Town of Lincoln Groundwater Study: Kewaunee County, Wisconsin

AWRA – WI Section Annual Meeting
March 9th, 2017

Mike Parsen Hydrogeologist

Michael.Parsen@wgnhs.uwex.edu



Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey

Study overview

Started fall 2015

Project team at WGNHS

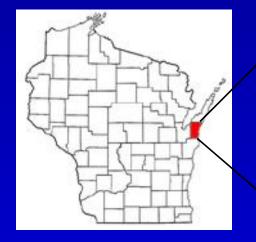
Hydrogeologist, GIS Specialist, & Geophysicist

Map deliverables include:

- Depth to bedrock
- Water table
- Groundwater recharge
- Groundwater contaminant susceptibility
- Closed depressions

1.5 year study:

- Complete in summer 2017
- Includes existing data + new field data
- Received support from landowners, town, county, and farmers











Study overview

- Study Commissioned by the Town of Lincoln
- Kewaunee County developed a new ordinance in 2014 to limit winter and early spring waste spreading on thin soils over carbonate bedrock.
- The ordinance was passed by all towns in the county in April 2015.
- Existing regional depth to bedrock maps (USGS/DNR, 1979) provide limited detail for enforcing the ordinance.

Kewaunee voters approve county-wide groundwater ordinance















The vote is in — farmers in Kewaunee County will have less control over when and where they can spread manure and nutrients.

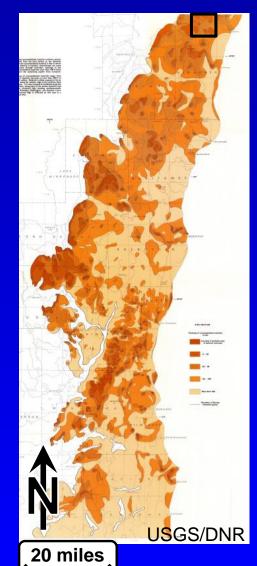
THICKNESS OF UNCONSOLIDATED MATERIALS

M. G. SHERRILL 1979

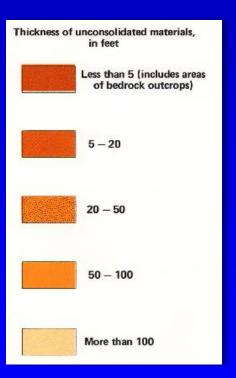
This map is the basis for all existing Kewaunee Co. depth-to-bedrock maps.

Developed for eastern WI, from Kenosha Co. to Kewaunee Co.

Mapped at a regional scale, not at the County or Town scale!



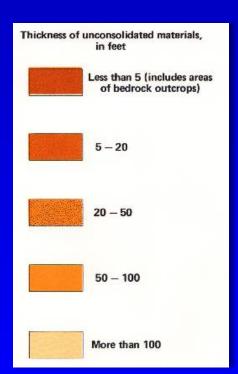
Town of Lincoln





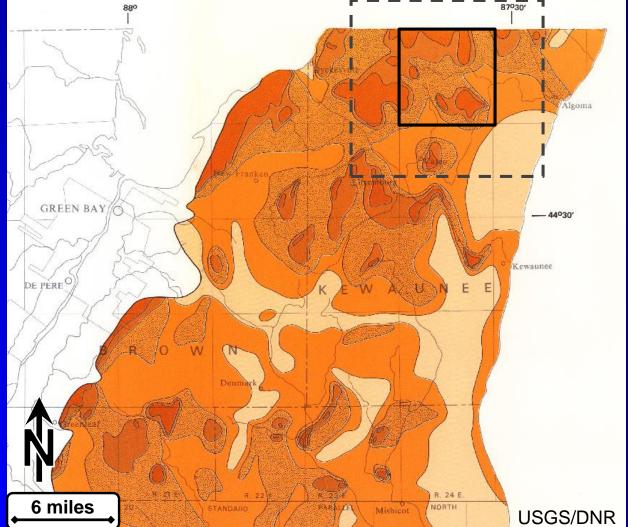
Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey

Today, the mapping can be improved with more recent data sets and techniques



THICKNESS OF UNCONSOLIDATED MATERIALS

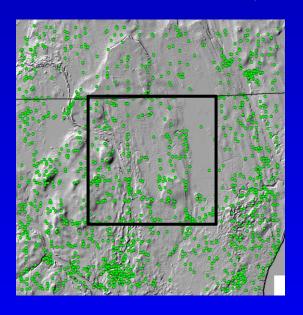
M. G. SHERRILL 1979





Well construction records

- Obtained from DNR
- Included earlier scanned WCRs
- WGNHS confirmed locations
- 1,780 WCRs (entire study area)



Only as accurate as the driller completing form, but many records exist



Wind turbine borings

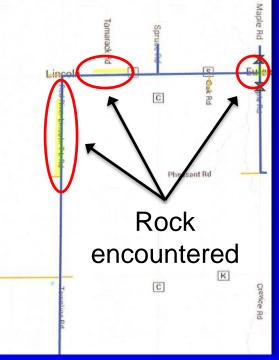
- Obtained from MG&E and Wisconsin Public Service Corp.
- At least 1 boring/turbine
- Often shallow depth to rock

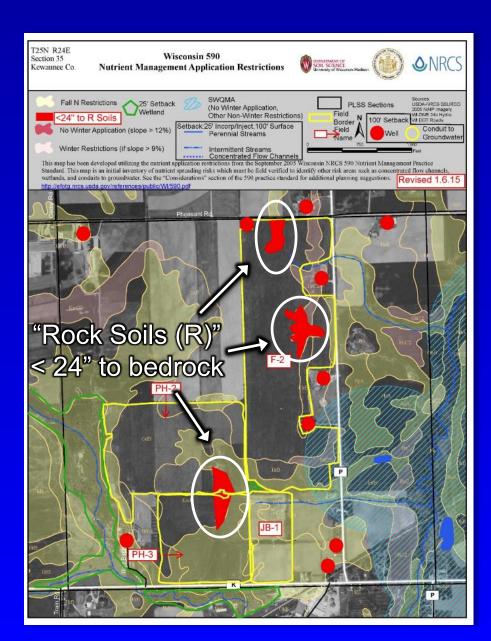


Utility trenching records

- Maps obtained from Wisconsin Public Service Corp.
- Gas lines to private homes and businesses
- Rock trenched if <30-36" from land surface





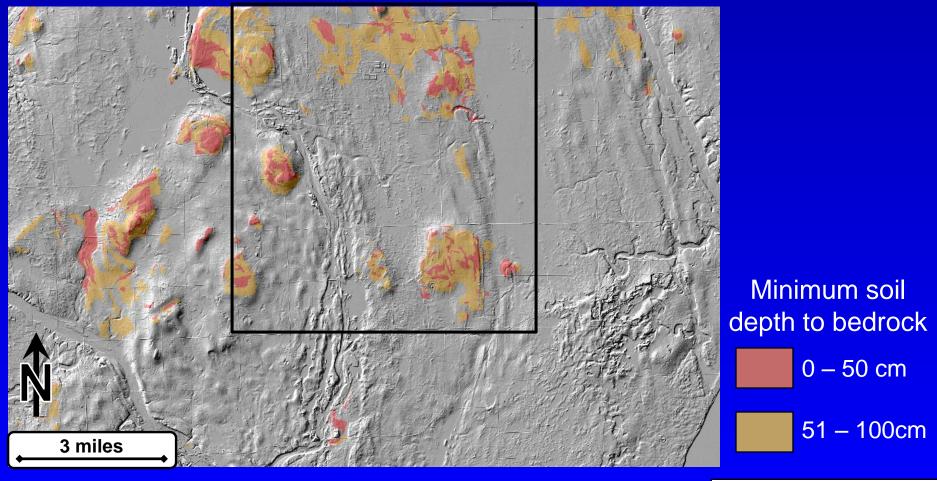


Shallow depth to rock mapping

Farmer NRCS 590 permit
 Nutrient Management Plans

Shallow depth-to-bedrock mapping

- NRCS soil survey mapping





Geoprobe

- Push probe boring and sampling
 - Refusal on competent bedrock
 - Sample collection
- 20 confirmation borings within study area



Geophysics



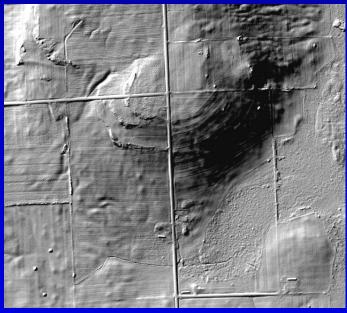




LIDAR data – land surface elevation mapping

- Portmanteau for "light radar"
- High-resolution elevation mapping
- Evaluate bedrock features by elevation



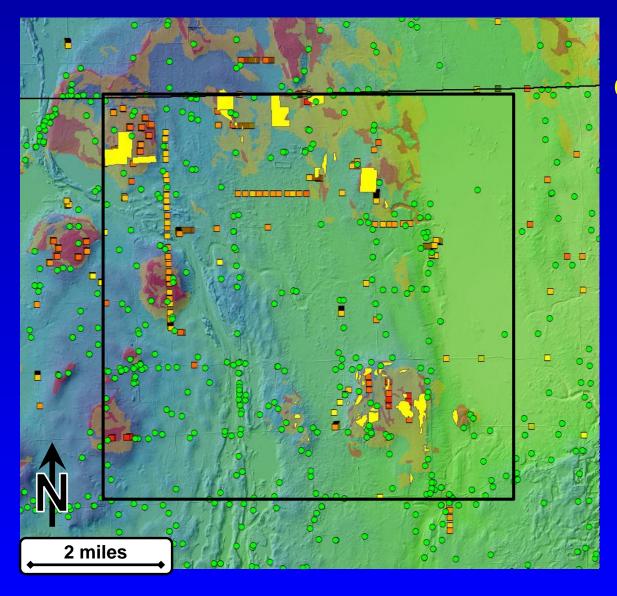


1,020 ft msl

576 ft msl



Preliminary bedrock interpretation



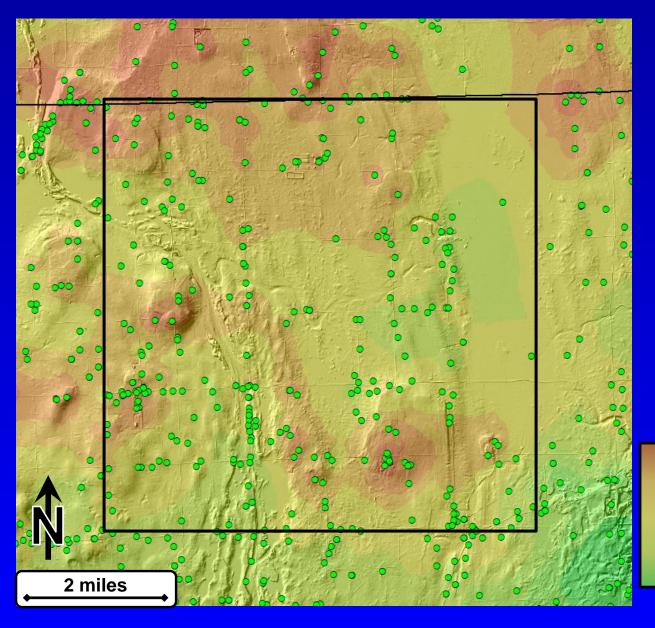
Consider all data inputs

- Well construction records
- Geophysics, borings, visual observations...
- NRCS soils map
- Farmer maps
- LIDAR elevation map

1,020 ft msl

576 ft msl

Preliminary bedrock interpretation



Initial interpolation using WCRs

Will refine with other collected data sets

- Geophysics
- Borings
- Soils
- LIDAR...

<5 ft to bedrock

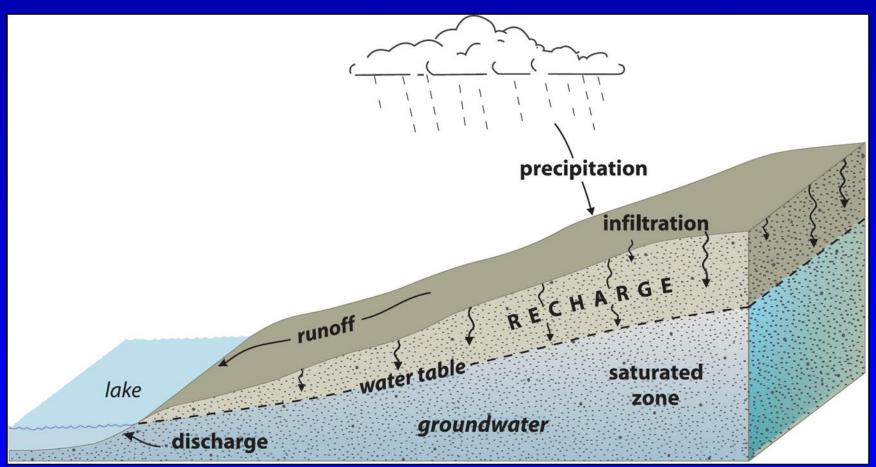
>100 ft to bedrock



Recharge estimation

Recharge (R) is water that enters the groundwater system

R = Precipitation - Runoff - Interception - Evapotranspiration



Soil water balance model

SWB model uses 4 input maps

Land surface slope:

runoff direction

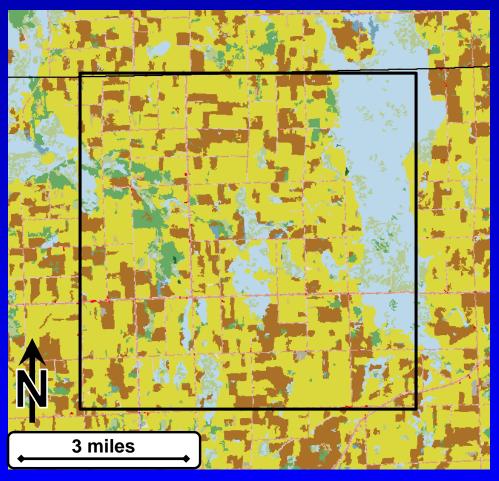
Soil type:

infiltration rate available water storage

Land use

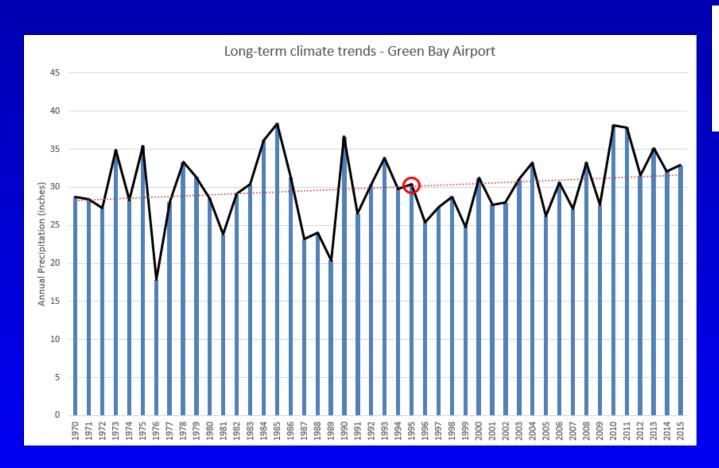


Land use - Town of Lincoln



Soil water balance model

Precipitation trend 1970 to 2015



Annual precipitation Average 30 inches Min. 18 inches Max. 38 inches

1995 selected as a typical year for the preliminary SWB model run

Soil water balance model

Estimated recharge 1995

Low recharge:

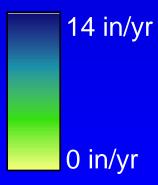
- wetlands, clayey soil

Moderate recharge

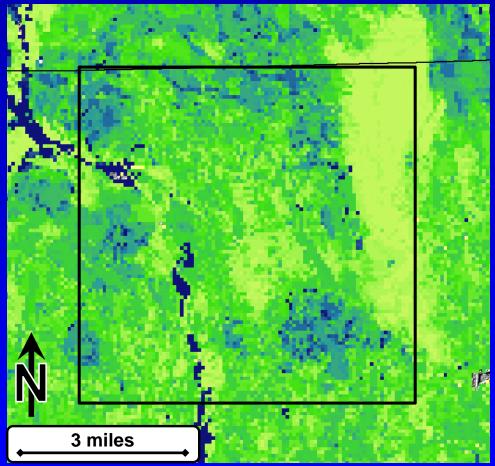
- Shallow bedrock,

High recharge:

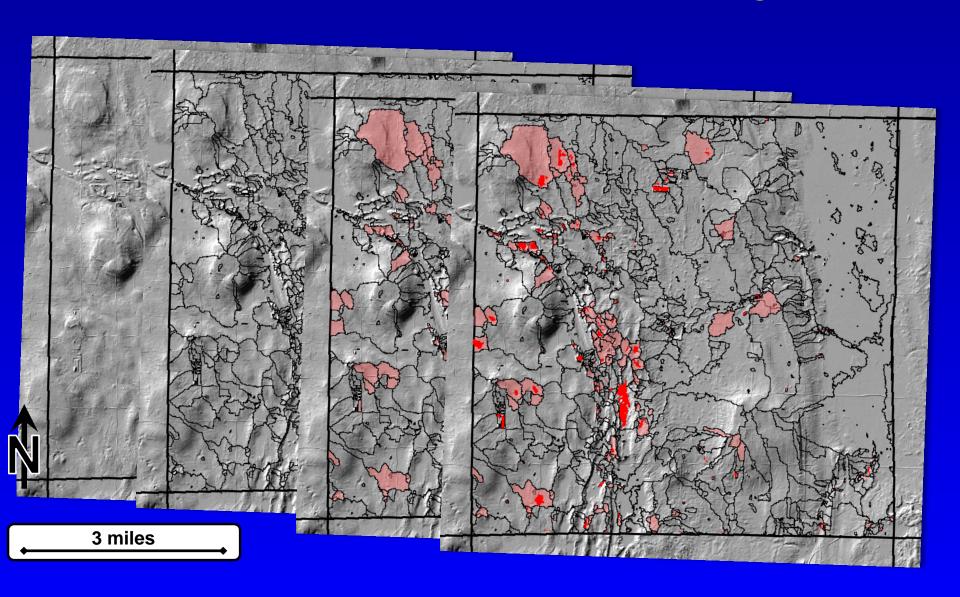
- Coarse sediments
- Exposed rock



Results of preliminary model run



Closed depression mapping



Next steps

Project completion: Summer 2017

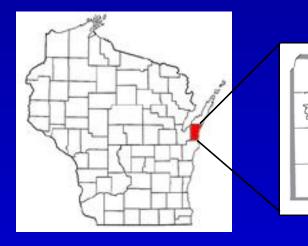
- Report to Town (Maps, GIS files)
- Presentations to Town and County
- Farm Tech Days summer 2017

Use of maps and data

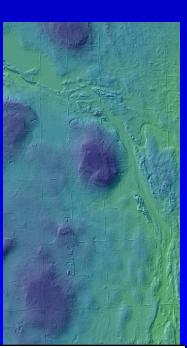
 Town and County can use new maps as tools for making informed land-use management decisions

Potential future projects

- Expanded geophysical surveys
- Continue comparison testing depthto-bedrock methods
 - With local and county government, farmers, private homeowners







Town of Lincoln Groundwater Study: Kewaunee County, Wisconsin Thank you, questions? Mike Parsen (WGNHS) Hydrogeologist Michael.Parsen@wgnhs.uwex.edu **Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey**

Ahnapee River Photo - David Mickelson