

## **Badfish Creek Group May 24, 2007**

**Present:** Amy Hermus, Catherine Coberly, Cliff Robson, Rosanne Lindsay, Susie Forde, Rick Eilertson, Colleen Lorigan, Caroline Werner, Cal and Ruth DeWitt, Lisa Hustad, Sally Franz, Chris Ziemba, Jane Sheffy and Suzanne Wade

### **Next Meetings:**

**June 28**, 6:30 pm Oregon Public Library Agenda: Organizational planning: group's name, organizational structure, vision and goals. Let Caroline or Colleen know if you will be able to attend

(Note June 21, our normal meeting date has a conflict with a meeting of the West Waubesa Preservation Coalition.)

### ***Please put the following on your schedule as well:***

**July 19:** Urban and Rural Watershed Management by Pete Jopke, Dane County Parks and Lands will speak to our group re: Watershed Mgmt.

A second meeting may be planned for **July (5 or 26)**, with consent of the group obtained via e-mail with the distribution of these minutes.

**Aug. 16:** Discussion on the Water Resources portion of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan by Brian Standing of Dane County Planning. Also invited will be local city and towns officials for a panel discussion on area plans.

**Sept. 20:** Speaker tentative: The Environmental Concerns involved with Planning Developments and roads: Steve Small, Environmental Scientist with Strand Associates in Madison.

### **Action Plan:**

Jane Sheffy agreed to handle minutes for the group.

Susie Forde agreed to talk to villages and towns to invite them to be part of an August panel discussion regarding planning.

Wanted: individuals interested in becoming stream monitors.

### **Speaker notes:**

Ken Bradbury, Hydrogeologist from the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) gave a presentation on groundwater in Dane County with a focus on the Badfish Creek.

In Dane County, 100% of drinking water comes from groundwater. Each person uses an average of 63 gallons of water a day. When houses go up, the groundwater level goes down – the amount depends on the number of people and homes and where the wells are located.

In the Madison area, there is a definite drawdown in both the shallow and deep aquifers. The drawdown in the deep aquifer very mildly effects the very northern part of the Badfish Creek deep aquifers but has little impact on the shallow aquifers.

The shallow aquifers are impacted more from local decisions. The good news is that the deep aquifer under the Badfish Creek is well separated from the shallow aquifers by a deep (about 20 feet thick) aquitard of shale (aquitard means water can't easily penetrate it). One interesting fact is that in the western headwaters area, the groundwater flow does not mimic the surface water

flow. The groundwater divide is further east and north, with groundwater flowing to the Sugar River watershed in that area.

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He suggested that one thing the group could do regarding groundwater was to *promote that any new high capacity well be drilled into the deep sandstone aquifer*. This would help protect wetlands and springs which get their water from the shallow aquifers (ie the water consumption near Barney Lake).

THE WGNHS could use well records for the new MODFLOW groundwater computer model that they are hoping to work on with Dane County. Other information that would be useful is *stream flow information*. *Another good reason for the group to become volunteer stream monitors*.

Ken participates in a Groundwater Advisory Committee formed in 2006. Wisconsin is developing rules and regulations for the DNR (Legislative Act 310) regarding new rules for high capacity wells. Southeastern Wisconsin and Green Bay have been designated as groundwater management areas.

Dane County is a Groundwater Attention Area. *This means Dane County will be a target for research support, pilot programs, management and planning activities. Our group is on the cusp of something. As we do monitoring, Ken would be happy to have any information we can provide.*

A spring inventory has been compiled into a database, but no field work was done. This data is based on past surveys and other reports, and is being compiled by Jake Macholl, who works in the Geological Survey office (Mineral Point Rd. in Madison) but is funded by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Their office is not actively doing a new survey or inventory of springs in Dane County. *If the Badfish Creek group would like to help inventory springs in the watershed that might be very useful. Ken's office probably knows about some of the springs, but he doubts that they know about all of them. He could advise us on the type of information that would be useful. Ken would be happy to receive any new information we find. He will send us a form on which to submit our information.*

Ken had some nice maps, including one that shows springs and another that shows the water table. We will ask him to send us those electronically and then send them out to the group (attached).

Some of the group's questions and answers: regarding blasting at quarries, doesn't seem to impact groundwater except at nearby wells (ie about ¼ mile away) usually the impact is a disturbance of the pipes causing rust or soil particles to be disturbed and get into the drinking water making it cloudy.

There was a question about golf courses and pesticide and herbicide issues with groundwater. Ken couldn't be specific but said if excess fertilizers/pesticides were used it could impact groundwater. Suzanne mentioned that the DNR had new turf technical standards. It can be found at: [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/pdf/stormwater/techstds/dnr1100-TurfNutrientManagement.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/pdf/stormwater/techstds/dnr1100-TurfNutrientManagement.pdf)

#### **Organizational Notes:**

We only had about 30 minutes to talk about this, but the following was decided:

- Fact sheet needed.
- Electronic map with overlays (roads, brownfields, streams, springs etc, etc) needed.
- Should plan a tour including agricultural and shoreline projects, subdivisions, should try to

do something 'on the creek' as well.

Maureen Rowe (who oversees the DNR's lower Badfish Creek) has been contacted to speak. We may be scheduling a second meeting in July or August to accommodate her schedule.

**June 28** (Thursday): We will focus discussion on the structure, vision and name for the group. If time allows, we will begin to develop our goals based on the presentations and discussions from the past two meetings. *A rough draft of a Fact Sheet will be distributed with these minutes. Please read that over and be prepared to discuss and suggest changes on June 28.*