

## **Bridgeton-Nockamixon-Tinicum Groundwater Management Committee**

Tuesday – December 10, 2024

Call to Order @ 7:35 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Tom Eckhoff, Dr. Stephen Donovan, Dr. Carrie Manfrino, Bill Ballantine, Todd Stone, Mary Lennon, Dr. Art Baehr

The next BNTGMC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025 @ 7:30 PM via Zoom.

1. Approval of the November 12, 2024, meeting minutes – Approved, no corrections
2. Treasurer's Report: \$5,386.55 – no outstanding invoices
3. Public Comment – None
4. Old Business:
  - Groundwater Ordinance review by Tinicum & Bridgeton townships. This will be a committee focus for 2025. Tom emailed Tinicum Twp to ask to be put on the February 4, 2025, BoS agenda.
  - The BNTGMC 2024 Annual Report is being drafted by Dr. Carrie with input from committee members.
  - 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. Penn State Extension webcast on PFAS in PA Private Wells, 9/25/2024 sent to committee members. Presentation slides showed where in PA PFAS was detected in homeowner wells (some were in Nockamixon Township).

- 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 with the 2024 Annual report. This will be a 2025 objective.
- 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. Attempts to contact the water suppliers, Morrisville Municipal Authority, American Water, and Delaware River Keeper for river data were unsuccessful. DRBC did a Delaware River study, which included these compounds; Stephen Donovan will send the report to the committee members. The discussion concluded that this will be an informational outreach only to the Townships. The alluvial aquifer for those residents/businesses adjacent to the Delaware River are encouraged to test their well water as the Delaware River influences it.

#### 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. Stephen has updated the data on the website, as well as Lodi Hill.
- Mary reported on the status of the well logger houses, some of which need repair. A discussion followed on how best to advertise/solicit help from the community, to build new logger houses. Bill Ballantine contacted Upper Bucks Vo-Tech school to help build new logger houses but has not received a reply. The townships have posted the

request on their websites. Additional contact will be made with local Boy Scout leaders in Nockamixon and Springfield Townships.

- Mary will do the December downloads at the end of the month.

#### 6. Static Water Level Network (SWL):

- Stephen Donovan is monitoring the semi-isolated and unused well on Brownstone Road. He is taking a reading every few days to get a real-time reading during our current dry spell, and we believe it to be a good surrogate for wells in our region. The reading was last updated on 12/10/2024, and the downward trend seems to have stabilized.

Note: Each well has different characteristics; depth, geologic formation, etc.. Shallow wells are more susceptible to drought effects as there is limited benefit from recharge and storage capacity.

#### 7. Township Activities:

- Nockamixon:
  - Ottsville TCE plume: Additional well samplings, by PaDEP, continue to detect TCE in homeowner's wells. Discussion on non-residential wells and how they are affected.
- Tincicum:
  - Continue focusing on the groundwater withdrawal ordinance in 2025.
  - Committee members contacted to renew representation for the Township.
- Bridgeton:
  - Boarhead Farm: No updates

## 8. Ancillary Activities:

- ECO-Bucks – Continues to support the BNTGMC in educational outreach activities and hardware (logger) deployment.

## 9. New Business:

- Dr. Baehr continues to update the Local Hydrologic Status (formerly Local Drought Monitor) on the website. We are in an EXTREME drought condition for precipitation, and a WATCH for streamflow.
- 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. The Groundwater Ordinance was the greatest strength of the committee in 2023. Opportunities include private well testing and public outreach. The biggest threat is groundwater pollution on its effect on water quality in the townships. There is a discussion on septic systems, in the Plan, and the committee should recommend sampling of homeowner wells. Tom Eckhoff will draft a summary for committee review and submit it by the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This was done. Tom Eckhoff and Stephen Donovan attended the October 22 Comprehensive Plan meeting at the Nockamixon Township Building.
- Carrie will author the 2024 Annual Report and circulate it for comment.

## 10. Member Concerns:

- Karl Young distributed an announcement flyer from the Palisades Middle School Watershed Integration Program. Tom Eckhoff emailed the program sponsors to see if the BNTGMC can provide educational input to their program. Tom received a reply from Kristin Jacoby, WIP

coordinator. Their agenda is full for this year, but will review our educational outreach videos and investigate ways to incorporate our information into their program in the future.

- The committee discussed updating the BNTGMC website to a more user-friendly platform. Currently using WordPress. Dr. Riley currently manages the website and was not present for the discussion. It will be continued in 2025. The goal is to get our information to the community in a more accessible format.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.