

MEMORANDUM

To: Groundwater Advisory Council
From: H. Bokuniewicz
Concerning: Minutes of the meeting of 25 June, 2001
Date: July 6, 2001

PRESENT

H. Bokuniewicz
S. Jones
J. Milazzo
B. Nemickas
D. Paquette
W. Prospect
R. Ramirez
S. Robbins
K. Roberts
P. Schuchman

REGRETS

N. Bartilucci
L. Koppelman
G. Proios
W. Spitz

1. The minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2001 were distributed. Contact me with any corrections or revisions.
2. Nassau County Health Department has rejoined the Suffolk County Department of Health Services for the "2001 Water Quality Monitoring Program to Detect Pesticide Contamination in Groundwaters of Nassau and Suffolk Counties". The main objective of the program is to identify pesticides and their metabolites that leach to groundwater and to identify where the impact occurs. A total of 75 samples will be collected from NC public water supply wells and county-owned monitoring wells in areas deemed vulnerable to pesticide contamination.

The pesticide report has gotten some exposure (Mary Trent was interviewed on News 12). Wells meet standards but questions remain about synergistic effects.

3. On Thursday (16 August) the American Planning Association is holding a golf outing and technical conference on golf course maintenance for public and private planners. It will be held in Port Washington ("Sand Pit Links"). Speakers will be Karl Olsen of the Shinnecock Links, a speaker from the National Audubon Society on the design of "organic" golf courses and Neil Lewis, consumer advocate. The technical program is

to start at 5 PM. We will distribute brochures for this meeting when they are available.

Golf courses do a fairly good job with nitrate applications. It has usually been assumed that levels would be about 8 ppm in groundwater under golf courses but it is actually found in the 2 to 4 ppm range. Higher concentrations might be expected during the initial establishment of the course, but, with proper management, these seem to subside. There are some herbicide problems and, in at least two cases, serious dactyl contamination was found by Suffolk County.

The Suffolk County Water Authority has been involved in the review of monitoring results at the Golf-at-the-Bridge Course in Southampton. There have been concerns over the protocol used in the testing and a recommendation is being made to the Town.

4. Peter Schuchman, a master's student in the University's Hydrogeology Program, described his project concerning fertilizer application. He will be installing tension lysimeters at two locations. One site is on the Stony Brook Campus and will be sodded. The other is on the Suffolk County Water Authority property in Oakdale. Three lysimeters will be set at each site at depth between 20 and 200 cm. The short-term fate of nitrogen applied at between 2 and 2.5 lbs per square foot will be monitored after the usual installation of sod. The site in Oakdale is tended by a commercial landscaper. Background information will be collected in anticipation of a switch to an organic regime next year.
5. A second student project is being done by Joy Dike. She is assembling precipitation data for Long Island to test and update a USGS report covering 1950-1965 on the distribution of rainfall on Long Island. The data will be assembled in a database that will be accessible for model applications, etc. It was suggested that she talk to Marty Trent and Chris Schubert since they have dealt with these data in the past. It was further suggested that she be sensitive to the issue of undercatch. A study at Sag Harbor (?) suggested that annual precipitation might be close to 48 inches when rain gages are adjusted for undercatch.
6. The working group on groundwater seepage of the Scientific Committee on Oceanographic Research has voted to conduct the second international intercalibration experiment on Long Island in June 2002. The project is sponsored by UNESCO who is eager to emphasize management implications. I have asked our committee to be involved in this experiment. A description of the project and the first experiment in Australia was distributed. This will be on our agenda for the fall.

Seepage is being considered as a nonpoint source of contaminants to north shore embayments (Mike Scorca, EPA) and is a component of the Suffolk County North Shore Watershed Management program.

7. Topics for the next newsletters were discussed. Arsenic is one promising topic (Corney, SCWA) and revisiting bottled water is another. The latter is timely since the Suffolk County legislature is considering legislation to require labeling of bottled water. There is a new recent (April) Website of the World Wildlife Federation discussing the sources and quality of bottled waters based on a report from Switzerland.

The possible county legislation is being vigorously opposed by the bottled water industry. Localities do have the ability to require more stringent requirements but there may be issues of interstate commerce as well as practical problems due to the large number of possible contaminants (perhaps a sign in grocery stores or a pick-up pamphlet is a solution). For NY state registration bottlers are required to identify the source of the water but if even a little flavoring is added it is then classified as a food and subject to different regulation.

The Golf Course Conference might be considered for a newsletter, also.

8. Queens College is planning a 3-week summer field course for groundwater hydrology. Meanwhile, at Stony Brook, the Institute's proposal for modeling courses (and others) was returned by the Curriculum Committee for revisions. They would like to see a more programmatic structure to the proposed courses but, at the same time, the University is hesitant to approve a series of courses which are dependent on adjuncts because of the implied financial obligation. Many other programs are similarly dependent on adjuncts, however. In any event, we can't be ready for the fall, 2001 but will try for spring, 2002.
9. The Pine Barrens Research Forum this year (October 4) will host Italian visitors from its "twinned" park in Pisa. Topics to be addressed by both NY and Italian speakers are Education, Research and Management applications, and Water (Groundwater) Issues. Steve Jones will be invited to address the issues of groundwater and land use in the Pine Barrens.
10. The NYS Health Department had received three responses to the SWAP RFP. Two of them seemed appropriate, but the result may be made as a political announcement at a later date.
11. Bob Alpern is considering a modeling workshop. He seemed to be concerned about a duplication of effort but this really isn't an issue. The Institute has done at least two of these workshops and I'll try to contact Bob to see if we can help.
12. The Suffolk County Water Authority will be redoing their Web site describing the LI water cycle this summer. It is to be more dynamic and we'll have a chance to see it in the fall.

NOTE: I propose the following schedule for meeting in the Fall:

Monday 24 September,	9:30 – 11:00	SCWA
Monday 22 October,	9:30 – 11:00	Dvirka and Bartilucci
Monday 19 November,	9:30 – 11:00	SCWA
Monday 17 December,	9:30 – 11:00	SUNY