Attendees:
Steve Elmore, DNR; Jill Jonas, DNR; Eric Ebersberger, DNR; Lawrie Kobza, MEG-Water; Terry Siglinsky, Fort Atkinson Water Utility; Brian Powell, Green Bay Water Utility; John W. Richmond, Marshfield Utilities; Joe Grande, Madison Water Utility; Mike Sullivan, Oak Creek Water & Sewer; Pat Planton, SEH and WWA; Dave Lawrence, WRWA; Mary Cardona, WWA notetaker.

1. Welcome – Steve Elmore

2. Water Use Program Updates – Eric Ebersberger

Groundwater legislation. Groundwater legislation may be introduced in the state legislature sometime this year. Sen. Robert Cowles (R – Green Bay) has been looking into groundwater issues and is talking with various interests. At this time no specifics have been released about what this bill might contain.

Waukesha Diversion Application. The Waukesha Diversion Application under the Great Lakes Compact is moving to the next step in the process. The DNR plans to release a draft Environmental Impact Statement and draft Technical Review of the City of Waukesha’s Diversion Application this June. A public comment period will begin upon the release of these documents that will last 45 days or possibly longer.

The DNR will consider all comments received during the comment period, make any necessary changes to the documents, and issue final versions of the EIS and Technical Review, followed by another 30-day comment period on the EIS. If approvable, the application will be forwarded to the Regional Body (the eight Great Lake States and the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario) for its review, which also has a public hearing component. When this review is completed, a process that could take as long as 90 days or more, the Regional Body will issue a declaration of findings and forward it to the Compact Council. The Compact Council, which is made up of just the eight states, will review the declaration and make a decision. For the diversion plan to be approved by the Council, the vote must be unanimous.

The City of Waukesha is the first community in a “straddling county” to request a diversion under the Great Lakes Compact. The City is under a DOJ stipulation requiring that its drinking water be in compliance with state and federal radium standards by June 30, 2018. In order for the Diversion application to be approved, among other things, the City must show that it is without a reasonable alternative potable water source in the Mississippi River Basin.

To receive regular updates on the Waukesha Diversion application, subscribe to DNR’s Email Updates at https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDNR/subscriber/new. The DNR’s

3. Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Updates – Steve Elmore

The effective date of the revisions to NR 166 is July 1, 2015. Under the revised administrative rules:

- Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Intent to Apply forms (ITAs) and Priority Evaluation and Ranking Forms (PERFs) are due on October 31 beginning in 2015.
- All ITAs and PERFs must be submitted annually since they will only be valid for one state fiscal year.
- All ITAs and PERFs must be submitted online. WAMS ID and Switchboard access must be obtained by October 16, 2015 in order to complete the forms online by the October 31 deadline.

The DNR has written an article for WWA about the changes to the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program that will appear in the next quarterly WWA newsletter.

A working group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council is reviewing the EPA’s lead and copper rules.

4. Revised Total Coliform Rule Update – Steve Elmore

The DNR Board will be taking up the Revised Total Coliform rule (ch. NR 809) at its Wednesday, May 27 board meeting for authorization to go to public hearing. If authorized, three public hearings will be held in July around the state. Written comments will also be accepted during this period. After successfully completing these steps, the rule will come back to the Board for approval. It is anticipated that the revisions to ch. NR 809 will be effective as of April 1, 2016.

Email updates on the RTCR are available from the DNR. To subscribe, go here: https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDNR/subscriber/new

5. Budget update – Steve Elmore

The state’s budget process is still ongoing and the DNR does not know what the final proposal will be.

Due to engineering retirements and an extended leave, the plan review process has lengthened from 45 days to 65 days on average. The DNR has adjusted to create greater efficiencies in this area. Non-engineering staff are now handling the initial intake of the plans.
6. Privately looped water mains -- Pat Planton

Pat Planton asked for clarification of the state administrative rule regarding privately looped water mains specifically under what conditions a check valve is required and who is responsible for paying for it.

If a water main is on private property, the responsibility to pay for the check valve is the private property owner’s and DSPS must approve the plans. If the water main is in a public easement on private property, no check valve is needed and DNR will review the plans, as the main is part of the public water system and the public water utility has complete access and control over the system.

7. DNR and PSC coordination on projects

The group discussed the evolving role of the PSC in the construction approval process and how it relates to the DNR’s approval process.

8. Unregulated contaminants list in the CCR – Mike Sullivan

The EPA requires water utilities to include in the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) the list of all detected unregulated contaminants, including the average and range of the detection. The report may contain a brief explanation of reasons for monitoring unregulated contaminants.

9. CDC Low pressure events study – Steve Elmore

The Center for Disease Control is conducting a low-pressure events study and is seeking utilities to participate. The goal of this research is to determine what impact low-pressure events have on public health and to develop a direction for future policymaking in this area.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. Julia Gargano at jgargano@cdc.gov.

10. Next meeting – Steve Elmore

August 12, 2015 at 9 a.m. (Editors note: The meeting date is being changed to the week of August 17. Steve will be emailing participants to set a specific date.)

Note: The meeting summary is a collaborative effort of the DNR and WWA.