



**Groundwater Nitrate Work Group
Monday October 15, 2018 @ 9:15 am
Public Health Department Conference Room
Janesville WI**

MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Sweeney called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

Members Present: Nick Baker, Rich Bostwick, Colin Byrnes, Wes Davis, Chris Murphy, Lou Peer, Dave Rebout, Al Sweeney, Tom Sweeney, and Rick Wietersen.

Members Excused: Rick Richard, Pat Mullooly,

Others Present: Dave Gundlach, USDA-NRCS

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Rich Bostwick moved the agenda as presented, seconded by Wes Davis. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes from the August 27, 2018 meeting:** Lou Peer moved the minutes for the July 30, 2018 meeting as presented, seconded by Wes Davis. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Communications:** None
5. **Farm Lease Discussion:** Nick Baker stated the lease has been set at five years. As of this date, two individuals have inquired about Conservation Plan requirements as identified in the RFP. Tom Sweeney distributed a draft document which outlines the guidelines for the Conservation Plan. After discussions it was decided that the required cover crops, identified in the draft as winter rye, should be changed to include additional options, if so requested by the tenant. Tom Sweeney will change the language to allow additional options in the arena of cover crops. Nick Baker closed the conversation stating the bids for the farmland lease are due November 5, 2018 at 12:00 pm.
6. **Monitoring Well Sampling Update.** Rick Wietersen distributed documents which identified the monitoring wells nitrate trends and the public wells, in the immediate area, nitrate trends. Rick Wietersen noted that the Groundwater Elevation has increased over a foot in the monitoring wells. One of the three wells (middle well) shows a subtle increase in nitrate and one well shows a subtle decrease in nitrate. The final well, located in the upper reach of the pilot area remains consistently low. Regarding the three public wells, two of the three showed a

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subtle increase in nitrates and one remained consistent. A short discussion pursued regarding additional samples being taken during the month to populate the data base of information. It was decided to sample once a month for the winter/early spring. Additional sample maybe taken during spring throughout the summer.

7. **Cover Crop Strategies.** Nick Baker led the conversation regarding cover crops. Cover crops can be used in both beans and corn crops. The highest soil and nutrient loss occurs during the 90 days from spring to fall. Nick Baker stated that winter wheat is a viable cover crop alternative, as it is easily killed in the spring. Also research shows promise for multi species cover crop systems. Therefore additional cover crop choices are warranted under the conservation plan requirements.
8. **Discussion on long term strategies regarding GW Nitrate issues.** Nick Baker stated that the long term strategies must include farmer led groups as discussed during past meetings. Farmer led groups are showing great promise in regards to locally defined issues throughout the State of Wisconsin.
9. **Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location.** The next meeting date was set for 8:00 am, Monday, December 10, 2018 and will be held at the new UWEX Office Conference Room.
10. **Adjourn:** Rich Bostwick moved to adjourn the October 15, 2018 meeting of the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup at 10:34 pm, seconded by Chris Murphy. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup