



**GROUNDWATER NITRATE WORK GROUP  
TUESDAY October 27, 2020 @ 8:00 AM  
ZOOM MEETING**

**Minutes**

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Chair Sweeney called the meeting to order at 8:01 am.  
**Members present:** Wes Davis, Pat Mullooly, Dave Rebout, Lou Peer, Rich Bostwick, and Al Sweeney.  
**Members Excused:** Rick Richards  
**Others present:** Scott Flemming, Andrew Baker, Dave Gundlach, Rick Wietersen, and Chris Newberry
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Rich Bostwick moved the agenda as presented, seconded by Wes Davis. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes from September 1, 2020 meeting.** Lou Peer moved the minutes for the September 1, 2020 meeting as presented, seconded by Wes Davis. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Communications, Announcements.** None at this time.
5. **Well Sampling-Update.** Rick Wietersen discussed the monitoring well sampling data from the County Farm and the non-community wells in the study area. Weitersen informed the group that the wells were sampled yesterday. Wietersen noted the groundwater level in the observation wells dropped slightly but, remain high and steady. Wietersen also noted the groundwater flow was high but, steady and continues to run in the same direction. Wietersen informed the group that he is starting to see a trend develop in the data. The data indicates that from year to year the N levels are lower overall. The data also indicates that there are seasonal fluctuations. The N levels rise and fall throughout the year and tend to be higher in the fall and lower in the spring. Wietersen noted again that the lower levels of nitrate could be from dilution from more water being in the aquifer. Discussion on whether or not we might already be seeing some impact of practices installed on the County Farm.
  - a. **Possible site for well sampling on irrigated cropland** no discussion at this time
6. **Status of 9KE Plan.** Chris Newberry gave an update to the timetable of the plan. Newberry completed 2 before and after models of STEPL of the needed 7. Newberry noted he has had to set aside the 9KE plan for a while to work on engineering projects. Newberry indicated he has asked for help in developing EVAAL and ACPF maps for the plan. Jennifer from planning will help with ACPF maps and Kent with NRCS is working on the EVAAL maps. Kent is retiring at the end of October and Craig with NRCS will hopefully take on Kent's work.
7. **Producer Led Watershed Group Development - Update.** Chris Newberry indicated there hasn't been a meeting due to farm work and Covid. The FotR did apply for a grant from DATCP.

The award letters of funding are due out the end of the week. The next meeting is December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at Hughes' shed. The group agreed that the Producer Led Group will have to have difficult conversations regarding what producers can do to address groundwater and surface water quality concerns.

8. **NR 151 Groundwater Nitrate Standard Technical Advisory Committee - Update** Chris Newberry gave an overview of the results of what the TAC had developed for guidelines for reducing N in groundwater. Including defining a sensitive area, the new standards and prohibitions to be added to NR151. The DNR is still in the rule writing phase and hopes to have the new rules out for discussion in February.
  
9. **Action Item. Consideration of development of an application for the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program - Alternative Funding Arrangement (RCPP-AFA) for conservation practice implementation.**  
Dave Gundlach discussed the summaries on the fact sheets. The conservation practices are the same as they are in EQIP and CSP but, with the RCPP-AFA payments are based on performance and administered based on priorities by a local entity, not the NRCS. In that way it is similar to a grant rather than a cost share contract with the NRCS. Dave was unsure how performance was measured. There were a lot of unanswered questions that staff will look into if directed by the group. The committee would like more information about RCPP-AFA. No action at this time.
  
10. **Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location (Avoid Second and Fourth Tuesday Mornings)**  
Date and time were set for January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:00am. Place is to be determined by Covid-19 restrictions.
  
11. **Adjourn.** Wes Davis moved to adjourn the October 27, 2020 meeting of the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup at 8:43 am, seconded by Pat Mullooly. **Motion Carried.**

Respectively Submitted,

Chris Newberry  
Senior Conservation Specialist

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

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