Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS)

Groundwater Protection Council Conference

Orlando, Florida

September 13, 2016
Presentation Outline

- Evolution of GRAPS
- Overview of the project
- Sample of a draft report
Responding to Needs

- GRAPS sub-team charter adopted in 2015 (management directive)
- MASWCD Groundwater Resolutions (grassroots)
75% of SWCD’s ranked DW protection as a priority, 74% spent 0-25% of their time working on DW protection in the past year.
Vision

Empower local resource professionals to achieve groundwater and drinking protection through:

- Knowledge
- Planning
- Implementation
Core Program Criteria

- Data and Information Delivery
- Issue Identification
- Strategy Development
Watershed Framework

- MN adopted a Watershed Approach to assess and manage water resources
- GRAPS is a planning tool that will
  - Establish priorities for improvement and/or protection
  - Inform local plans & decisions
Benefits of the Watershed Approach

- Managing ground & surface water together at the watershed level will
  - Achieve multiple benefits
  - Maximize resources
  - Improve efficiency
  - Increase collaboration
Pilot GRAPS

- Pine River GRAPS Report
- North Fork Crow River GRAPS Report
Pine River GRAPS Pilot Watershed
Data and Delivery

- Fragmented (Pine River)
- Aggregated and Consolidated (North Fork Crow River)
Data Reported

- Aquifer Vulnerability
- Ambient Groundwater Information
- What’s in My Neighborhood
- Closed Landfills
- Land Cover/Land Use
- Groundwater Dependent Features
- Water Appropriations
Data Reported

- Water Availability
- Nitrate Monitoring Data
  - Township Testing for NFMP
  - Central Sands Project
- BMPs for Nitrogen, Herbicide and Pesticide Management
- Groundwater Practices and RIM Easements Applied
Data Reported

- Well Information:
  - Well Depth and Aquifer Characteristics
  - Nitrate/Arsenic Concentrations
Targeting the Information
Targeting the Information
GRAPS is a Process

- Still Evolving
  - Sub-team established approximately 12 months ago
- Flexible and Adaptive
  - Limited resources for development
  - Opportunistic
    - Designed to fit into any planning effort
Next Steps

- Continue to pilot GRAPS
- Working to scale up to meet other watershed planning efforts
Questions?

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