

## MEMORANDUM

To: Groundwater Advisory Council  
From: H. Bokuniewicz  
Concerning: Minutes of the meeting of 23 September 2002  
Date: October 23, 2002 – **REVISED EDITION**

### PRESENT

H. Bokuniewicz  
J. Milazzo  
B. Nemickas  
M. Nofi  
S. Robbins  
K. Roberts  
W. Spitz

### REGRETS

N. Bartilucci  
T. Green  
S. Jones  
L. Koppelman  
V. Minei  
D. Paquette  
G. Proios  
W. Prospect  
P. Ramirez

1. Bill pointed out that Ray Cowen's name was misspelled on the last set of minutes. This will be corrected.
2. The next meeting will be on Monday 21 October 9:30 – 11:00 AM at Nick Bartilucci's Offices in Woodbury. It was pointed out that there is a SWAP advisory group meeting scheduled for that same afternoon.

The SWAP subregional models are up and running. They have been working from west to east and, apparently had some problems on the north shore. The deadlines for completion are still firm even though the RFP was late. There are several well fields that are soon to come on-line; dozens, too many to routinely include them in the ongoing SWAP modeling. Sy is looking into a special contract to CDM to run the subregionals models for pending well fields. (Even though the county and Water Authority have the DYNFLOW models, they haven't been trained on the "subregionals").

The Jamaica Wells are also to be pumping, we believe, under existing "monitoring" permits. They're considering withdrawals from the Lloyd Aquifer but would need to get an exemption from the moratorium. With the current state of model development, the impacts of withdrawals from the Lloyd could be examined as a basis for management decisions.

3. Ongoing Institute initiatives were reviewed:
- a. Groundwater modeling courses. Paul Misut (USGS) has prepared an applied modeling graduate course but we've had to cancel it twice because of insufficient enrollment. I will meet with Paul to discuss more options.

In August, we held a short-course in contaminant modeling run by Jim Weaver (EPA, Atlanta) for 22 DEC staff, some from Stony Brook, Albany and Long Island City.

- b. VEEP. With \$40,000 from the Water Authority and Kevin Dunn working part-time, we have tried to maintain the Volunteer Environmental Education Program in 2002. In the spring, volunteers visited seven school districts, gave 30 presentations, interacting with 59 teachers and 1500 students. Volunteers also participated in eleven environmental fairs and six new volunteers underwent training, bringing the number up to 63. We have 292 school contacts on our list. Fall sessions are being planned.

We've kept this going, but clearly we have to find another way to finance and run the effort. Kevin can't handle it completely in absentia. It was suggested that, perhaps, the Northeastern Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) might provide funding for these types of programs. NY State is a member (Sandy Allen (?) on the Board?).

- c. Data base on modeling. This was brought up at legislator Bishop's hearing and Wayne Prospect had asked Sy for a description of the need, which he provided, but nothing has developed yet. After our June meeting, I contacted a few people concerning the ultimate fate of the SWAP models and the idea of housing them at the University, but it seemed premature. I'll try again in a few weeks.
- d. The results of the submarine groundwater seepage experiment on Shelter Island are not yet available. There's to be a synthesis meeting but probably not until February or March at this stage. UNESCO is publishing a brochure on groundwater seepage to which we have contributed substantially.
- e. The student working on the precipitation data is back on the job. Sy brought in the Islip data and we'll work to get it in shape. We're not on the web yet, unfortunately, but we have been able to help out with station data needed for SWAP.

It was suggested that this might be used as a basis for revisiting the standards for "design storms" (i.e. What's a "24-hour storm", etc). These were last done in 1961, and can be found on the Web. In light of the recent flooding we've experienced, the "design storms" don't seem to be accurate. Such a project might be suitable for funding by the NY Water Resources Institute, which has "urban storm water" supporting local government needs.

- f. Lawn nitrogen: We're keeping up the sampling at the existing lysimeters (Oakdale and Stony Brook). The new equipment is in but not yet installed. We

had a few problems over the summer with setting up the contract and getting permission to “dig some holes”. This isn’t too bad a set back since the devices have to “age” in place anyway, but they should be ready for the spring growing season. Mike DiBlasi will be our contact person.

- g. The new ICP-MS instrumentation for metals analysis has been installed at the Marine Sciences Research Center and people are being trained on it this week. This can provide analyses in the parts-per-quadrillion range. A student is using it now for analyses of samples from Shelter Island.
- h. The “pharmaceuticals” study is underway. Bruce Brownawell has some trouble sampling because of miscommunications while Sy was away. This should not be a problem now and Bill Spitz offered to provide a letter from the DEC if that would help. Steve Terracciano (USGS) has been helpful in arranging sampling in the interim.
- i. Newsletters. The “lawn nitrogen” newsletter had some problems. By the time they were resolved, it was pretty late in the season, so I made an executive decision to delay distribution to next spring (2003). It’s ready to go but we won’t send it out until March.

The next newsletter based on the latest pesticide report is being prepared.

- 4. The University has recently had a “Center for Environmental Molecular Science” funded by the National Science Foundation. Martin Schoonen and other faculty from LIGRI were involved with this and research relevant to groundwater is included in its mission.
- 5. There have been a few “hits” of perchlorate in Nassau County probably residuals of fertilizer applications. It’s difficult to test for and remediate, so there could be a problem if the Federal standard goes to one or two ppb, not only in Nassau but also on the north fork. See the EPA website for the status of the Federal Standard.
- 6. Henry Bokuniewicz now chairs the AWWA student activities committee providing scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students. Its primary mission is to award scholarships but we hope to improve the participation of students in general.
- 7. The “Chemical Security Act” would require an additional, but unnecessary burden of reporting for water suppliers. It seems that the appropriate people were already aware of this through AWWA. We’ve sent in a letter to the LI congress people and senators.
- 8. New Business:
  - a. The need for revisiting the county’s Comprehensive Water Management Plan was discussed. This issue was raised at Legislator Bishop’s hearing but nothing has developed yet.

- b. Newsday raised the issue of testing private wells every two years. Unfortunately, the 2000 Census dropped the question about water supply, but, based on 1980 data, there could be 200,000 people affected and an estimated 5 or 10,000 are high risk. The data from the 1980 census could be updated since the DEC has preliminary well permit records, the number of new homes could be obtained, and the SCWA could learn how many were hooked up to the public water supply.
  
- c. The NYSDEC has raised new concerns about detergents in effluent from commercial laundries, and Sy Robbins has prepared a draft white paper on the topic (attached). Few laundries are meeting their SPDES permit limits of 1 ppm for MBAS. In addition, detergent breakdown products, and newer nonionic detergents are not measured by MBAS. Nonionic surfactants known as alkylphenol polyethoxylates (APEOs) are found in laundry products (primarily heavy-duty detergents) and also in hard-surface household cleaners. The breakdown products of APEOs include the alkylphenol components nonylphenol (NP) and octylphenol (OP), which can mimic estrogen and disrupt endocrine function. Various European countries have banned some or all uses of APEOs, although American manufacturers continue to defend their safety. “On-site wastewater treatment” is a priority area in the upcoming Water Resources Institute’s RFP.

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enclosure: Detergent Surfactants: A Re-Emerging Issue (Sy F. Robbins)