



**Groundwater Quality Initiative
Workgroup Meeting
Tuesday April 4, 2017 @ 3:00 pm
MINUTES**

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Tom Sweeney at 3:06 pm
2. **Approve Minutes from the March 7, 2017 Meeting.** Rich Bostwick moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Al Sweeney. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Elect a Chair/Vice Chair or Co-Chairs for Work Group.** Al Sweeney nominated Sandy Kraft to serve as chair, seconded by Rich Bostwick. **Motion Carried.** Sandy Kraft nominated Al Sweeney to serve as vice chair, seconded by Wes Davis. **Motion Carried.** At this point Tom Sweeney handed the meeting off to Sandy Kraft.
4. **Discuss Ongoing Groundwater Initiative projects Located in Wisconsin and Neighboring States.** Tom Sweeney distributed groundwater nitrate studies that are current underway or have conclude in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Tom Sweeney highlighted points of interest in each study. Chris Murphy reviewed the Portage County Groundwater Management Plan which may help guide this group.
5. **Discussion - Establish Goals for Initiative: Group Discussion.** Rick Wieterson reviewed goals that maybe considered by the group: they included: Include groundwater protection in smart growth comprehensive plans; Encourage wise land-use decisions that will minimize impacts to groundwater; Utilize technology such as groundwater flow models for groundwater planning purposes; Protect municipal and/or private water supplies from contamination by adopting wellhead protection ordinances and developing source water protection plans; Encourage farmers to adopt nutrient management plans and less nutrient intensive cropping systems, particularly in areas that show impacts from fertilizers; Develop water conservation strategies and to minimize the impacts of expected increases in water use from population growth; Educate community members about the local groundwater resource, its use, current and potential problems, as well as solutions; Establish and maintain a data collection, monitoring and analysis program; Coordination and cooperation between state agencies, local government, non-profit organizations, and citizens; Fill data gaps in well testing programs; Develop small scale project in Rock County.
Rick Wieterson stated that he has contracted the UW –Whitewater to develop GIS layers to help analyze data for groundwater impacts and areas that then to be more prone to elevated nitrates. Tom Sweeney stated that the Nitrate Well tests conducted by Health Dept. should include some form detection for human influence, such as caffeine.

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Nick Baker suggested that a farmer led group would be beneficial to the outcome of this project. Pat Mullooly suggested that well tests be conducted if landowners are enrolled in the Nutrient Management Program. Al Sweeney stated this should be offered as part of the service of the Nutrient Management Plan Development. Rich Bostwick noted that we should also conduct tests on wells that are schedule to be abandoned. A discussion ensued as to the merits of the recommended Goals.

Rick Richard departed at 4:22 pm for a previous engagement.

Pat Mullooly noted the Sustain Project which may be available but a pending merger may interfere with the program.

6. **Other Business.** None
7. **Next meeting date, time, and location:** The next meeting was set for May 2, 2017 at 3:00 pm in Conference Room N-1.
8. **Adjourn.** Wes Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 pm, seconded by Rich Bostwick.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Sweeney

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Groundwater Quality Initiative Workgroup

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