



**Groundwater Quality Initiative
Workgroup Meeting
Monday October 16, 2017 @ 7:00 am
Public Health Department Conference Room
3328 US Hwy 51 North
Janesville WI**

MINUTES

Members Present: Nick Baker, Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Sandy Kraft, Dave Rebout, Rick Richard, Al Sweeney, Tom Sweeney, and Rick Wietersen.

Members Excused: Colin Byrnes, Pat Mullooly, Chris Murphy

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Sandy Kraft called the meeting to order at 7:04 am.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Rich Bostwick moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Al Sweeney. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approve Minutes from the September 18, 2017 Meeting.** Wes Davis moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Al Sweeney. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Discuss meeting with the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey staff regarding Nitrate Project in Rock County.** Rick Wietersen began the discussion referencing the proposed pilot project and the use of the groundwater model developed for the Rock River TMDL. Discussion with Ken Bradbury, Director and State Geologist and Madeline Gotkowitz, Hydrogeologist centered around the possibility of modifying the model for a specific well. The model can be modified but specific information about the well is important, being a long history of testing and it cannot be cased in limestone aquifer. Madeline Gotkowitz discussed a DNR waiver for non-point to point source pollution sourcing regarding a project she is currently involved with. Tom Sweeney stated he will look into this issue and secure a copy of this waiver. There is a potential to work with the WGNHS regarding the model modification for the project.
5. **Reduce the number of potential areas and/or identify area for potential field demo area.** Rick Wietersen began the conversation stating that with the knowledge gained from the meeting with staff from WGNHS, that this topic may be premature. Wietersen continued stating that the Bowers Lake area may be the size of the area we want to study. A discussion followed regarding the scale of the area we want to study which included the County Farm area,

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the Rock Prairie area and the County Airport Property area may be of interest. The final potential project area will need to have a detailed well construction report, but also landowner/operator cooperation will be a driving factor. Staff from the Health Department will investigate the well construction logs they have on file and the Land Conservation Department will investigate past landowner cooperation.

6. **Update on the Operator Led Workgroup.** Nick Baker discussed the development of a Rock County Corn and Soybean Producer workgroup. This workgroup met recently to discuss current topics which included the Groundwater Nitrate topic. Nick Baker came away from this meeting with a sense that a couple of operators present are interested in this topic and may want their operations include in the study. Also, the Rock County Agribusiness Council is also interested in this topic.
7. **Draft Resolution:** Tom Sweeney distributed a copy of a resolution that remains in draft form. The resolution titled: Extending the Deadline for the Workgroup to Study the High Nitrate Levels in Rock County's Groundwater will be presented to the Land Conservation Committee and Public Health Committee during their November 1, 2017 meetings. This resolution will allow for this workgroup to continue to function until December 2020.
8. **Communications:** Al Sweeney distributed a copy of a newspaper article titled: Clean water vs. farm profits at heart of debate over fertilizer rules. The news article is based on the State of Minnesota's efforts to modify fertilizer use rules to place a higher level of protection on groundwater. The state will now have authority to enforce these rules. Al Sweeney continued that this can happen here in Wisconsin. He continued that we have to get the message out to inform operators that this is a very important issue and that the Agriculture Community needs to take the lead on the Nitrate issue, not in the future, but now to prevent more regulations.
9. **Next meeting date, time, and location:** The next meeting was set for November 29, 2017 at 10:30 am at the Public Health Department Conference Room.
10. **Adjourn:** Rich Bostwick moved to adjourn at 8:23 am, seconded by Rick Richard. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Sweeney

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

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