

CBWP-Related Updates- August 2021

August 2021 updates:

DRAFT Available: Groundwater Portion of Integrated Water Plan

- You can access the document [here](#) or on the [CBWP Document Clearinghouse](#) webpage. Please note that the document is an incomplete first draft without the benefit of the OWRD/USGS groundwater study results. This is a *living* document meaning it will be continuously updated, edited, and refined. It is being circulated now in response to the Collaborative's desire to review the plan as it is being written.
- An optional meeting will be held on Monday, August 16 @ 5pm via Zoom to discuss the draft at length.

Participatory Evaluation re: Place-Based Planning Program

- There is unanimous support from all the planning groups for delaying the workshops. This will allow time to focus on the important work at hand and will hopefully increase participation. It will also allow Rebecca and her team more time to vet and refine the evaluation framework. A revised schedule will be sent soon. The evaluation workshops will likely be held in October/November (pre-Thanksgiving).

Reasonably Stable Conversations

- Jack Southworth (CBWP Facilitator) is in the process of beginning the conversation about what *reasonably stable* means when it pertains to groundwater levels in the Harney Basin. He has reached out to some Collaborative members with questions related to this topic to start compiling perspectives.

July 2021 updates:

Exempt Uses Step 2/3 Report

- In response to comments and suggestions from Collaborative members, Ken Bierly (CBWP Technical Consultant) significantly revised the Domestic Well/Municipal Step 2/3 Report and renamed it to *Exempt Uses*.

CBWP Budget Information

- Some Collaborative members have inquired about the financial health of CBWP endeavors and the partnership with OWRD. To-date the collaborative has been granted \$300,000 from OWRD (state funding), though we have also received approximately \$335,000 from organizations like NRCS, OWEB, DEQ, The Meyer Memorial Trust, the Collins Foundation and others. These figures do not include in-kind contributions (hours, miles, etc) from project volunteers and staff. The base cost for CBWP endeavors is about \$145,000 per year which covers the salaries for the project manager, facilitator, and technical consultant, meeting rooms, food/snacks, supplies, and other administrative costs (like Zoom, Mailchimp, conference call software, basecamp etc). Funding has also been spent on feasibility studies, developing the domestic well questionnaire, website development and community outreach, and research and reporting for Steps 2 and 3.

- Currently, CBWP has enough funding to “keep the lights on” (or cover our minimum base cost) through 2021 and into 2022, but will need a minimum of \$147,000 to continue our work till the end of 2023. There is some funding available in the next biennium for each of the groups doing place-based planning –however, it is unknown how much the state will be contributing to the CBWP Collaborative. It will likely be a minimum of \$50,000. The rest of the funding needed to continue our endeavors will likely come from grants through other organizations like NRCS, OWEB, DEQ, The Meyer Memorial Trust, the Collins Foundation and others. Additionally, it is possible that we could receive funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, though the timing and exact amount is unknown.
- The cost of the Groundwater Study was approximately \$2.5 million over 5 years. The state cost-shared the study with the USGS – USGS covered approximately \$800,000 of that. Therefore the state contributed around \$1.7 million.

June 2021 updates:

House Bills

- As of June 15, 2021, the Natural Resources subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee approved [HB 3092](#) (requires OWRD to establish grant program for purpose of sharing cost of remediating reductions in amount of ground water available for domestic personal use in Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern due to overallocation of groundwater for agricultural use) with a unanimous "do pass" recommendation.
- As of June 15, 2021, the OWRD budget passed with the CREP funding as a "policy option package" with the same recommendation as HB 3092.

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I – Funding Opportunity

- Project staff were notified that the Collaborative was not awarded funds from this opportunity.

May 2021 updates:

CBWP Full Collaborative Meeting Format

- Based on feedback heard during the April Full Collaborative meeting, there will no longer be an intro circle or time dedicated to sharing updates during Collaborative meetings. If there is a new person participating in the meeting, they will have an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves before the group dives into the agenda. Updates will be sent out bi-monthly via email. Please feel free to send questions/comments on updates anytime to holly@hcwatershedcouncil.com. Closing circle will be optional though meeting attendees will be encouraged to participate and share their final thoughts. Lastly, Zoom meetings will be limited to three hours total. Once back in person, this timing may shift.

- DEQ's Groundwater Quality Report for Harney County has been published and can be accessed by clicking [here](#) or visiting the [CBWP Document Clearinghouse](#) webpage on [hcwatershedcouncil.com](#). A key takeaways document will be drafted and circulated soon.

Spreadsheet and Small Group Discussions

- Thanks to the many meeting attendees who participated in the series of small group discussions aimed at populating the spreadsheet. The information and insight garnered during meetings is invaluable. At this point, no further small group discussions are scheduled. However, it is likely that we'll do another round in the future. Please stay tuned!
- If you'd like to check out the updated spreadsheet, click [here](#). Please remember it is still in draft form. Use the comment feature to make suggestions, offer edits, and/or provide resources. For those not familiar with this feature, right click on the cell you'd like to make your comment on and click "comment." Please include your name with your comment. You can also send any comments to holly@hcwatershedcouncil.com.

Blog on Harneyswaterfuture.com

- As a way to increase outreach, a blog has been started on harneyswaterfuture.com. If any Collaborative member is interested in writing up a short message (500 words or less?) that they'd be comfortable sharing with the broader community, please contact Holly at holly@hcwatershedcouncil.com at your earliest convenience. The scope of the blog should be focused on groundwater in the Harney Basin, but topics can vary. A blog will be posted every month and suggestions on topics are welcome!

Harney Basin Groundwater Study (update from OWRD)

- **Groundwater Study Updates - OWRD Open File Reports Posted**
The US Geological Survey (USGS) Groundwater Study Reports have gone through the peer review process and have entered the queue to be finalized and published via the [USGS Science Publishing Network](#). You can see what the peer reviewers had to say by viewing the completed [Peer Review Summary](#). The final publication date has not been set. Thank you for your patience as the Groundwater Study Team works hard to produce and finalize these reports.
- The Department has posted the following two open file reports (OFRs) on their website. OWRD open file reports are supporting documents to the USGS Groundwater Study Reports providing the detail underlying various components of the groundwater study. These can also be found on harneyswaterfuture.com
 - [OFR 2021-01 Generalized Geologic Compilation Map of the Harney Basin](#)
 - [OFR 2021-03 Methods and Results for Estimating Groundwater Pumped, Returned, and Consumed for Non-Irrigation Uses in the Harney Basin](#)
- **Well Interference Complaint Memo and Form Online**
Thanks to feedback provided by the Harney Basin Water Collaborative, the Department has been working to clarify how to file a groundwater interference complaint and what steps the Department may take once a complaint has been filed. A well owner may want

to file a well interference complain when they believe that their use of water from their well is being impacted by another nearby well.

- [Well interference complaint memo and form](#)

- **Groundwater Measurement Cost Sharing Materials Online**

As a result of suggestions provided by the Harney Basin Water Collaborative, the Department has provided a packet of information, including an application for the water measurement cost-share program. The The Department has limited funding available to assist well owners with voluntary installation of water use measuring devices on their wells or diversions from a stream or lake. This information can provide water users with information on how much water they are using and help them conserve limited supplies of water. Measuring devices may be required by the Department in the future.

- [Water measurement cost-share instructions and application](#)

- **Explore Well and Groundwater Level Data**

USGS and OWRD have been working together to develop and maintain a Harney Basin Data Mapper that provides access to current and historic water-level data collected in the Harney Basin. the Department also has a Groundwater Information System that it maintains:

- [USGS-OWRD Harney Basin Data Mapper](#)
- [OWRD Groundwater Information System](#)

Wells can be found by type, depth, measurement date, well log, and other criteria. Groundwater level changes can be mapped in the USGS-OWRD Harney Basin Data Mapper between two time periods where water levels were measured. Well logs, lithology (underlying geology), and hydrographs (change in water levels) can be viewed for each individual well.