

RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board of Health  
INITIATED BY



Timothy Banwell  
DRAFTED BY

Board of Health  
SUBMITTED BY

January 6, 2016  
DATE DRAFTED

**Accepting Taking Action with Data: Use of the Environmental County Health Profiles to Improve Environmental Health in a Community Grant and Amending the 2016 Rock County Public Health Department Budget**

1 **WHEREAS**, there are an estimated 13,000 private wells in Rock County and all our citizens and  
 2 visitors depend on our community's ground water for drinking water; and  
 3  
 4 **WHEREAS**, Rock County Health Department applied for and was awarded a grant from the  
 5 Wisconsin Department of Health Services for Establishing a Foundation for an Educational Online  
 6 Drinking Water Nitrate Risk Tracking Tool; and  
 7  
 8 **WHEREAS**, this is a nine month grant at \$10,500, beginning November 2, 2015 and ending July 31,  
 9 2016; and  
 10  
 11 **WHEREAS**, this grant will plan and assist in developing a tool for understanding sources of  
 12 groundwater contamination and educating citizens on protecting their drinking water supply.  
 13  
 14 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly  
 15 assembled on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2016 does hereby authorize the Rock  
 16 County Health Department to accept this Establishing a Foundation for an Educational Online  
 17 Drinking Water Nitrate Risk Tracking Tool Grant in the amount of \$10,500, and amend the 2016 Rock  
 18 County Public Health Department Budget as follows:

<u>Account/Description</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>1/1/16</u>	<u>Increase</u> <u>(Decrease)</u>	<u>Amended</u> <u>Budget</u>
<u>Source of Funds</u>			
31-3028-0000-42100			
Federal Aid	-0-	\$10,500	\$10,500
<u>Use of Funds</u>			
31-3028-0000-63110			
Administrative Expense	-0-	\$10,500	\$10,500

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF HEALTH

Sandra Kraft  
Sandra Kraft, Chair

Richard Bostwick  
Richard Bostwick

Dr. Keith Konkol, MD

Dr. Connie Winter, DDS

Eric Gresens  
Eric Gresens

Louis Peer  
Louis Peer, Vice Chair

Gregg Addie  
Dean Peterson DVM  
Dr. Dean Peterson, DVM

Judith Wade  
Judith Wade

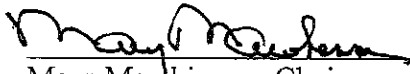
16-1A-447

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FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

Reviewed and approved on a vote of

5-0

  
Mary Mawhinney, Chair

FISCAL NOTE:

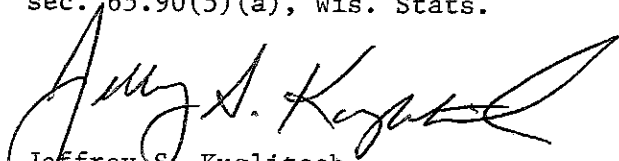
This resolution authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of a \$10,500 in Federal Aid for Nitrate risk tracking. No County matching funds are required.



Susan Balog  
Assistant Finance Director

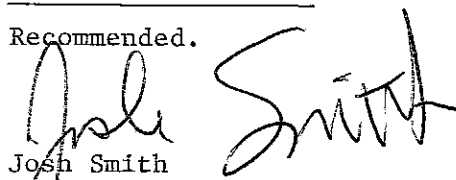
LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to accept grant funds pursuant to sec. 59.52(19), Wis. Stats. As an amendment to the adopted 2016 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to sec. 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

  
Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

  
Josh Smith  
County Administrator

### Executive Summary

Rock County has a known problem with nitrates in groundwater as identified by the Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program and data collected by the Rock County Health Department Water Testing Laboratory. The Rock County Health Department has established a strong groundwater testing program and continues to strongly promote private well testing. Educational information is provided to citizens on nitrate health risks and options to reduce their risk based on their nitrate test results. This project is looking to go beyond typical scope of just identifying the problem and relaying the health risks. This project is looking to spatially identify major sources of nitrates contributing to the health risk, land-use activities that may be increasing the nitrate risk, and geologic conditions that significantly contribute to elevated nitrates in the groundwater of Rock County. This project will provide for a better understanding of the nitrogen balance in the groundwater of Rock County. Ultimately, it is hoped that this project will provide the foundation for establishing an online Nitrate Risk Tracking Tool that would greatly assist in educating well users, nitrogen source contributors, well professionals, and policy makers to the cause and effect relationship of the well water nitrate issue in Rock County.

This 'Nitrate Risk Model' approach has been initiated in other parts of the country (State of Washington) but has not been utilized in Wisconsin to promote a better understanding of the cause and effect relationship of the nitrate groundwater issue. With this grant, the Rock County Health Department will lay the foundation for development of an online Nitrate Risk Tracking Tool that will assist the community in determining where nitrate risks exist in the county and potential factors as to why the risks are high in certain geographic regions. Decisions on determining future private well locations and well depths would be assisted by information provided by this tool. Practical applications can also be applied to local land use and public well planning.