

# Groundwater at the Science-Policy Interface Workshop

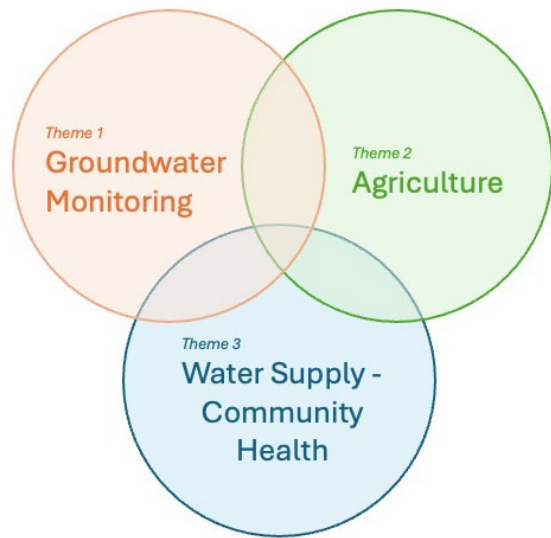
**Date:** November 12-14, 2025

**Location:** Morwick G360 Groundwater Research Centre, 360 College Avenue E, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario



## **Workshop Description**

Groundwater is an essential resource for sustaining ecosystems, supporting agriculture, and providing drinking water to communities globally. This intensive 3-day workshop focuses on the critical role of groundwater in food security, agriculture, and community health, by bringing together researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, and community members across disciplines to highlight the interdisciplinary connections of groundwater.



Participants will have the opportunity to engage with leading experts in the field through lectures from academic researchers and professionals across disciplines, and to explore cutting-edge technologies during field demonstrations that showcase key tools for groundwater research. They will also collaborate with peers in small group activities, fostering collaborative problem-solving and working through practical examples and case studies. Panel discussions featuring experts from various sectors will further enhance the experience, providing diverse perspectives on the application of integrated approaches for groundwater management and policy in different social-ecological settings.

Discussions will explore key barriers to evidence-based groundwater policy-making, addressing critical topics such as:

- Supporting evidence-based groundwater management and policy-making with people-centric science and research
- Managing groundwater resources under increasing demand
- Balancing aquifer protection, food security, and water supply for communities

### **Key Themes:**

**Wednesday, November 12:** Setting the Stage with Concepts, Global Perspectives, Tools, and Methods

**Thursday, November 13:** Groundwater in Agriculture - Policy and Practice (with insights from Ontario producers and international researchers and practitioners)

**Friday, November 14:** Groundwater for Municipal Water Supplies and Community Environmental Health

***Registration: Space is limited, [click here](#) to secure your spot!***

# Groundwater Science-Policy Workshop

Morwick Groundwater Research Centre, 360 College Avenue E, Guelph, Ontario

## Agenda Day 1 – Wednesday, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 2025

8:00-8:30 Breakfast and Registration @ Morwick Groundwater Research Centre			
Theme: Setting the Stage with Concepts, Tools and Methods			
8:30-8:50	20	Sophie Bhalla and Becky Anderson (Morwick G360): Ice Breaker Activity	
8:50-9:10	20	Beth Parker (Director Morwick G360)	Welcome and Introduction
9:10-9:20	10	Diana Lewis (IndigenERA lab)	Indigenous Perspectives: All my relations
9:20-9:35	15	Sophie Bhalla (Morwick G360)	Science-Policy Interface & Peak Groundwater Concepts
9:35-9:50	15	Ferdinando Manna (Morwick G360)	Introduction to Groundwater Science
9:50-10:10	20	Ken Walton (Morwick G360)	Aquifer Model Demonstration
10:10-10:30	20	Break	
Theme: Development Perspectives and Understanding Shared Interests & Questions			
10:30-11:20	50	Richard Taylor (University College London)	Keynote: Development Perspectives & Climate Change
11:20-12:00	40	Group Activity - Mentimeter, Networking, and Discussion (Moderator: Sophie Bhalla)	
12:00-1:00	60	Group Lunch @ Morwick Groundwater Research Centre	
Theme: Setting the Stage with Concepts, Tools, and Methods			
1:00-1:15	15	Chris Neville (SSPA)	Introduction to Hydraulic Testing
1:15-1:30	15	Jonathan Kennel (Morwick G360)	Overview of High-Resolution Dynamic Data Sets
1:30-1:45	15	Dave Rudolph (University of Waterloo)	Introduction to Monitoring and Modelling (multiple lines of evidence to inform decision-making)
1:45-2:00	15	Ramon Aravena (University of Waterloo)	Introduction to Isotope Hydrogeology
2:00-2:15	15	Aaron Berg (University of Guelph)	Introduction to Remote Sensing/GIS
2:30-3:00	40	Panel/Q&A Roadblocks for Policy, and Examples on How to Use These Tools Effectively (Moderator: Beth Parker)	
3:00-3:30	20	Break	
Theme: Hands-On Demonstrations			
3:30-3:50	20	Steve Chapman and Stephane Lauzon (Morwick G360)	Station 1 - Multilevel Monitoring
3:50-4:10	20	Ryan Kroeker (Morwick G360) and Jonathan Munn (City of Guelph)	Station 2 - Temporary Deployed Sensors
4:10-4:30	20	Marina Nunes and Andrii Gusiev (Morwick G360)	Station 3 - Rock Core
Theme: Challenges and Lessons Learned			
4:30-5:00	30	Beth Parker, Richard Taylor, Sophie Bhalla	Challenges and Lessons Learned
End of Day 1			

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## Agenda Day 2 – Thursday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 2025

8:00-9:00 Breakfast @ Morwick Groundwater Research Centre			
Theme: Groundwater and Agriculture Talks and Panel Discussions			
9:00-9:20	20	Chunmiao Zheng (Sustech)	GW-Ag Perspectives from China
9:20-9:40	20	Partik Kumar (University of York)	GW-Ag Perspectives from India
9:40-10:00	20	Amy Kremen (Colorado State University)	GW-Ag Perspectives from USA/Ogallala Aquifer
10:00-10:20	20	Manfred Matz	GW-Ag Perspectives from Tunisia: Challenges of Demand Management
10:20-10:40	20	Sophie Bhalla (Morwick G360) and Ying Lin (Sustech)	Behavioral Models, Social Psychology, and Farmers Perspectives of Three Global Case Studies (China, India, USA)
10:40-11:00	20	Panel discussion/Q&A: Global Perspectives Groundwater in Agriculture (Moderator: Richard Taylor)	
11:00-11:15	15	Break	
Theme: Agriculture in Ontario: Insights from Producers			
11:15-11:30	15	Mark Reusser (Director Ontario Federation of Agriculture)	Groundwater in Ontario Agriculture
11:25-12:35	70	Panel discussion – <i>Producers/Farmers from Southern Ontario on Practical Groundwater Management Issues</i> Panelists: <b>Mark Reusser (OFA), John Rodgers (Director Bruce County Federation of Agriculture), and John Williamson (Chair Cataraqui Source Protection Committee)</b> (Moderator: Hugh Simpson)	
12:35-1:35	60	Group Lunch @ Morwick Groundwater Research Centre	
Theme: Groundwater and Agriculture Policy			
1:35-1:55	20	Dustin Garrick (University of Waterloo, Director of the Collaborative Water Program)	Groundwater Policy and Economics
1:55-2:15	20	Brenda Dyack	Applied Groundwater-Agricultural Challenges
2:15-2:35	20	Nandita Basu (University of Waterloo)	Groundwater Quality and Agriculture
2:35-2:55	20	Jana Levison (Morwick G360)	Groundwater and Agriculture in Ontario: Current Research and Emerging Issues
2:55-3:15	20	Discussion/Q&A – Identifying Themes for Breakout Groups (Moderator: Sophie Bhalla)	
3:15-3:30	15	Break	
Theme: Groundwater and Agriculture Breakout Groups: Workshopping Solutions to Social-Ecological dilemmas			
3:30-4:15	45	Group Activity Part 1: Breakout Groups on Agricultural Subthemes	
4:15-4:45	30	Groups Activity Part 2: Present Take-Aways from Part 1	
4:45-5:00	15	Discussion & Wrap-Up Day 2	
End of Day 2			



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## Agenda Day 3 – Friday, Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

8:00-9:00 Breakfast @ Morwick Groundwater Research Centre			
Theme: Groundwater for Municipal Water Supplies			
9:00-9:30	30	Jonathan Munn (Morwick G360 and the City of Guelph)	A Local Perspective from the City of Guelph; NSERC Synergy Award Success Story
9:30-10:00	30	Ricardo Hirata & Carlos Marques (University of Sao Paulo)	Groundwater in Brazilian cities: beyond traditional solutions to overcome water crises
10:00-10:20	20	Panel Discussion/Q&A Groundwater for Municipal Water Supplies: Monitoring Technologies and Policy Opportunities (Moderator: Ferdinando Manna)	
10:20-10:35	15	Break	
Theme: Groundwater for Municipal Water Supplies Breakout Groups			
10:35-11:15	40	Group Activity Part 1: Breakout Groups (brainstorming blind spots and perspectives)	
11:15-11:40	25	Groups Activity Part 2: Present Take-Aways from Part 1	
11:40-12:40	60	Group Lunch @ Morwick Groundwater Research Centre	
Theme: Community Environmental Health			
12:40-1:00	20	Bruce Davidson (Concerned Walkerton Citizens)	Walkerton Tragedy and Lessons Learned
1:00-1:20	20	IndigenERA Lab (Veronica Reitmeier and Antonina Struminski-Bodden)	Indigenous Community Health
1:20-1:40	20	Oneida Nation of the Thames, Oneida Women and Clan Mothers (Yukwanulha Yukwanikuhliyo)	Community presentation
1:40-2:00	20	Sipekne'katik First Nation	Community presentation
2:00-2:20	20	Theresa McClenaghan (Canadian Environmental Law Association)	Environmental Justice & Policy - The Clean Water Act
2:20-2:40	20	Panel discussion/Q&A – Case Studies in Community Environmental Health and Policy Opportunities (Moderator: Sophie Bhalla)	
2:40-3:00	20	Break	
Theme: Interactive Discussion Sessions			
3:00 -4:00	60	Listening/Talking Circle led by IndigenERA	
4:00-4:40	40	Group activity/mentimeter: Tying Together Key Concepts and Ideas from Workshop (revisiting themes/expectations/questions from Day 1)	
4:40-5:00	20	Sophie Bhalla (Morwick G360)	Final Thoughts and Next Steps
End of Workshop			