 2019 state budget fell short of achieving baseline funding of \$12.4 million to fund average of three staff per county (100%, 70%, 50%)
- Continuing education (CEU) incentive opportunity for landowners that complete soil health, agronomic, conservation management or comparable courses
 - Incentive or reimbursement opportunity for landowners that complete a predetermined amount of continuing education (CEU) per year
- Stormwater and Erosion Control
 - Analyze water resource conditions (10 years) to see if NR 115 changes are working
 - Provide sustained baseline funding to counties so staff can provide technical support to implement minimum standards (NR 115 & NR 151 subchapter III)
 - Funding for enhanced natural resource and conservation education

Short Lane Ag Supply

Nonpoint runoff

- Minimum-No Till
- Managed grazing
- Precision yield plans
- Low Disturbance Manure applications
- Conservation plans
- Cover crops
- Invest in research towards conservation practices
- Enforcement of excessive runoff of manure (no more winter spreading)
- Update SNAP Plus and UW recommendations to accommodate conservation practices
- Maintain farm watershed groups
- All land conservation office be fully staffed (Clark County)
- Comprehensive education programs for farmers

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

STEVENS POINT HEARING, Invited Speakers – July 24, 2019

Portage County:

Issues identified: Herbicides and Pesticides, Neonicotinoids, Pharmaceuticals and personal care products, Radon, Nitrate-nitrogen.

- Address the needs of those currently struggling with water contamination issues
 - Removing limitations on the Well Compensation Grant Fund
 - Assistance for those public drinking water sources dealing with elevated nitrate contamination
- Address the source of the problem
 - Fund those that are on the ground assisting farmers
 - Develop a nitrogen application rate that protects groundwater

Mark Borchardt - USDA-Agricultural Research Service:

- Connecting science to policy
 - Create opportunities for policymakers and water quality scientists to interact
- Practices and studies
 - Establish statewide, scientifically robust groundwater quality monitoring to assess trends and identify beneficial practices
 - Determine effective setback distances between contamination sources and wells/surface waters using scientific studies
 - Treatment is not the first option for drinkable private well water
 - Look to the country of Denmark for practices for reducing high nitrate in the Central Sands groundwater.
 - Multiple publications in the literature on Denmark's efforts.
- Funding
 - Enhance state and university laboratory water quality testing capabilities
 - Fund counties to support scientific studies to address their local water quality issues
 - Ensure adequate research funding for the Joint Solicitation for Groundwater Research administered by the State Groundwater Coordinating Council
 - Hold statewide referendum whether Wisconsin, like Minnesota, should add 0.375% sales tax to fund improvements in water quality, wildlife habitat, parks, and the arts.

Wisconsin Water Well Association (WWWA):

- One size does not fit all
- Look to Wisconsin DNR for regulation
- Local regulation/enforcement is inconsistent, unwieldy
- Encourage agency/industry partnership
- Invest in staffing and continuing education outreach
- Use science to begin the policy process
- Provide funding for studies
- Look to industry to provide research guidance and to address "real world" of policy recommendations
- Long-term policies are necessary to reduce nitrate levels
- Encourage solutions through agency and industry discussions
- Expand the availability of the well compensation fund and increase funding.
- Provide an income tax credit for well compensation grants.
- Look to private industry first to test wells and analyze samples
- Wells should be required to be inspected and tested at property sale

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

- Minimum inspection guidelines exist today, but are not required
- Utilize the existing infrastructure – the well & pump industry creating new structures for sampling/testing are an inefficient use of resources.

George J Kraft Professor Emeritus of Water Resources UW – Stevens Point and Extension:

- Groundwater standard for Neonicotinoids
- Use vetted science and evidence-based information
- Public Health Protection
 - Approve groundwater standards for neonics, PFAS, others
 - Subsidize private well testing and safe water sources
- Central Sands Groundwater Study from 2017 Act 10
 - Fund to completion
 - Ask DNR to apply study to all impaired waters in study area
- High Capacity Wells
 - DNR reviews protecting lakes and streams were halted by Speaker Vos. 700 new wells have gone in since without review. The legislature can fix this immediately.
 - Comprehensive groundwater pumping management needed.
- Nonvoluntary approaches may be required

Farmers of Mill Creek Producer Led Group and Wood County Land Conservation:

Nonpoint runoff

- No-Till & Cover Crops
- Conservation Practices
- Support Soil & Water Resource Management Program
- Increased well testing
- Watershed-based approach

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

MILWAUKEE HEARING, Invited Speakers – August 13, 2019

American Council of Engineering Companies:

Public water infrastructure

- Increased funding for water infrastructure
 - Environment Improvement Fund – Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Funds
 - Support and maintain the state trust fund
- Urban Nonpoint Source Grant Program – update program language and increase funding.
- Municipal Flood Control Grant Program – broaden project types beyond land acquisition
- Stormwater Utilities – support recently discussed changes to give municipalities ability to fund needed projects.

DHS and DNR:

Lead

- Water may be a larger contributor to total lead exposure at lower blood lead levels.
- Wisconsin needs to address all major sources of lead exposure
- Reducing lead-paint hazards will result in the largest reduction of lead poisoning
- Eliminating lead in water from plumbing fixtures requires long-term infrastructure investments
- Until all lead materials are removed from plumbing systems, there's a risk of lead exposure from drinking water.

Milwaukee Water Commons:

Lead

- One water – coordinating efforts and impacts, including across rural and urban water quality.
- Clean drinking water is a human right
 - Short term: filters
 - Long-term: lead pipe replacement in a generation
- More government prioritization of people, planet, and water.
- Public health lens calls for a strategic plan, not piecemeal, with funding to bring infrastructure replacement up to scale.
- Support for 70,000 drinking water filters in the interim.

Milwaukee River Keeper:

Lead

- Funding and Innovative Solutions to Address Lead Crisis.
 - Support legislation and efforts to bond \$40M for lead service line replacement
 - Support legislation that provides tax credits for lead pipe abatement (LRB-0892/1)
 - Support new legislation that would require lead-free certification for childcare centers (LRB 1502).
 - Support legislation that requires lead testing at schools (LRB 3539) and day care centers and summer camps (LRB 3566)
- Upgrades to grey infrastructure (e.g., sewage, stormwater pipes) and new funds/incentives for green infrastructure are needed to reduce sewage overflows, minimize flooding and protect water quality due to increasing frequency of severe storms.
 - Other states—Ohio, Iowa, and Minnesota— have passed bills that have funded water projects using sales taxes, property taxes, and fees.
- Cleaning Up Contaminated Sediments and Leveraging Federal Funds

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

- \$21M cut from State Budget to address AOCs. Need 35% State match for sediment (0% for restoration projects). This is a generational opportunity to improve water quality and fisheries, protect public health, and create economic development. State support is critical to success.

Nonpoint Runoff

- **Funding and Better Policy Needed for Addressing Rural Groundwater Pollution and Runoff**
 - Need more resources to address rural well contamination and polluted runoff from manure spreading.
 - Funding in budget and NR151 changes good first step.
 - May need more tax credits tied to conservation practices and/or nitrogen fertilizer restrictions for certain fields or soils.
 - Funding to County Conservationists.
 - WI is one of a few states that only requires farmers to implement best practices if cost share funds are provided. Need to reconsider this policy, while still providing incentives.
 - Need to require minimum standards for conservation practices on farms.
 - County staff need tools to require owners to fix, replace, or decommission failing septic tanks, especially if that tank is contaminating drinking water or surface water or a beach. Need to reconsider rules on building and overseeing these systems.

Enforcement and Research

- Increased enforcement, when laws are not enforced, people pay with polluted water, lower quality of life, and public health issues.
- One way to fund more positions is to increase permit fees (e.g., CAFOs, groundwater users, bottled water providers, etc.).
- PFAS need additional research needed on amounts in fish and surface water, in addition to ongoing efforts to develop drinking water standards. Must prioritize cleanup efforts!
- Funding needed to develop standards for groundwater and surface water contaminants. A task force or working group could help.

MillerCoors:

- Challenges identified:
 - TMDL Limits – Chlorine, Phosphorus, TSS
 - Deteriorating Infrastructure – site and catchment
 - Water Quality within watershed: Bacteria/Public, Health Habitat/Aesthetics, Nutrients/Phosphorus
 - Storm Water Runoff Flooding – site and catchment
- In April 2018, MillerCoors Milwaukee Brewery became the first brewing operation in the world to achieve the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) standard certification.

Milwaukee Water Works and City of Milwaukee Health Department:

- Lead line replacement
 - Workforce Development is needed to increase contractor capacity
 - Funding is needed to increase replacement rates, incentivize owner interest
 - Potential in Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act
- Other items identified:
 - Safe Drinking Water Loan funding, Lead service line replacement, Corrosion Control Technology, Drinking Water affordability, Beach water quality

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

GREEN BAY PUBLIC HEARING, Invited Speakers – August 28, 2019

Brown and Kewaunee Counties:

Nonpoint runoff

- Increase county Land and Water Conservation Department funding (both staffing and landowner financial assistance).
- Need dedicated staff in counties that can focus on NR 151
- Agriculture Performance Standards implementation
- Continue/increase funding for demonstration farms/Phase 2
- Long-term resources and effort needed to implement conservation practices to see an impact on ground/surface water quality
- Stop misinformation, more collaboration, and cooperation with farmers and public.
- Need Policymakers to Invest More Than They Currently Are.
- Full Funding of DATCP Staffing Grant
- Increase Funding for Conservation Projects to Implement Cost Sharing Programs
- Increase Groundwater Monitoring & Testing Programs
- Expand Assistance to Landowners Affected by Groundwater Contamination
- Assistance in Implementing the DNR Kewaunee County Workgroup Recommendations

Fox Wolf Watershed:

Nonpoint Runoff

- A strong agricultural community, thriving industry and a healthy environment do not have to be mutually exclusive. Our current system is broken, our demand for cheap food has resulted in an unsustainable agricultural system, fragile agricultural economy and polluted water.
- Need agricultural cost share programs that are built to encourage practice adoption.
 - Modify state cost share programs to allow cost sharing for the same acres on one farm for a complete cropping cycle up to 7 years.
 - Fully fund DATCP staffing grants for county land conservation departments and modify the state cost share program to increase the percentage of funds available for staff to support the farms they work with.
- Need to enact policies that meet our water quality goals. (NR 151.005)
 - State legislature incorporate TMDL allocations into NR151 performance standards for the Upper Fox and Wolf Basin and the Lower Fox River Basin.
 - A framework be developed that allows an individual producer to determine how to meet the TMDL based runoff goals on their farm in their own way, in a reasonable timeframe.
- Need to address all sources of phosphorus.
 - Allow MS4 communities to utilize reductions generated through streambank restoration towards meeting MS4 permit compliance.
- Need to explore increased flexibility in the Water Quality Trading Program.
 - Allow interim credits (credits good for up to 5 years) to be generated for best management practices that are working to bring agricultural lands towards TMDL credit generating threshold even if they do not meet the threshold.
- Need to understand the impact of our changing climate on conservation efforts.
 - Provide funding and support for the development of modeling tools to guide policy change and implementation on the landscape.
- Need to invest boldly in Conservation.

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

- Explore and implement a conservation funding strategy similar to Minnesota’s Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to generate new revenue for conservation.
- Need to ensure investments into conservation and water quality are lasting.
 - Increase number of boots on the ground at both the county land conservation department level and at WDNR to serve as resources, verifiers, and enforcers if needed.
 - Develop plans with specific goals and metrics for regional water resources and encourage plan adoption by any level of government involved in implementing the plan. Promote the plan to build support. Ensure results are tracked and verified.

Alliance for the Great Lakes:

- Items identified:
 - Lower Fox Approach: Point sources, collective capacity, multi-sector engagement, agriculture.
 - Collaboration and partnerships, multisector engagement and roundtables, leadership council
- Aspiration & Strategy
- Management and Accountability
- Sufficient Funding
- Diverse Funding Sources & Incentives
- Shifting the WI agriculture brand

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

MARINETTE PUBLIC HEARING, Invited Speakers – August 29, 2019

American Chemistry Council:

PFAS

- Disparity in guidance established by U.S. EPA, other federal agencies, various states, and international organizations has created significant confusion about the potential health risk of exposure to PFOA and PFOS.
- Supports a science-based rulemaking process for developing standards
 - Focused on PFOA and PFOS
 - Considers best available scientific information
 - Animal and human evidence for health effects
 - Latest information on biological half-lives
 - Standards should apply to individual substances
 - No single standard for multiple PFAS
- Short-Chain PFAS products are better – do not present significant adverse impacts
- Already established best practices for AFFF firefighting foams:
 - Use the product only when necessary
 - Use only what you need
 - Reuse/recycle residual liquids if possible
 - Minimize waste and emissions
 - Dispose of all chemicals properly
- AB 323 (Nygren) and SB 310 (Cowles)
 - Prohibit use of AFFF for training and restricts use of AFFF for testing (requires appropriate containment, treatment, disposal methods)
 - Allows use of AFFF in emergency firefighting or fire prevention operations
 - Codification of best practices, similar legislation adopted in other states (e.g., KY, VA, GA, AZ)

DNR and DHS:

PFAS

- DNR's Role in addressing PFAS
 - Respond to PFAS contamination.
 - Prevent discharges of PFAS that pose human health and environmental threats.
 - Engage with and assist communities and businesses in minimizing discharges & limiting future liability.
 - Develop environmental standards and identify best available technology.
- Evers EO 40 on PFAS
 - Coordinating council, public information website, expand monitoring of fish and wildlife, develop regulatory standards, modify the Voluntary Party Liability Exemption to protect state taxpayers, assess opportunities for using natural resources damage claims for PFAS.
- DNR PFAS Researchers & Needs
 - Laboratory methods for analyzing PFAS in groundwater, surface water and solids
 - Modeling exposure pathways
 - Characterization of probable PFAS sources
 - PFAS toxicity and environmental exposure
 - Soil, air and water treatment technologies
 - Characterization and safe management of PFAS containing materials
 - PFAS discharges and movement through soil, air and water
- NR 809: Public Drinking Water Standards
- NR 105: Surface Water Quality Standards

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

- NR 140: Groundwater Quality Standards
- DHS recommended enforcement standard for PFOA and PFOS
 - No current ES
 - ES recommendation: 20 ng/L
 - PAL recommendation: 2 ng/L
 - Basis of recommendation: Significant technical information not considered by federal government when the federal number was set
- Recommendations for WQTF
 - Provide authority to establish regulatory standards for safe levels of PFAS allowed in the air, land and waters of the state.
 - Provide authority to establish regulatory standards for the safe management of materials (e.g., contaminated soil or biosolids).
 - Prohibition and regulation of training & testing with PFAS-containing firefighting foam.
 - Require labeling of products containing PFAS, with types of PFAS and amounts
 - Provide funding for the following:
 - Sampling of all public water supplies.
 - Conducting a clean-sweep program to collect PFAS firefighting foam from local fire depts.
 - DNR staff to assist municipalities and industry to identify sources of PFAS and work on best practices to reduce its use and discharge.
 - Field work and other research to create means to detect and eliminate PFAS from the environment and receptors.
 - Support rapid testing capacity to respond to urgent public health concerns involving environmental contamination by emerging contaminants including PFAS.
 - Support for the development of new analytical methods for emerging contaminants and rapid testing capacity at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene to respond to urgent public health concerns.
 - Additional funding for research through the joint solicitation from the Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council.
 - Provide funding for additional DHS capacity to provide technical support and carry out community engagement on water quality issues and to develop timely recommendations for groundwater enforcement standards for emerging contaminants.

River Alliance:

- PFAS: Senate Bill 302 – The CLEAR Act
- Lead: SCHOOL Acts and \$40 million in bonding to replace lead service lines
- Nitrate: NR 151 targeted performance standards
- County Conservation: Provide 3M more to sufficiently fund county conservation program
- Clear Water Farms
 - Asking the State to match farmers' investment in this homegrown effort.
 - Farmers are matching up to 10K in time invested.
 - Scale to 20 participating farms.
 - \$200-250K for training and cost of audit.

Marinette and Oconto Counties:

- Water quality/quantity issues are not going away.
- Our citizens need us working on these issues at every level of government.

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

- County Conservation Departments bring unique strengths to the overall effort.
- Support WI Land+Water budget recommendations.

Tyco:

PFAS

- Data-driven Solutions
- Actions taken to-date
- Highest Priority – Permanent Drinking Water Solution (community water supply)

S.O.H20:

PFAS

- Regulate PFAS and biosolids containing PFAS.
- AB 323/SB 310: regulating firefighting foam that contains certain contaminants and granting rule-making authority.
 - Suggest an amendment that would prohibit the disposal of firefighting foam containing PFAS through sanitary sewers which would affect future biosolid contaminations in wastewater treatment facilities across Wisconsin.
- Support AB 321/SB 302: The CLEAR Act

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

MENOMONIE PUBLIC HEARING, Invited Speakers – September 4, 2019

Wisconsin Dairy Alliance:

Nonpoint runoff

- Continued support of farmer-led conservation groups.
- Continued Support of the UW Discovery Farms.
- Cost-sharing: watershed approach to water quality – bring other industries/dischargers up to CAFO standards.

Diary Business Association:

Nonpoint runoff

- Support farmer-led conservation groups
- Rethink the nonpoint program
 - Never been adequately funded
 - Low adoption rates
- Provide resources for soil-depth mapping and groundwater testing
 - Need up-to-date information to make decisions.
 - Data needed for NR 151.
 - We also need to understand the scope of our challenges.
 - Baseline information is essential to charting our progress.
- Revise standards for wells and septic systems
 - May want to consider targeted regional standards
- Open the door to innovation & new technology
 - Promote the use of manure irrigation
 - Allow the use of vegetated treatment areas (VTAs)
 - Rethink how we classify feed pad runoff
 - Simplify approvals for manure treatment systems
 - Create a viable future for digesters on dairies
- Ensure proposed rule revisions will help
 - ATCP 51 – Livestock facility siting
 - Concerns about how VTAs are treated
 - Concerns about setbacks
 - NR 151/NR 243 – Targeted nitrate standards
 - NR 151 & NR 243 don't reach many farms.
 - Need to tackle nitrate concerns.
- CAFOs
 - Make sure all farms are performing as they should, regardless of size
 - CAFOs may be a big part of the solution, not the problem
 - Does not mean that we can't rethink some aspects of our CAFO program
 - This will need this to be a collaborative process to be successful

Dunn County:

Nonpoint runoff

- Farmer-led change
- Added Flexibility
 - SEG
 - Producer Led Watershed Protection Grants (Two Years)

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

- Additional Resources
 - Staff Funding
 - Groundwater Testing
- We request full funding for the staffing formula in Chapter 92 and for expanding implementation

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership:

Nonpoint runoff

- A Soil Health Specialist for each County
 - We have moved from experimenting to implementation, but growers need a consultant to work out solutions on their individual farms
 - We must actively assist the land managers of the watershed in finding methods to protect the soil for the future.
- Water Quality and Invasive Species Specialist
- Increase funding for County Conservation departments to \$12.4 million, annually
- Maintain or increase funding for Producer Led Councils, but also require reporting and feedback to collect info on best practices
- Fully fund the nutrient management planning program
- Fund programs that help farmers move to practices that reduce runoff and preserve soil health
- Encourage collaboration and partnership between producers, citizen groups, government, and others; for instance, Governor Evers budget proposed an additional \$1.5 million for the surface water grant program that, if appropriated, could go to these sorts of efforts
- Continue the work of this committee until Wisconsin reaches viable solutions to the water quality problems the Taskforce has spent so much time learning about!

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation:

Nonpoint runoff/Phosphorus

- We need the Legislature to support us [the Red Cedar Basin Committee] in our efforts to clean up our waters.
- The key strategy the state has adopted to clean up our lakes and streams has been the adoption of farm-based nutrient management plans. However, the current foundation for this strategy is seriously flawed.
- The phosphorus nutrient management standard in NR 151.04 (2) (a), Wisconsin Administrative Code, for croplands, pastures and winter grazing acreage needs to be revised from an average of a phosphorus index of 6 or less to an average of 2-3 or less. Nutrient management standards must be directly tied to water quality standards or Wisconsin will never meet water quality standards.
 - Nutrient management plans meeting the above proposed phosphorus standard need to be required for all croplands, pastures and winter grazing acreage in the state.
 - The implementation of the above revised nutrient management plans needs to be required for all croplands, pastures and winter grazing acreage in the state.
- The potential economic burden on farmers should be eliminated by 100% cost sharing by the state and federal government for the planning and implementing of nutrient management plans for all croplands, pastures and winter grazing acreage in the state.
- This new strategy for bringing Wisconsin lakes and streams into compliance with Federal and State water quality standards should be implemented within ten years.

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

Scott P McGovern:

Bio-manipulation

- Bio-manipulation is a water quality improvement technique.
- Most important message is that fish removal equals a reduction in phosphate and nitrogen which will reduce the available nutrients to cyanobacteria.
- We need to increase the plant coverage in Lake Tainter.
- A comprehensive approach is needed

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

SUPERIOR PUBLIC HEARING, Invited Speakers – September 5, 2019

DNR and DHS:

Groundwater Coordinating Council

- Priority
 - Protect groundwater from nitrate and other agricultural contaminants
 - Evaluate the occurrence of viruses and other pathogens
 - Address emerging contaminants (e.g. PFAS)
- Ongoing
 - Implement a statewide groundwater monitoring strategy
 - Continue to catalog Wisconsin's groundwater resources
 - Continue to support applied groundwater research

Lead

- Challenges
 - Lack of inventory of where lead service lines and lead pipes exist, public and private
 - No ongoing state requirement for replacement of lead service lines (largest source of lead in the system)
 - First draw samples are not representative of exposure (levels can be 4-8 times higher)
 - Sequential sampling
 - "Events" that release lead into the water
 - Sampling locations – In homes with lead service lines or lead solder on copper pipes
 - Water quality can change over time, treatment should be adjusted
- Improvements:
 - Funding for LSL replacement, particularly the private side of the LSL
 - Target marginalized communities for LSL replacement support
 - Lead drinking water testing in schools – Testing currently uses residential sites only
 - Require an inventory and plan to replace all LSLs – Provide funding for inventory and plan development
 - Staffing and funding for corrosion control regulation
- Wisconsin needs to address all major sources of lead exposure
- Reducing lead-paint hazards will result in the largest reduction of lead poisoning
- Eliminating lead in water from plumbing fixtures requires long-term infrastructure investments

Green Fire:

Nitrates/Nonpoint runoff

- What we learned from various case studies:
 - Science-based environmental regulation, if properly implemented can protect the environment, public rights, and local economies.
 - WI's water protection system has not had a comprehensive review and modernization since the 1980's
 - Piecemeal changes have left WI's water with less protection at a time when there are more threats to water quality than ever before.
 - The economic impact of degraded water quality is likely greater than the cost of prevention and restoration, especially as clean water becomes scarcer in other states.
 - Clean water and sound economy go "hand in hand."
- Contaminated sediment bonding to take full advantage of federal partnerships
- Need to tackle nitrates at the source
- Recommendations:

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

- Boost nutrient management planning and implementation and strengthen the existing nutrient standards.
 - Implement a combined effort by University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX) and the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to perform a statewide survey of actual nutrient management practices to illuminate rates of both plan development and plan implementation.
 - Relevant agencies should create a strong incentive and a date certain to target full implementation of NR 151 Wisconsin Administrative Code or NMP coverage. State and federal cost sharing should be contingent on actual NMP implementation, and not just the existence of a plan.
 - WDNR, DATCP and UWEX should collaborate a campaign to ensure improved implementation of the existing standard, and to work together to develop more stringent standards where needed.
- Revise current agricultural nutrient management recommendations to ensure that groundwater is protected and remains safe for users.
 - Revise the A2809 UW Extension Nutrient Management Guidelines to incorporate limitations that will ensure nutrient applications at the farm level will be protective of groundwater standards.
 - Develop a “speedometer” for nitrogen management that tells us how much nitrate per year we are loading to groundwater for certain application rates and conservation practices. The nitrate speedometer should be incorporated into SNAP Plus software which is already in use to develop compliant nutrient management plans.
 - Establish “speed limits” to limit nitrate loads for specific aquifers or contributing areas to water supplies to meet established environmental thresholds. Speed limits should be incorporated into targeted performance standards.
 - Direct experts at the DATCP, WDNR, and UW-Extension to actively coordinate to make changes.
- Address target areas of nitrate contamination with multi-agency working teams.
 - DNR should be the lead agency, in collaboration with DATCP and DHS in forming teams to address the most critical water quality problems at the local level. The agencies should assign staff and recruit federal, local, and non-profit partners to focus resources on protecting wells and water supplies for schools, workplaces, and residential areas where water quality problems are severe. The teams can provide proactive, ongoing support to affected communities and those with susceptible public water systems. The teams should:
 - Mobilize all sources of conservation funding and technical assistance to enable land management that avoids excess nitrogen inputs.
 - Assist local governments to set limits on septic system density and treatment standards to avoid excess nitrogen inputs.
 - Identify and direct funds for precise wellhead delineation for public wells and make this an explicit part of all state-funded groundwater studies.
 - Identify needs for new or increased technical assistance, policies, or funding.
- Conduct more well testing to allow water users to make informed decisions.
 - Expand existing county/Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) groundwater sampling programs to understand the extent of problems, and spur action.
 - Include a requirement for well testing at the time of property transfer.
 - Require groundwater monitoring of manure land-spreading practices through Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permits.
 - Engage University of Wisconsin – Madison, UWEX, and other researchers to evaluate groundwater impacts of agricultural practices related to the current nitrate standard.
- Provide short-term remedies for users with nitrate contaminated water.

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

- Water filter treatment or alternate water sources in order to assure safe water for human uses, especially for families with children.
 - Replacing all private drinking water wells currently known to exceed the existing nitrate standard would cost roughly \$446 million according to a recent WDNR estimate.
 - Change the eligibility requirement for well compensation funding from 40 mg/l nitrate to the current safe threshold of 10 mg/l and eliminate the need for livestock use of the water supply to increase access to funding.
 - Significantly increase funding available for well replacement through the Well Compensation Grant program to be equal to at least 10% of the current known replacement cost of wells that exceed safe thresholds for contaminants.
 - Work with Department of Safety and Professional Services to deploy nitrate reducing Private On-site Waste Treatment systems.
- Expand the use of nutrient management plans in WI agriculture. Concerted multi-agency efforts and funding for farmers and counties are essential.
 - Conduct a statewide survey to determine actual nutrient management compliance and identify where improvements are needed.
 - Speed current efforts to revise current agricultural nutrient management recommendations to ensure that groundwater is protected and remains safe for users.
 - License or certify crop consultants, nutrient applicators, and fertilizer dealers to ensure accountability and implementation of standards.
 - Use WPDES program authority to gather groundwater quality data around fields receiving manure.
 - Manage subdivision septic system density to promote safe water.
 - Increase testing of private drinking water wells.
 - Require well testing during property transfer.
 - Change well compensation eligibility requirements and provide more funding.

Douglas and Ashland Counties, UW-Superior:

Nonpoint runoff

- Climate Adaptability & Flood Mitigation (AB266, SB252) – Demonstration Project
- Groundwater Monitoring & Well Testing
- SUSTAINED Land and Water Conservation Department staff funding of three staff per county cost shared at 100, 70, and 50% rates per s. 92.14 Wis. Stats.
- Development of programs & funding for watershed-scale hydrologic restoration.
- Expand groundwater monitoring & assistance to well owners of contamination.
- Education and funding for well sampling
- Expand well compensation program
- Regulation to protect areas sensitive to groundwater contamination
- Funding for County Conservation can achieve these goals
- Increase Public Knowledge Regarding Groundwater Quality

Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network:

Nonpoint runoff

- Fund land conservation departments and allow for individual county discretion on allocation of funds toward water protection efforts with accountability and reporting measures outlined

Water Quality Taskforce Recommendations

- Return and boost funding to the WDNR to enhance/strengthen CAFO monitoring program. Additionally, Amend Act 21 to once again empower the WDNR to do their job at the level it was intended without the Legislative interference that currently exists
- Re-vamp Nutrient Management Plans, one size does not fit all regarding both geographical region AND facility size
- Require ALL Nutrient Management Plans to have groundwater protection safeguards written into plans and monitored for compliance
- Mandatory reporting to appropriate agencies and local residents when monitoring well show levels of contamination
- Raise CAFO fees and create a sliding scale, the larger the facility the larger the fee with fees going to solely to the CAFO fund.
- Allow communities to require bonds of CAFOs to help defray the cost of polluted water and other environmental contamination that may result
- Anti-trust legislation and enforcement -- how has consolidation, and the subsequent massive growth in mega-farms, in agriculture contributed to water issues?
- Supply management -- how would that policy contribute to cleaning up Wisconsin's water?
- Citizen groups, not just industry and environmental non-profits, need a seat at the table
- Restore local control over the siting and management of mega-farms to county governments. The state can determine minimum standards (the 'floor') but local elected officials can set the 'ceiling
- Support a state-wide moratorium on new and expanding mega-farms until protective measures are put into place to protect public health and safety.

Water Quality Coalition:

PFAS

- Wisconsin's process for setting groundwater standards lacks necessary transparency
- Develop science needed to understand actual PFAS health risk prior to setting standards
- Focus on 'hotspot' clean-up
- Avoid "One Size Fits All" standards that:
 - Create public alarm
 - Require cost-prohibitive expenditures
 - Result in widespread adverse economic/social impact
- Work with legislators to improve Wisconsin's groundwater standards process to provide:
 - Transparency
 - Accountability
 - Sound science
- Advocate that any regulation or legislation is:
 - Based on science
 - Feasible
 - Protective of human health
 - Not detrimental to Wisconsin's Economy