



**Groundwater Nitrate Work Group
Monday March 19, 2018 @ 10:00 AM
Health Department Conference Room
Janesville WI**

MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Kraft called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Members Present: Rich Bostwick, Sandy Kraft, Pat Muloolly, Chris Murphy, Wes Davis, Rick Richard, Rick Wietersen, Colin Byrnes, Al Sweeney, Dave Rebut and Tom Sweeney

Others Present: Dave Gundlach, USDA-NRCS, Nick Viney, Current County Farm Lessee.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Wes Davis moved the agenda as presented, seconded by Rick Richard.
Motion Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes from the February 19, 2018 meeting:** Rich Bostwick moved the minutes for the February 19, 2018 meeting as presented, seconded by Wes Davis. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Discuss work assignments for field work: Who, What, Where, and When:** Tom Sweeney started the discussion regarding the tasks that need attention. The first task was for the installation of the monitoring wells. Tom stated that the county has not received the anticipated ATC allocation as of this meeting date. To assure that proper financials are in place, the Land Conservation Committee will need to borrow funding from the existing ATC fund balance sheet. Tom will have a conversation with Sherry Oja, Rock County Financial Director to verify if funds are still available. If the fund balance is adequate and the transfer is allowed, Tom will write a resolution for County Board Approval. The next item of topic was the discussion of acquiring the lessee's background field information. Nick Baker, UWEX will work with Nick Viney to acquire the needed information. Chair Kraft recognized Nick Viney. Nick stated he is not reluctant to work with Nick Baker, but would like assurances that the information gathered would be protected. Tom Sweeney stated that under the current USDA rules, all information contained in a conservation plan is not privy to the open records rules. This information must be held in the conservation office. The next topic discussed was the cost share agreement that needs to be developed that will include specific language indemnifying pilot participants from any harm regarding non-point pollution. Tom Sweeney will work on this

issue with Corporation Counsel. Al Sweeney requested information regarding well testing schedules. Rick Wietersen will develop a schedule.

5. **Discuss Best Management Practices to be used in initial demo areas:** Tom Sweeney distributed a document regarding the 4Rs of nitrogen management. Those being the right source, the right rate, the right timing, and finally the right placement. Also discussed was the use of cover crops, which has been shown as an effective tool in nitrogen management. Numerous issues by the workgroup were discussed regarding cover crops and their use in grain systems.
6. **Discuss County Farm Lease Document:** The County Farm lease will expire at the end of 2018. Current term of the lease is three years. To keep the lessee for the full pilot project, the terms are being reviewed and may be increased to five years. Also, some sort of insurance will need to be integrated into the lease for production loss due to the program requirements. A control plot will be required to be integrated for the field south of US Hwy 14.
7. **Discuss establishment of monitoring wells on county farm and prairie estate demonstration areas:** As a minimum three monitoring wells will be established on the county campus at Hwy 14 and 51. Three additional wells might be placed in the prairie estates area if landowners are cooperative. Nick Baker will make those contacts. Rick Wietersen noted that the subsurface geology in and around the county farm is similar in makeup. Rick Wietersen noted that the prairie estates area subsurface geology is not similar to the county farm pilot area.
8. **Communications:** Chris Murphy stated he will explore if DNR has available funds to assist with the installation of monitoring wells. It was noted that Wisconsin is part of the "Think Water" pilot sponsored by the USDA, and there may be room for collaboration with this group. Sandy Kraft stated that landowners in the Prairie Estates Area should be invited to an upcoming meeting.
9. **Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location:** The next meeting was set for April 9, 2018 at 8:30 am and the location will be confirmed by Rick Wietersen.
10. **Adjourn:** Pat Mullooly moved to adjourn the March 19, 2018 meeting of the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup at 11:22, seconded by Rich Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**