

Bridgeton-Nockamixon-Tinicum Groundwater Management Committee

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

In Attendance: Tom Eckhoff, Bill Ballantine, Riley Murphy, Mary Lennon, Karl Young, Dr. Art Baehr

Call to Order @ 7:35 PM via Zoom

The next BNTGMC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8 @ 7:30 PM via Zoom

1. Approval of the June 11 and July 9, 2024, meeting minutes. There was no meeting in August—approved, no corrections.
2. Treasurer’s Report: \$5, 676.32 (received via email 9/12/2024)
3. Public Comment: None
4. Old Business:
 - Posting of Adult Learning Seminars on township websites. Each township has posted the PHS YouTube links in their BNTGMC directory.
 - BNTGMC members, and Dr. Baehr, will make themselves available at the Tinicum Township Supervisor’s work session to discuss the groundwater withdrawal ordinance. Tinicum Township will advise the committee when this is scheduled.
 - Additional well-test data is being added to the water quality database for PFAS compounds, pesticides, and Pharmaceutical/Personal Care Products (PPCPs). Test data is from the Penn State Extension study and committee member's private efforts.
 - Dr. Baehr presented his paper, “Groundwater Interaction With The Delaware River,” on May 23, at the PA Groundwater Symposium in Harrisburg, PA. Future presentations (and possibly published

articles) on well water quality results, in the townships, were discussed. As arsenic is a natural contaminant found in the groundwater (there have been several past studies done) Tom Eckhoff spoke with the H2O Base for a summary of arsenic treatment installations in the area (respecting the homeowner's anonymity). Currently, they do not have the time/personnel to research their data for the information. They have Tom's contact information if/when they can get the data.

- It was suggested that a water quality summary be presented to the Township supervisors, as an educational outreach, to emphasize the importance of well water testing. A formal outreach will be sent to the townships.
- We will include a summary of the water quality data in the committee's annual report to the supervisors.
- A future water quality study on the Delaware River contaminant's effect on homeowner wells located in the alluvial region of the river was discussed. Dr. Donovan and Dr. Baehr have already collated some information. Tom Eckhoff contacted (by email) the Morrisville Municipal Authority (servicing Yardley) for any testing results of the Delaware River. Tom has not received a reply. Tom has also contacted AquaWater, which serves Lower Makefield but has not received a reply. Tom will continue to follow up with the water purveyors and the Delaware River Keeper.

5. Continuous Monitoring Network (CMN):

- Dr. Donovan continues to monitor the new logger on Rt. 412 adjacent to PHS. This will act as a surrogate for the PHS well. The logger data from 7/23/2023 to 6/8/2024 shows the daily maximum has not changed much, from a high of about -103.3 feet on 7/23/2023 to a low of about -104.8 feet on about 2/1/2024, a difference of about 13 inches. The seasonal variation is very small during this short time period. Time will tell for a clearer understanding of the normal seasonal variation for this area.
- PHS well is no longer in the monitoring network.

- For the well on Lodi Hill Road, the logger has been repaired and placed back in service.
- Mary Lennon has completed the August downloads. The next CMW download is in October.
- Mary updated the logger history and sent it to the committee.
- Mary pulled the logger for Alex well; same reading from 7/9 to the current date. Mary replaced the logger.
- Mary reported on the status of the well logger houses, some of which need repair. The well houses will need to be modified to accommodate the new logger design when the old units are replaced. Mary has one spare logger house. A discussion followed on how best to advertise/solicit help, from the community, to build new logger houses. Bill Ballantine will contact the townships and the Upper Bucks Vo-Tech school for help in building new logger houses. Mary will develop the design/build specifications.

6. Static Water Level Network (SWL):

- Fall “pings” will be done in October. Mid-October is the seasonal low groundwater level.

7. Township Activities:

- Nockamixon:
 - Ottsville TCE plume: PaDEP is developing a remediation plan to remove contaminated soil from the site. The plume moves approximately 80 ft. per year. PaDEP will present the final program, to the Township, when it is completed.
 - PaDEP sent a notification to Nockamixon Township on the reclassification of Haycock Creek

- Tinicum:
 - Continue focusing on the groundwater withdrawal ordinance.

- Bridgeton:
 - Boarhead Farm: No updates

8. Ancillary Activities:

- Stream monitoring – The conductivity meter on Rapp Creek was removed and sent back to Global Water for evaluation/repair. Since the quarry is not in production, the committee discussed the value of having the unit repaired and placed back in service. It was decided to not replace the defective conductivity meter but keep the data logging unit for future use if needed. Mary will coordinate the return from Global Water.
- ECO-Bucks – Continues to support the BNTGMC in educational outreach activities and hardware (logger) deployment.
- The mini pump test on the Diabase well was discussed. Dr. Baehr has reviewed existing well test data, from BCDH, and this is reported in his report “Conductivity Estimated from Well Permit Data”, June 2024. Dr. Baehr gave a summary during the September meeting. It was agreed that the mini-pump test should be done to add to the existing database as well as gather information on the characteristics of this well.

9. New Business:

- Dr. Baehr updated the Local Hydrologic Status (formerly Local Drought Monitor) on the website on September 7, 2024. It has been dry lately resulting in a change in the precipitation factor to a WATCH condition. Although the GWL at the USGS monitoring well in

Warminster indicates a continued WATCH condition, the local data largely falls within the normal seasonal range; only the St. Luke's well is below the annual seasonal low.

- The Comprehensive Plan Update document from the Bucks County Planning Commission was distributed for review by the committee. The committee is asked to have a written review/recommendations draft completed and submitted to the Nockamixon Township office by October 22. There was limited discussion on the Plan as most members had not thoroughly reviewed it. There is a discussion on septic systems, in the Plan, and the committee should recommend sampling of homeowner wells. Tom Eckhoff will follow up, with the committee, before the next meeting.

10. Member Concerns:

- Karl Young distributed an announcement flyer from the Palisades Middle School Watershed Program. Tom Eckhoff will email the program sponsors and see if the BNTGMC can provide educational input to their program.

The meeting ended at 8:52 pm.