



HAMILTON COUNTY WELLHEAD PROTECTION LOCAL PLANNING TEAM MINUTES



Conference Room 1A – Hamilton County Judicial Building

January 10, 2017

The meeting was called to order Tuesday January 10, 2017 at 2:07 PM.

Those present were as follows: Mr. Kenton C. Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor; Ms. Jamie Foreman, City of Carmel; Mr. Gary Duncan, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Jacob Barker, Wessler Engineering; Ms. Erin Rowe, Hamilton County Emergency Management; Matt Bickel, City of Carmel; and Ginger Davis, Soil & Water Conservation.

Minutes of October 4, 2016:

There were no changes made. Foreman made the motion to approve the Minutes of October 4, 2016, seconded by Barker and approved.

Community Updates:

Sheridan – Barker stated Sheridan's Wellhead Protection Phase 2 five year update survey is due March 14, 2017. We're going to plan to meet in April to review all that documentation. Everything is done, we just need to cross our T's and dot our i's. I don't anticipate any issues with getting that approved. No big changes in Sheridan.

Ward asked if there was any word on the utility?

Barker stated no, nothing has changed to my knowledge.

Carmel – Foreman stated I discussed in October that we would have our five year update for our Wellhead Protection Plan as well. This was due originally March of 2017, but we've requested an extension for six months due to the fact that we are moving forward, have hired a contractor and we are going to have a study/model report so the delineation will actually be deliverable out of this study won't just be the Carmel area as far as delineation or study, but surrounding area as far as aquifer withdraw. We've been in contact with the neighboring utilities and with the other large withdrawers from the aquifer. A lot of information has been provided ahead of time. We feel like this is proactive as far as collaterally looking at what the impacts would be as far as new well development and aquifer, taking into consideration Carmel's uses, Citizens, what Martin Marietta is pulling out, etc. All that information will be put in our report. There will be some additional testing and studying done within our area if they see a void from the information that's been provided. That's why the State as of yesterday granted us a six month extension just because I won't have a current delineation to be working off of. Most of the information is not going to change significantly so we can go ahead and look at all of our potential contaminant sources, uses and practices just knowing there may be some variation with development that's occurred within the last five years and then proposed new development for this year.

Committee Reports:

Contingency Plan Review & Update – Rowe stated I've been looking it over and I'm more than happy to send it out to the group and see if there's anything anyone else has to put with it. The better question is to make sure I've got the right one because I'm only going off of what my predecessor left in our records. I can send that out to the group after the meeting.

Barker asked if all of the County Emergency Responders like Sheridan's Police and Fire Department do you provide training for them as far as hazardous waste response. I know all Fire Departments and Police Departments do their own in house training for chemical response, spill response, but is there anything through the County that they're required to do?

Rowe stated not required, no. There has been in the past, offerings. The LEPC has discussed looking at some training opportunities and some of them I know we would like to get grant funded because they're upwards of, and don't quote me on it, \$9,000.00 to get a training in and that's a lot of money. I don't have that in my budget to do. Is there specific training in particular that you were thinking?

Barker stated no. In Sheridan's Wellhead Protection Plan there's a contingency plan and we talk about training and we have a brief bulletin list of items that we talk about as far as Wellhead Protection Area and their responsibilities in that area as far as spill response. I always have trouble at the end of the five year permitting period obtaining records of training from Police and Fire. I was always under the assumption and I guess it's different from county to county that some of that training activities are required through Emergency Management.

Rowe stated not that I'm aware of, but I can look into it. We've been discussing it with the LEPC and we've got a meeting coming up at the end of this month. If there's something in particular we're always looking for that. The more information because I'm not a hazmat expert so I can go out and find courses, but I may find out that most everybody has had that one so it doesn't benefit us to bring it.

Barker stated my reason for asking is we want local emergency responders in Sheridan to know essentially where the Wellhead Protection Area is, where the wells are in proximity to a transportation route, highway, railroad, anywhere there could be a large chemical spill and then be able to respond to that accordingly.

Ward asked if Sheridan was still a volunteer Fire Department?

Barker stated I believe so, yes. We have members of the Fire Department and Police Department attend the local planning team meeting each year, but even then it's hard to get all of their staff to sit down and review. Does Carmel run into that issue?

Foreman stated generally what I do when we do our updates is revise everything to the best of my knowledge and as opposed to sitting around a table going through sheet by sheet to see if it's still the same part of our inspection the inspectors with our utility will go out and do the surveys as far as potential contaminant sources. Are they still there, are they still active in the databases and then we'll update the spreadsheet. Police and Fire just want a list of where potential contaminants are. We do have members from Police and Fire review the response, but they have the hazmat team in Carmel that could respond. They're pretty active as long as I ask specific questions, but if you throw too much information that's not in their day to day it's very monotonous.

Barker stated so Foreman doesn't have an actual sit down meeting with all the Police Staff and talk about in depth the location of each well, the sanitary setback, wellhead protection area where a spill could potentially flow.

Foreman stated the City through Police and Fire have an online system so it doesn't matter what shift they're on I provide, in PowerPoint, questions and answers. They went through this informative review and I created questions. At the end of it I got a report back that showed everyone who reviewed the information and took the exam.

Barker stated so it's not an annual, but once every five years.

Foreman stated it should be more than that, but that was the first time it was implemented so I could see the same thing being implemented this time. I can look back and see what presentation I used.

Barker stated that's sort of what we included in the Contingency Plan is a check list and it's up to the Chief of Fire to sit down with his staff and go through five or six bullet points and a map of the Wellhead Protection Area. It's probably sufficient, but it could be more detailed. I was looking for more of that detailed chemical and spill response from other entities, whether it be a county agency; I don't know what processes or what channels these Police and Fire Departments go through privately to get that training.

Ward stated I would imagine for a volunteer force it would be especially difficult to get them all in a room.

Barker stated we even suggested putting this bulletin list and the Wellhead Protection maps on a bulletin board and at their convenience looking at that and familiarizing themselves with the area and those response bullets and then signing off that they read that information. I just don't know how effective that is in practice if there is a spill in the Wellhead Protection Area adjacent to 100 foot sanitary set back or a highway. Is that information really being implemented during that accident response?

Ward asked if the well is where the power is?

Barker stated yes. I don't know if Sheridan has anything next to a major highway where a tanker truck would run.

Foreman asked when we get our updated delineation in what format is best so we can add it to the overlays as far as updating the County Wellhead Protection Map?

Ward asked Foreman to speak with Val (Swift) about that.

Education/Funding – Davis stated being new to the County and new to this position I've been trying to figure out what programs we had in place at Soil & Water and what programs still needed to be in place. One of the programs we decided to work with is residential wells and basically mimic Wellhead Protection for the residential people. They're doing some well assessment programs through RCAP (Rural Community Assistance Program). We're going to be working with the Health Department on testing and bringing awareness. There may be an opportunity to share that education with the program. We're going into the forefront of what's going on in the County. We are finding some concerning issues in peoples well tests in the area. I want to get with the entities to find out if these results are similar to what you're seeing in your aquifers or is this strictly in that area. I would also like to find out the distribution system of who potentially is still on wells because I know Carmel has some areas where a distribution line may go by, but this house is still on a well, is that correct?

Foreman stated yes.

Davis stated I'm trying to get some of that information so I was hoping to talk with the group about. I come from a background in groundwater. Groundwater has always been my passion so I thought that would be a good program to bring to the County. We're going to be trying to find funding sources for a program, but I definitely see a partnering with the Wellhead Protection Group as a possibility for the future.

Barker stated it's been a while since I've looked at this, but I usually include with the notification letters to residents in Sheridan who may have an inactive water well. Does the County offer some sort of assistance or cost share to abandon the well?

Davis stated we have an abandonment cost share program through the Soil & Water Office. Right now its at 50% up to a certain amount. I believe that amount is \$500.00, but I'd have to look into that again. There used to be an abandonment for old oil and gas wells for the deeper system that they're in. I don't know if that's still in place. I was talking with my Board the other day because I came across it and I think they may have abandoned that because the cost was so extreme with that it wasn't sustainable. I used to work at IDNR, Division of Water and I did a lot of the Well Drillers Education Credits so I talked with them about potentially taking licensure so that some of the abandoned wells are more simply

abandoned, they don't need the extra equipment I could maybe oversee some of that, but I still haven't talked to our attorneys or anything like that. We may expand that program.

Ward stated on the oil and gas wells we ran into one in Fishers where our project required us to cap it since it was only four or five feet off the ditch bank and it costs us about \$19,000.00.

Davis stated I think their cost share was at \$1,500.00 as a cap.

Ward stated that the abandoned well had been used up to 1968 when it was finally abandoned.

Davis stated that may be a huge issue we come across as we pursue this program.

Ward stated there's a bunch of them out there.

Davis stated on Viewer the logs are up there, but I doubt they're all up there. How many of those didn't get abandoned, but just chopped off and buried? Part of what we want to do with this residential assessment program is help identify contaminant sources for residents because they don't necessarily understand that they're operating their own water treatment facility. We're trying to bring that awareness to them. I would also like to do some GeoChemical modeling so we can say if you're in this area you're at risk for these things, please have a test done that are appropriate to those things so we can be pointed instead of just saying have this huge slew of tests done. We want to try and target areas, but that's a long term goal and will take a lot of testing and a lot of data.

Discussion:

Deep Water Tunnel - Ward stated there is a meeting on Thursday at USGS. The Groundwater Focus Committee portion of the Indiana Water Monitoring Committee is having a meeting to talk about the Deep Water Tunnel. We had John Havard speak about that in October.

Davis stated I'm very active on that committee if anyone needs anything on that.

Legislation - Foreman stated there is proposed legislation for this open session by the Lake Michigan Area. The compact up there. They're clarifying verbiage as far as well abandonment, how long they can sit, what the specific criteria is. There is also discussion for funding that the State put into developing the monitoring network in bringing it back up. I think there was 40 wells put in last year. They basically said unless Mark Batch raises his hand and says "no, I'm good I don't need the money" that they don't see an issue by the State continuing to pursue that and building that network back up to what it once was. That way they could get a good idea of what the water levels are and the activity. It won't be what it was, but it will be new and they are putting the focus back into that.

Davis stated there is one in Hamilton County.

Foreman stated that we have a contract agreement annually with USGS for Hamilton Seven and then we have the monitoring wells. For Hamilton Seven this year as far as cost sharing this year's contract did go up a little bit as far because they are going to put a new transducer in Hamilton Seven. There were some times where the water level would change and then go past the tape so there would be voids in that data. They're going to redo it so as part of our 2017 cost sharing we'll invest half as well as the percentages of that so Hamilton Seven is going to get upgraded this year.

Davis stated Beck's well has been added to the network as well.

Ward asked at the plant?

Davis stated it's adjacent to one of their irrigation wells. They had a change in staff at DNR Jerry (Unterreiner) left who was running that program so they may be behind a little bit while that transition occurs because Jerry retired in October and they're still trying to fill the position.

Foreman stated I have a Water Utility Council meeting within the next couple of weeks to go over any additional legislation, but I don't see anything as far as well rights or anything beyond the compact and the annual budget.

2017 Exercise - Ward asked Rowe if there has been any thought for the exercise this year?

Rowe stated we obtained grant funds and we're going to contract the tabletop exercise out this year. The theory behind that was as we get a nice base for a tabletop exercise then we'll be able to build off of that with functional full scale in the coming years.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Kenton C. Ward, CFM
Hamilton County Surveyor

ATTEST: _____
Executive Secretary