

Commission Education Item – Technical Services Department

R_x ROUND-UP

Pharmaceutical Take Back Program



A prescription for protecting our water

"An initiative of Groundwater Guardians for the Marshfield Area"

In May of 2006, Groundwater Guardian volunteers (including many MU employees), along with local pharmacists, and the Marshfield Police Department held the first take-back event in the state of Wisconsin. During that first collection, 418 pounds of non-controlled substances and 35 pounds of controlled substances (250 line items) were collected.



Our local Groundwater Guardian team's successes and struggles were featured in the spring 2006 Groundwater Foundation publication, *The Aquifer* (below).

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A Prescription for Protecting Groundwater

Wisconsin Groundwater Guardian Team Organizes Pharmaceutical Take-Back Event

By Cathy Lotzer, Marshfield Area Groundwater Guardians

Attending The Groundwater Foundation's National Conference and Groundwater Guardian Designation Celebration in Washington, DC in November 2004 was, to say the least, an eye-opening experience for me. The conference, titled "Making the Connection: Groundwater and Public Health" had a tract which focused on Emerging Public Health Issues, specifically, Pharmaceuticals, Hormones, and Personal Care Products in our Groundwater Resources.

After having my eyes opened wide, I returned to Wisconsin and shared this information with the rest of my Groundwater Guardian team. We immediately decided that a future Result Oriented Activity for our team should focus on this very subject and produce results that will have a positive impact on our community's groundwater resources.

Our local Groundwater Guardian team consists of our local Water and Wastewater Utility Superintendents, the Director of Public Health Microbiology Laboratory at our local Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, and several local pharmacists. What a great combination of people and expertise to work with! We couldn't be more fortunate!

With these, and many other people gathered together, we began to talk about various concerns we had related to pharmaceuticals and personal care products, including the future safety of our groundwater supply, the emerging health issues of endocrine disruptors being found in Wisconsin's surface waters, and what can we do about it.

Our first plan was to conduct an educational campaign within our community. We wanted people to know

they should not flush pharmaceuticals and other personal care products down their toilets. We also wanted to inform them that throwing these items in the trash wasn't a good alternative either. So, our group set out trying to find the most proper method of disposal. Unfortunately, this wasn't so simple. We contacted U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources officials, and local experts, all of whom agreed with the no flushing and no landfilling ideas, but no one could give us the answer to the most proper disposal method.

Our group decided that we couldn't conduct an effective educational campaign without specific and accurate information to provide to people. Our next thought was to collect these items from the general public, thinking perhaps the local clinic and pharmacies could do this for us. Wrong! We encountered our first hurdle. We found that, for instance, narcotics cannot be possessed by anyone other than the patient whose name is on the prescription. It would be unlawful for us or anyone else to collect these without the involvement of local law enforcement.

So our next step was to involve local law enforcement. We invited them to our next meeting, explained our predicament and they were happy to assist us with a collection, so our hurdle was crossed. Now we only needed to get Drug Enforcement Agency approval of our "chain of custody" (method and process of collection). This approval is currently pending for us, but we modeled our chain after a similar method already approved, so we are confident that this hurdle will also be crossed.

All that remained for us was planning the specifics of the

one-day collection event, coordinating an agency to assist us with collection of hazardous waste, and then arranging proper disposal of the items collected. Each of these hurdles was crossed without much resistance, especially since we were able to plan our event the same day as the existing local county Clean Sweep household hazardous waste collection event and use the same hazardous disposal firm.

I must be forgetting something – oh yes – money! We estimated needing \$10,000 to hold this one-day collection. That estimate was based on 500 pounds of uncontrolled substances and some container costs, as well as an estimate of 10 to 30 gallons of controlled substances and container costs.


Our local water and wastewater utilities had already each donated \$2,000 toward the event. That left \$6,000 that needed to be secured before we could move forward. Again, because of contacts from our team members, we were very fortunate to receive additional funding from the Marshfield Clinic, St. Joseph's Hospital, and Security Health Plan. In addition, several other area businesses donated money toward the event. So, the last hurdle has now been crossed.

Our team is in the process of meeting regularly and forming subcommittees to work on promotion, advertising, additional fund raising for contingency plans, and working with our local Clean Sweep organizers on coordinating each of our efforts for this one-day collection event on May 13, 2006. ♦

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Web: www.groundwater.org

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In 2007, Marshfield was asked to participate in a seminar/workshop in Nebraska, sponsored by the Groundwater Foundation, to gather interest in a similar program for their state. Marshfield's take-back program was highlighted as a model for other communities to follow.



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Seminar to examine pharmaceuticals in drinking water

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March 21, 2007 7:00 pm • THE LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

"Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in Drinking Water: Potential Risks and Best Practices" is the topic of a seminar scheduled April 25 at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Lincoln.

Most Americans take some kind of medication, either a prescription drug or over-the-counter product, and use products such as lotion, cosmetics, laundry detergents, and cleaning products on a daily basis. These materials and other common household items, known as pharmaceuticals and personal care products, or PPCPs, are increasingly found in water supplies.

A recent study by the U.S. Geological Survey found chemicals such as steroids, nonprescription drugs, and insect repellents in 80 percent of streams and 93 percent of groundwater sampled.

The seminar will focus on what is known about the potential risks of PPCPs in drinking water and what Nebraskans can do today to reduce those risks.

The seminar features two nationally known speakers — Dr. Dana Kolpin with the U.S. Geological Survey Iowa Water Science Center, who will provide more research data and its implications; and Cathy Lotzer with Marshfield, Wisconsin, Utilities, who will discuss lessons learned from conducting the Marshfield Area's "Rx Round-up" program.

Two panels of Nebraskans will speak to the risks and best practices that exist for the state, along with opportunities for education and take-back programs. Seminar attendees will be able to ask questions and network with the presenters and panelists during sessions and breaks.

The seminar is presented by The Groundwater Foundation and made possible through financial support provided by the state Department of Environmental Quality Source Water Protection Grant Program and the Attorney General's Environmental Court Ordered Settlement Fund.

The event is open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Registration is \$34.95 prior to April 18; the registration fee increases to \$44.95 after April 18, including the day of the seminar.

Students may attend at the discounted rate of \$19.95.

For a complete agenda or to register for the seminar, please contact The Groundwater Foundation at 1-800-858-4844 or visit www.groundwater.org.

Also in 2007, Groundwater Guardians held three additional one-day events, collecting nearly 900 total pounds of meds.



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Due to the increased demand for take-back events and the volumes collected, the Groundwater Guardian team worked in corporation with the Marshfield Police Department to work out the details for a permanent drop-off location.

In February of 2008, this permanent collection site was housed at the Marshfield Police Department. Now, anyone wishing to dispose of unwanted meds may now do so during Marshfield Police Department lobby hours Monday-Friday. No questions asked!

Several times a year our volunteers, including a licensed pharmacist, meet at the Police Department and sort through the meds in order to prepare them for destruction. Sorting involves recycling paper, plastic and cardboard, then transferring the meds to DEA(Drug Enforcement Administration)/DOJ(Department of Justice) approved containers.

In the early years, Groundwater Guardian volunteers solicited donations to pay for the destruction of the meds. Incinerations fees were \$3.00 per pound plus mobilization costs. Then in September of 2010, the DEA began semi-annual national collections for participating law enforcement departments. Therefore, our costs associated with disposal were eliminated.

Unfortunately, in 2014 the DEA announced it was discontinuing national collections, but required law enforcement departments to continue similar disposal methods. Fortunately for Wisconsin, the DOJ announced it would resume semi-annual state-wide collections.

In the summer of 2015, the DEA announced they would resume semi-annual collections with the first held in September of 2015. Our local group had already made arrangements with the DOJ for their October 2015 collection. I have not heard if the DOJ will discontinue WI semi-annual collections, now that the DEA has resumed such collections.



Permanent Collection Site at Marshfield Police Department

Items we **WILL** take: Pills, Syrups, Salves, Creams

Items we **WILL NOT** take: Inhalers, Oxygen Tanks, Nebulizers, Sharps, Radioactive Cancer Medications
You may contact Walgreen's Pharmacy for information and/or assistance with disposal of these items.

All items can be dropped off at:
Marshfield Police Department
(front lobby)
110 W. 1st Street
Monday – Friday
7:30 am – 4:30 pm

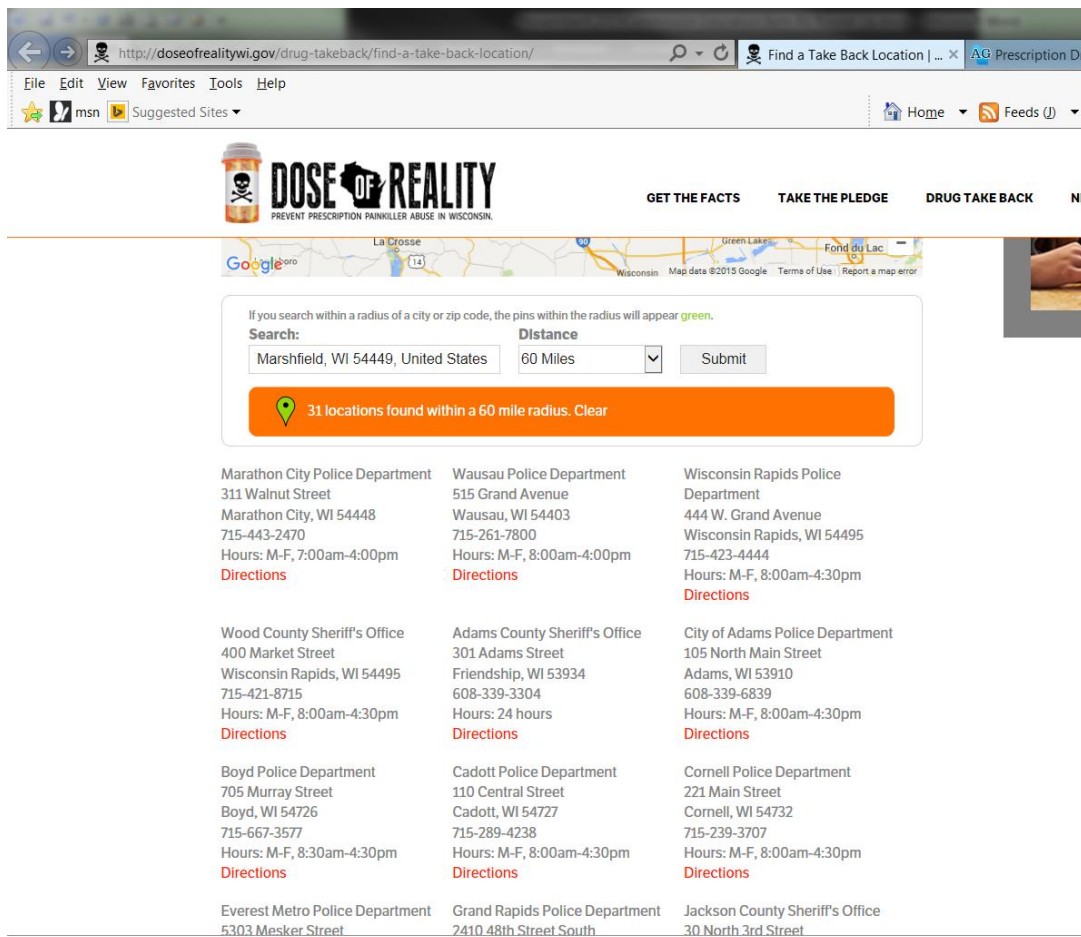
business card



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Since our last sort and drop off with the DOJ in October of 2015, our group has collected over **8,652 pounds of meds.**

Today, pharmaceutical take-back programs (either one-day or permanently housed) are a common occurrence throughout the nation. In fact, a recent search on the Wisconsin DOJ website lists 31 permanent take-back locations within 60 miles of Marshfield. Quite impressive to think we were the first!



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://doseofrealitywi.gov/drug-takeback/find-a-take-back-location/>. The page features the "DOSE OF REALITY" logo with the tagline "PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE IN WISCONSIN". Navigation links include "GET THE FACTS", "TAKE THE PLEDGE", "DRUG TAKE BACK", and "NE". A search form is present with the following details:

- Search: Marshfield, WI 54449, United States
- Distance: 60 Miles
- Submit button
- Result: 31 locations found within a 60 mile radius. Clear

Below the search results, a grid of 31 police departments is displayed, each with its name, address, phone number, hours, and a "Directions" link. The departments listed are:

Marathon City Police Department 311 Walnut Street Marathon City, WI 54448 715-443-2470 Hours: M-F, 7:00am-4:00pm Directions	Wausau Police Department 515 Grand Avenue Wausau, WI 54403 715-261-7800 Hours: M-F, 8:00am-4:00pm Directions	Wisconsin Rapids Police Department 444 W. Grand Avenue Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 715-423-4444 Hours: M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm Directions
Wood County Sheriff's Office 400 Market Street Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 715-421-8715 Hours: M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm Directions	Adams County Sheriff's Office 301 Adams Street Friendship, WI 53934 608-339-3304 Hours: 24 hours Directions	City of Adams Police Department 105 North Main Street Adams, WI 53910 608-339-6839 Hours: M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm Directions
Boyd Police Department 705 Murray Street Boyd, WI 54726 715-667-3577 Hours: M-F, 8:30am-4:30pm Directions	Cadott Police Department 110 Central Street Cadott, WI 54727 715-289-4238 Hours: M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm Directions	Cornell Police Department 221 Main Street Cornell, WI 54732 715-239-3707 Hours: M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm Directions
Everest Metro Police Department 5303 Mesker Street	Grand Rapids Police Department 2410 48th Street South	Jackson County Sheriff's Office 30 North 3rd Street

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Recent Press Releases:

October 01, 2015

Contact: DEA Public Affairs

DEA'S Prescription Drug Take-Back Effort-- A Big Success

OCT 01 (WASHINGTON) - Thousands of Americans in communities across the country discarded more than 350 tons of unused, expired, or unwanted drugs as part of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Initiative (NTBI) on Saturday, September 26.

This past weekend, more than 3,800 federal, state and local counterparts took in more than 702,365 pounds of unused, expired or unwanted drugs at more than 5,000 collection sites across the United States. **This was the tenth NTBI event since September 2010; cumulatively, these events have collected 5,525,021 pounds of drugs.**

"The numbers are shocking—approximately 46,000 Americans die each year from drug-related deaths. More than half of those are from heroin and prescription opioids," said Acting DEA Administrator Chuck Rosenberg. "With four out of five new heroin users starting with prescription medications, I know our take-back program makes a real difference." The NTBI addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.5 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs. That same study showed that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. The DEA's NTBI events are also a significant piece of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's prescription drug abuse prevention strategy.

In his [Weekly Address](#), President Obama spoke about the importance of preventing and treating substance use disorders and called on Americans to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.

Wisconsin DOJ

**43,000 lbs. of prescription drugs collected during statewide take back –
WKOW.com**

October 2015 | [In the News](#)

Trucks from around Wisconsin brought boxes of unused prescriptions, collected during Saturday's state-wide drug take back event, to a drop off site in Waukesha County on Monday. <http://www.wkow.com/story/30301252/2015/10/19/43-thousand-pounds-of-prescription-drugs-collected-during-statewide-take-back>

DOJ agents sift through thousands of pounds of drugs collected during "Drug Take Back" events – Fox6Now.com

October 2015 | [In the News](#)

It is a tedious, but important task. State agents are working to sift through thousands of pounds of prescription pills collected during the statewide "Drug Take Back" event this past Saturday, October 17th. <http://fox6now.com/2015/10/19/doj-agents-sift-through-thousands-of-pounds-of-drugs-collected-during-drug-take-back-events/>

Prevent Misuse and Protect the Environment: Prescription Take-Back Event – Hub City Times

October 2015 | [In the News](#)

Have you been wondering what to do with those prescription drugs that have been piling up in your medicine cabinets? <http://www.hubcitytimes.com/news/local/prescription-take-back-events/>