



**GROUNDWATER NITRATE WORK GROUP
TUESDAY January 19, 2021 @ 8:00 AM
ZOOM MEETING**

Minutes

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Chair Sweeney called the meeting to order at 8:01 am.
Members present: Rick Richards, Wes Davis, Pat Mullooly, Dave Rebout, Lou Peer, Rich Bostwick and Al Sweeney.
Members Excused: Rick Wietersen
Others present: Supervisor Shirley Williams, Scott Fleming, Andrew Baker, and Chris Newberry
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Wes Davis moved the agenda as presented, seconded by Rich Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2020 meeting.** Lou Peer moved the minutes for the October 27, 2020 meeting as presented, seconded by Rick Richards. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Communications, Announcements.** Lou Peer would like to congratulate Rich Bostwick for being elected as County Board Chair and Wes Davis for being elected Vice Chair.
5. **Well Sampling-Update.** Rick Wietersen was not available for this meeting but sent update of well sampling to Andrew Baker. Andrew indicated that the monitoring well elevations are stable with a slight decrease in depth. Flow is steady and remains NE to SW. The 3 transient community wells are also stable over the last couple of months. Nitrate levels remained stable with at most an increase of 0.1mg/l.
6. **Ground Water Sampling Agreements with Private Landowners**
 - a. **Water sampling procedure**
 - b. **Conservation practice costs in sample areas**

Chris Newberry gave an update indicating that he has found a landowner willing to split his field and allow conservation practices and soil borings on the field for 5 years. The field is ~73 acres and would be split in half. One half would remain under current typical land management. The other half would have conservation practices added. The split fields would be sampled at 10 locations on each half, twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. Cost for the project are very dependent on federal programs. Costs could range from \$1000 to \$7000 per year depending on NRCS conservation programs and assistance from UWEX and Discovery Farms. Various questions were raised about the project. Sweeney would like to see a more definitive plan and cost estimate before allocating any funds and also suggested working very closely with UWEX on the details.
7. **Status of 9KE Plan.** Chris Newberry gave an update to the timetable of the plan. Newberry noted he has had to set aside the 9KE plan for a while to work on engineering projects. He has reset the timetable to the end of summer to have a first draft of the plan. Newberry indicated he has asked for help in developing EVAAL and ACPF maps for the plan. Jennifer from planning

and Anne from Land Conservation will help with ACPF maps. Craig with NRCS is working on the EVAAL maps. Craig has taken over from Kent who retired at the end of October.

8. **Producer Led Watershed Group Development - Update.** Chris Newberry indicated the FotR was not awarded a grant from DATCP. The grant was for \$20,000 and would have been used for starting the group website, advertising and cost-sharing of cover crops. The group had a sponsor give \$500 and another pledge \$500. The group is hopeful for in-kind donation of a professional logo creation and website design. The next meeting is January 27, at 7:00am via Zoom. The group is planning a virtual field day in mid-April at Rebout's farm. Eric Cooley of UWEX Discovery Farms will talk. Discovery farms will host the live presentation. The Group is also looking for a new Board Member, preferably someone that farms west of the Rock River.
9. Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location (Avoid Second and Fourth Tuesday Mornings). Date and time was tentatively set for February 22, 2021 at 8:00am via Zoom, dependent on status of planning/developing the water sampling project.
10. Adjourn. Rich Bostwick moved to adjourn the January 19, 2021 meeting of the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup at 8:45 am, seconded by Rick Richards. **Motion Carried.**

Respectively Submitted,

Chris Newberry
Conservation Specialist IV

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup.

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