



## MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

July 10, 2019

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Peer at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health Members Present: Supervisor Peer, Supervisor Gramke, Supervisor Rynes, Supervisor Homan, Dr. Meyers, and Ms. Wade.

Board of Health Members Absent: Dr. Winter, Dr. Somaraju, and Mr. Gresens.

Staff Members Present: Michelle Bailey – Assistant Director; Rick Wietersen – Environmental Health Director; and Jessica Turner – Administrative Services Supervisor.

Others Present: None at this time.

### **Adopt Agenda**

Ms. Wade made a motion to adopt the agenda. Supervisor Gramke seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

### **Approval of Minutes – 6/5/19**

Dr. Meyers made a motion to approve the minutes of the 6/5/19 Board of Health meeting. Supervisor Gramke seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

### **Citizen Participation**

None at this time.

### **New Business**

### **Administrative Division**

### **Review of Payments**

The Board reviewed the Health Department's June payments in the amount of \$5,626.31.

### **Transfer of Funds over \$5,000**

None at this time.

## **Health Department Report**

### **In the News**

Ms. Bailey reported that the Janesville Gazette interviewed the Public Health and Human Services Departments. The article highlighted data analysis and included information on tracking influenza, the late peak of influenza this year, and vaccination waivers. She added that the WCLO appearance was cancelled due to a Brewers game.

Ms. Bailey told the board members that the Environmental Health Profiles are out. She provided the Board members with a copy. (Available online at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00719-rock.pdf>)

Mr. Wietersen added that the Beloit Daily News will be reporting on mosquitos and West Nile virus either today or tomorrow.

### **Surveillance**

Ms. Bailey stated that the Rock County Public Health Department (RCPHD) investigated a couple of potential measles cases. Everything has come back negative so far. According to Ms. Bailey, measles cases nation-wide have been decreasing. Ms. Bailey added that the RCPHD evaluated the impact of its measles vaccination outreach. Adult vaccination rates in Rock County spiked in May. There was a similar trend statewide.

Ms. Bailey reported that Ms. Pusnik, a health educator with the RCPHD, conducted resource surveillance for a chronic disease grant that focuses on promoting diabetes prevention programs and self-management programs. She found that Rock County does not have any prevention programs yet. There are four management programs, of which three are accredited. The grant objective is to focus on the populations heavily impacted by diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Ms. Pusnik will continue resource surveillance by determining which pharmacist are part of the Wisconsin Pharmacy Society Collaborative and which ones offer blood pressure screenings.

Ms. Bailey mentioned that at the last meeting someone asked how many years' worth of immunization data is stored in the Wisconsin Immunization Registry. She said that Rock County started entering immunizations in 1999 or 2000 and was able to enter all historical data on file.

According to Ms. Bailey, there were three cases of cryptosporidium in Rock County that were related to a field trip to a farm in Illinois. The local health departments and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services collaborated to investigate and make sure proper hand washing procedures were being promoted.

Ms. Bailey told the Board that there was a possible active tuberculosis case. The first sample came back negative. Two more samples were collected.

### **Community Events/Outreach**

Ms. Bailey reported that RCPHD staff attended Juneteenth and Freedom Fest. They piloted a survey about barriers to healthy pregnancy and infancy as part of a learning lab grant. She said they plan to roll out a larger survey with community partners to address poor birth outcomes in Rock County. They also promoted The Tick App (<https://thetickapp.org/>) and Lyme disease awareness. Mr. Wietersen added that The Tick App is a phone app to record tick activity by location. The UW-Madison Entomology Department is compiling the information to find trends. The RCPHD is also trying to do better surveillance. According to Rick, the RCPHD is working with UW Entomology on this issue. RCPHD staff has applied for a mini-grant. Michelle told the board members that the RCPHD staff also provided information about diabetes, breastfeeding, and safe sleep.

Ms. Bailey told the Board that the RCPHD also attended the Rock County Employee Health Fair put on by the Rock County wellness program. RCPHD staff handed out trail mix with a recipe and trail guides to promote healthy eating and physical activity.

Ms. Bailey reported that Ms. Klingensmith, the Community Health Education Coordinator for the RCPHD was on a panel presentation at the Wisconsin Substance Abuse Prevention conference. She presented on a project called Place of Last Drink. RCPHD is working in collaboration with the Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project at the UW Law School and the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County. The initial goal was to have 25% of municipalities implementing policies to address alcohol related problems by 2020. So far, 50% of municipalities are implementing interventions. Supervisor Rynes added that in Madison, some establishments are voluntarily closing half an hour early because this has been shown to decrease crime.

Ms. Bailey said that Ms. Pusnik and Beloit Area Community Health Center created a food safety video for National Food Safety Month. It can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxEOWiuBqrM&feature=youtu.be>.

Mr. Wietersen announced that the Rock County Rabies Clinic will take place on September 21 at the Rock County Fair Grounds.

Mr. Wietersen also told the Board that the RCPHD is conducting a well water town sampling in the Town of Turtle. Letters were sent to 900 residents.

Mr. Wietersen also announced that water quality monitoring signs will be posted at surface water testing sites.

#### Budget

Ms. Bailey stated that Ms. Sandoval gave a budget presentation last week.

#### Personnel

According to Ms. Bailey, Caitlin Turkowski has been hired as a Public Health Nurse. She will be starting on July 29<sup>th</sup>. She is currently completing her Bachelors of Science in Nursing degree.

Ms. Bailey reported that Kelly Klingensmith has resigned as Community Health Education Coordinator. She is moving to Chicago and asked Ms. Bailey to relay her goodbyes to the Board. Her position has been posted and is open until Friday.

Mr. Wietersen reported that the part time Environmental Health position has been put on hold temporarily. He said they did not receive many qualified applicants. Mr. Wietersen told the Board that Mark Seymour has retired after 13 years at the RCPHD. His position is posted and open until Friday. Mr. Wietersen added that the part time position will be reposted after the full time position is filled.

Ms. Bailey reported that the Public Health Nurse Supervisor position was opened three times without any qualified applicants. The position has been changed to a Public Health Supervisor. According to Ms. Bailey, other health departments are calling the position Population Health Supervisor. The position will be reposted next Wednesday.

Ms. Bailey added that the RCPHD is checking to see where Human Resources is posting the job listings and adding some places to broaden the search.

**Nitrate Workgroup Update**

Mr. Wietersen gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Nitrate Workgroup (see attached).

**Communications and Announcements**

Ms. Bailey announced that the RCPHD will be at the County Fair to provide education on spreading of communicable diseases. She asked if Rock County has a booth for County Board members and if it would be possible to share.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Homan seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Turner, Recorder

Not Official Until Approved by the Board of Health

# Rock County Groundwater Nitrate Work Group

## ----- Update -----

### WHEN WAS WORK GROUP FORMED?

- County Resolution June 2017
- Amended in Dec 2017 to Extend to Dec. 31, 2020
- 2021 and Beyond?

### WHO IS ON THE WORK GROUP?

- 12 person Work Group

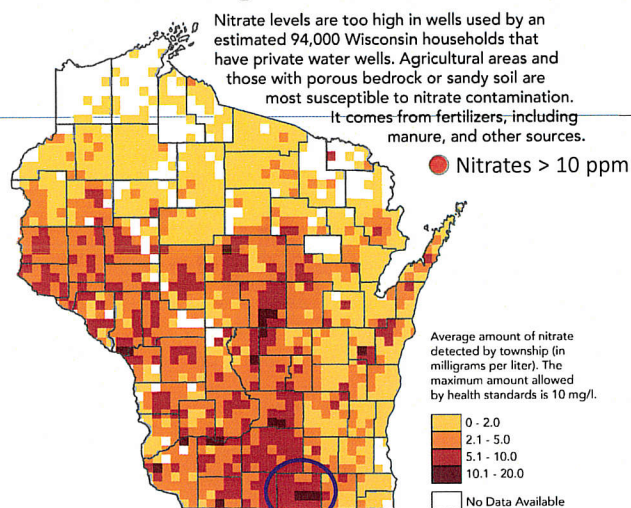


# Nitrate Work Group Mission Statement

***The Rock County Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup will analyze existing groundwater nitrate data, evaluate known best management practices to reduce nitrate leaching, and provide practical recommendations on short-term and long term methods to improve groundwater nitrate quality.***

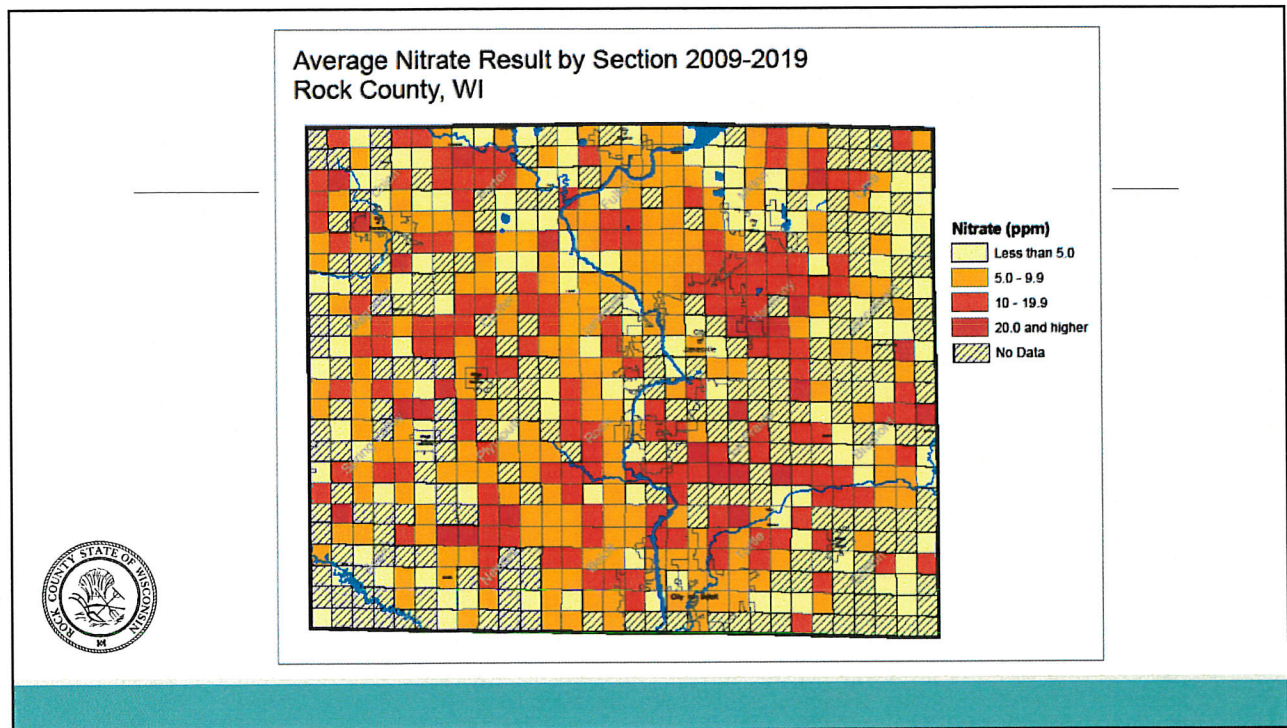
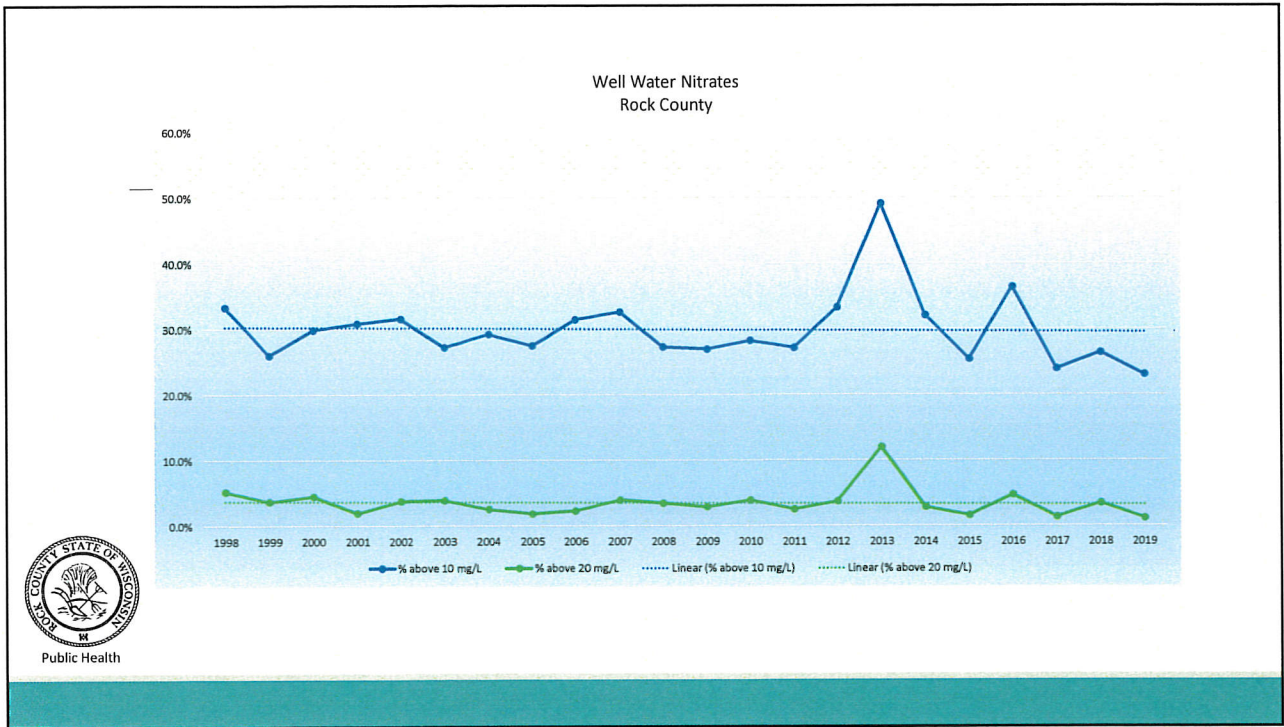


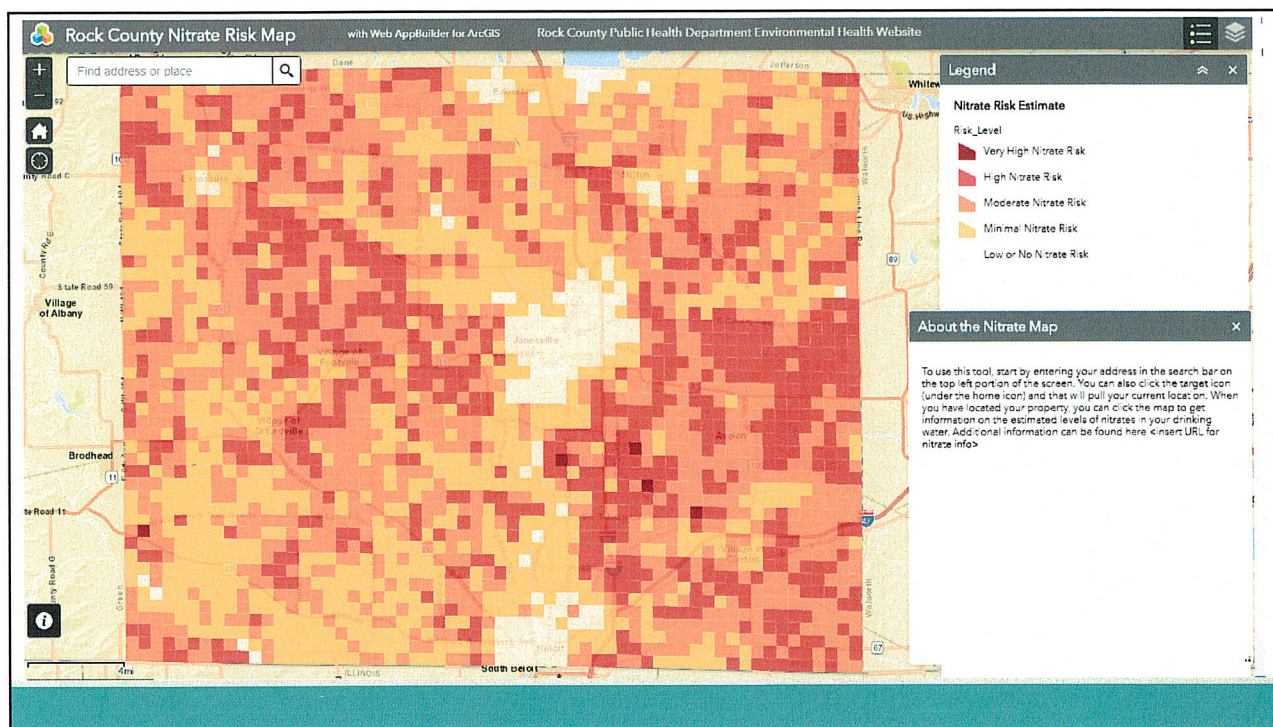
## Nitrate in drinking water around Wisconsin



CREDIT: Katie Kowalsky/Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism

SOURCE: Well Water Quality Viewer, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Center for Watershed Science and Education. Private Drinking Water Quality in Rural Wisconsin, Journal of Environmental Health, 2013.





## Establishment off Nitrate BMP Demonstration Areas

### - We Identified Potential BMP Groundwater Areas (2017/2018)

- geology, groundwater impacts, availability of indicator wells
- Work with Wisc Natural History and Geologic Survey

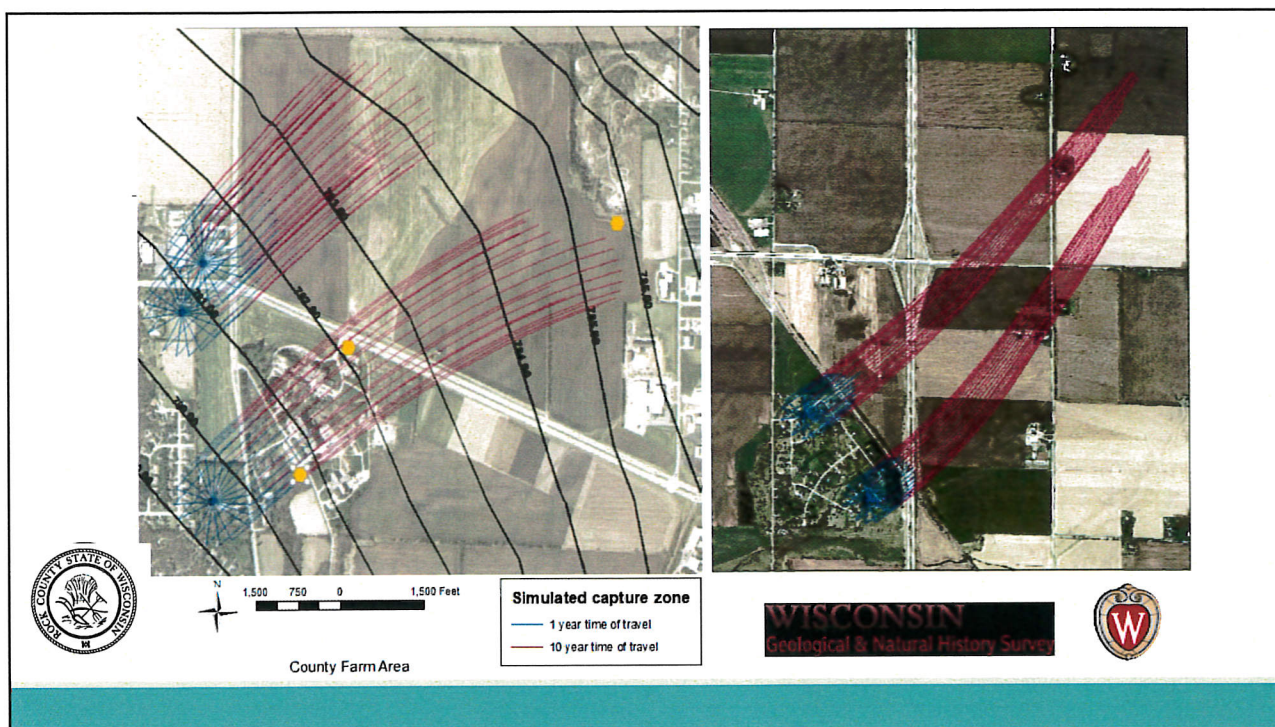
### - We Evaluated Potential Landowner Cooperation (2018)

- Farm community support
- Develop Landowner Contracts

### -Established Base Funding (Winter 2018)

- ATC Funding
- Used to install monitoring wells

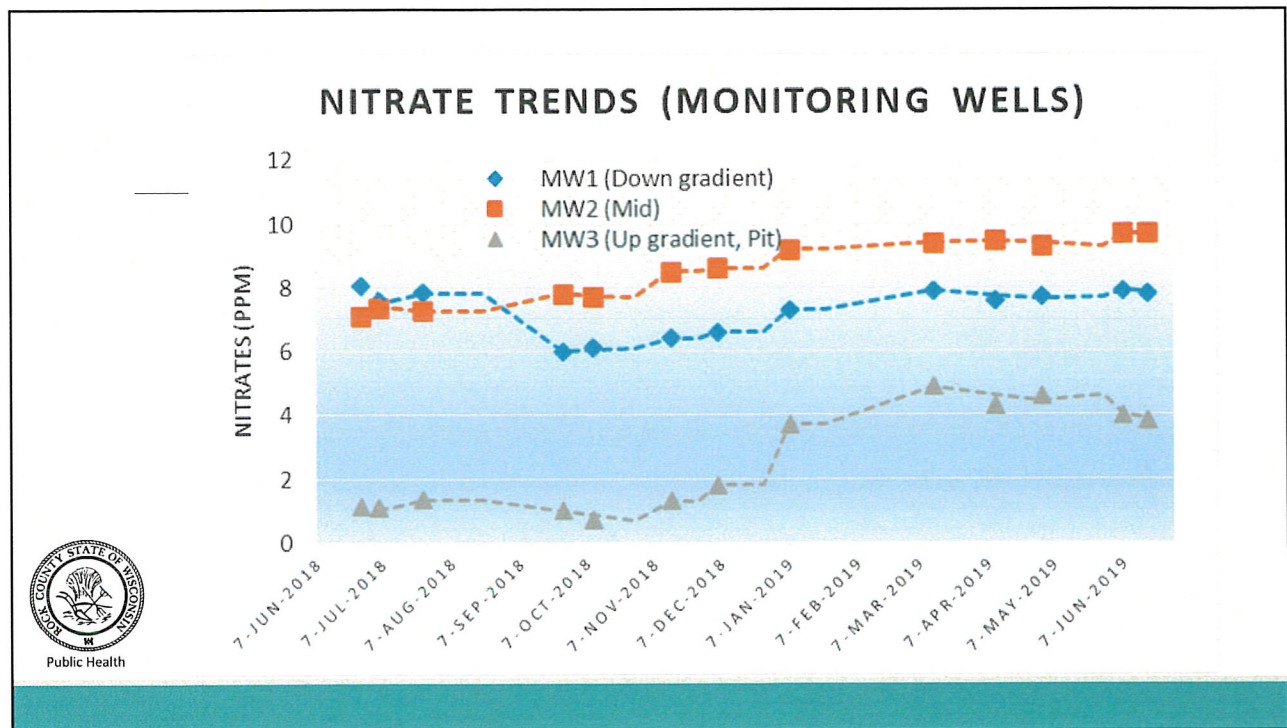
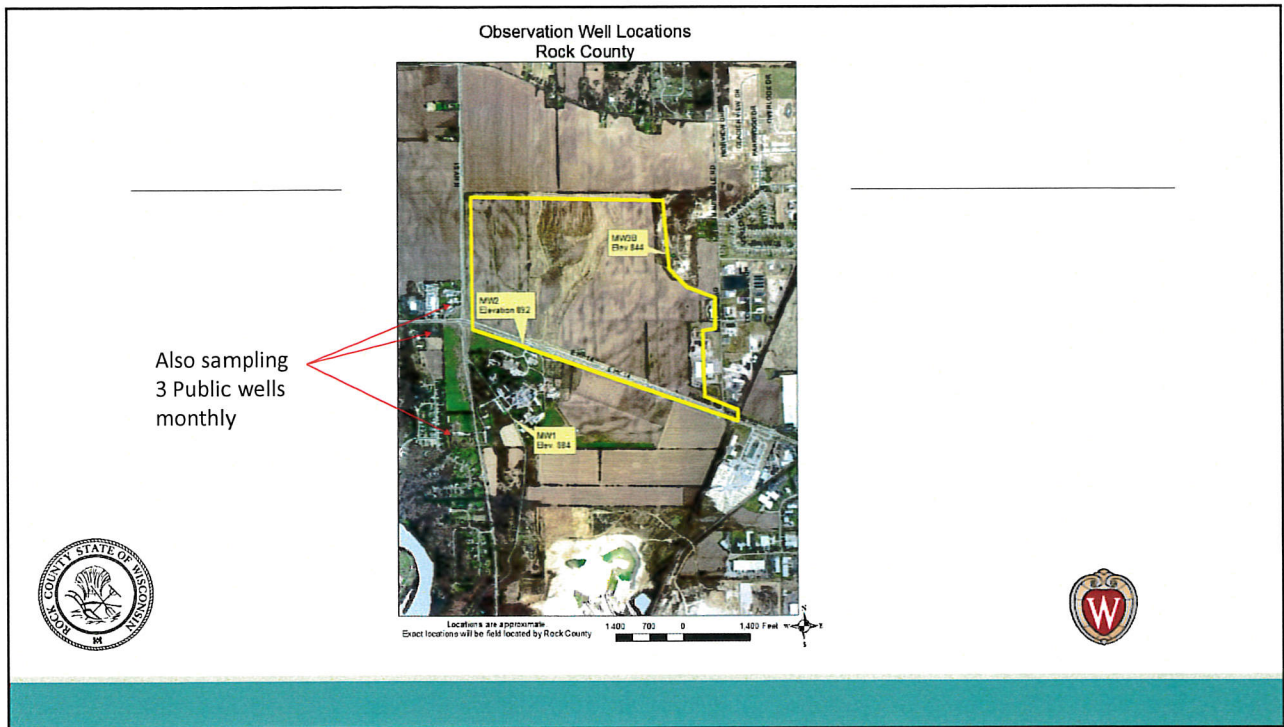


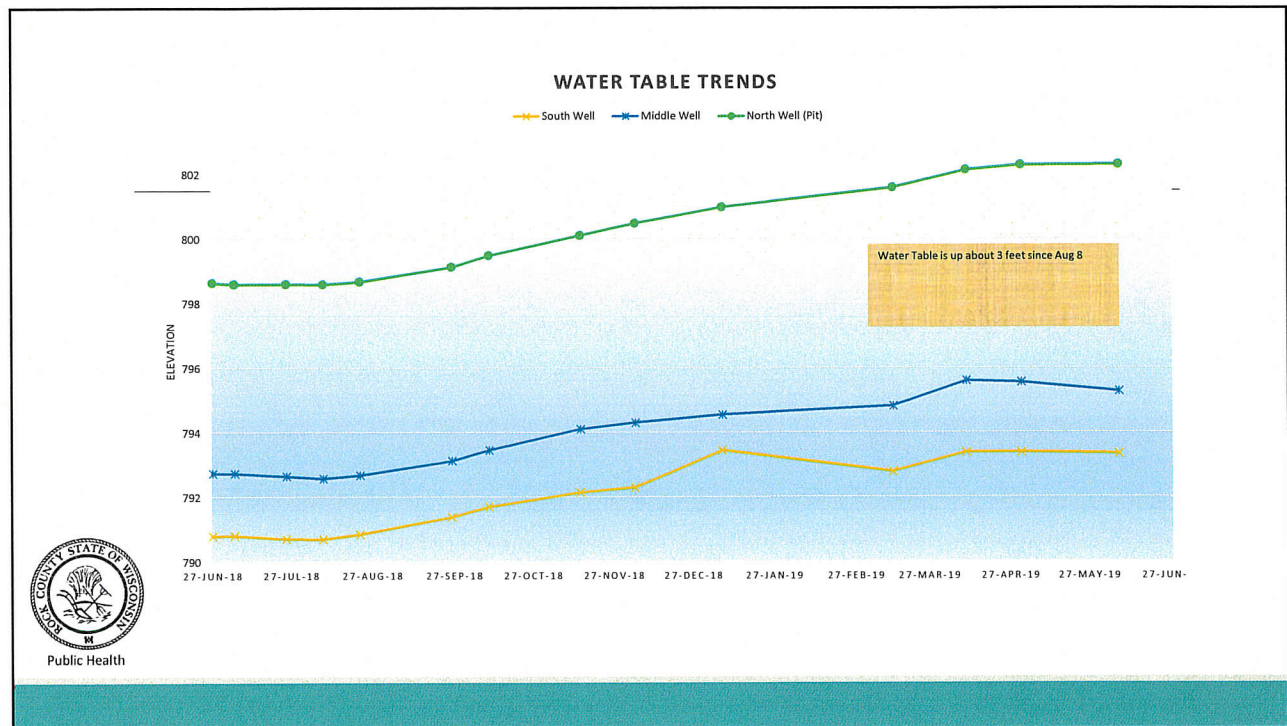
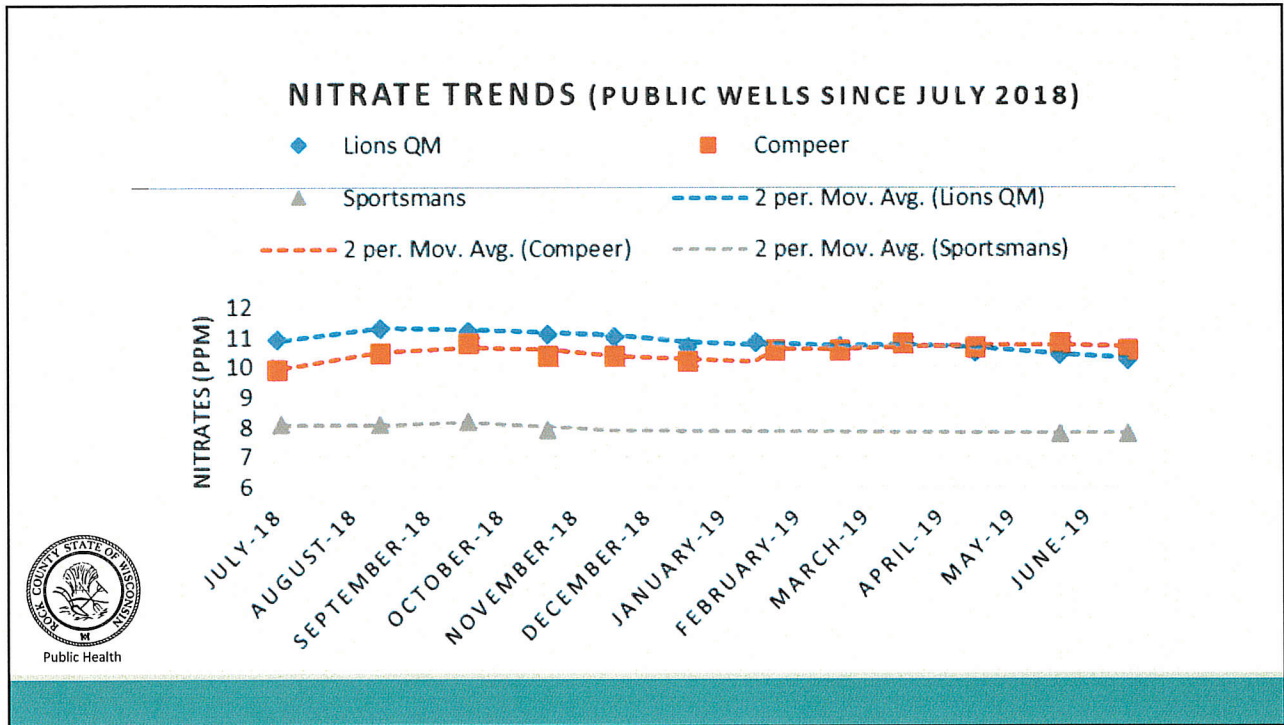


## Installation of Monitoring Wells

- Three Wells Installed (June 2018)
  - Upgradient well (background)
  - Near-downgradient well
  - Additional down gradient well
- Background Data (2018.....ongoing)
  - Nitrate levels
  - Groundwater elevations
  - Groundwater flow direction
  - Evaluate trends over time







## County Farm Nitrate-Friendly Management Practices

### - **New 5-year Contract with Grower (2019-2023)**

Required to follow nitrate-friendly management practices

Required to provide crop fertilizer and harvest data

Evaluate Groundwater and Ag Economics

### - **Implement Best Management Practices (2019 to 2023 and longer?)**

#### - **Establish cover crops**

- Utilize Crop Rotations

- Consider fertilizer sources

- Soil Testing

#### - **Fertilizer application timing**

- Variable rate applications

#### - **Proper nitrogen crediting**

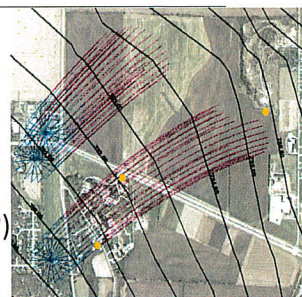
- Setting realistic yield goals

#### - **Irrigation scheduling (if applicable)**

- Tillage practices

#### - **Split applications of Fertilizer**

- Plant tissue testing?



## What's Next.... Farmer-Led Nitrate Initiatives?

### - **Farmer/Landowner Meeting Held March 4, 2019**

Open conversations about nitrate issues

Concerns and ideas to reduce nitrates

### - **Formation of a Farmer-led Nitrate group**

1st 'Farmer led' group meeting in August



## Local Led Workgroup

### Made up of:

- Farmers
- Ag Service Providers
- Landowners

Working together to share ideas and come with solutions

Once organized there are funding sources available to support training, on farm trials, and outreach programs

### Local Partners

UW Extension  
Land Conservation  
NRCS  
Health Department  
Planning and Development



## Proactive Farmer-Led Solutions

***Working together on addressing the problem can:***

- Create practical and effective solutions**
- Lead to positive change and greater efficiency in production**
- Save on inputs while maximizing economic return**
- Proactive approaches help decrease regulation potential**

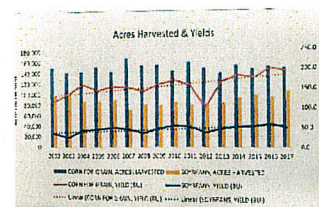
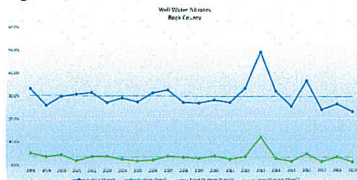


***Ignoring the issue won't make it go away***

## Additional Approaches

- \* Applying for a Federal Watershed Grant for Groundwater  
Incentives for growers to try "Nitrate-Friendly Practices"

- \* More Sampling..... More Data..... Data Evaluation  
Monitoring wells, Town sampling Programs, Establish Well Networks  
Mapping and analysis of trends



- \* Increase Groundwater Nitrate Education
  - Agriculture, Lawn Fertilizers, Septic Systems
    - The \$\$ cost of doing nothing
  - UW-Extension, Land Conservation Dept, Health Dept., Planning
  - Municipality partnerships
  - Ag Service Providers, Lawn Chemical Companies, other community partners



## "Thinking Outside the Box"



The problem didn't happen  
overnight.....



.....we have a long row to hoe.....but we are moving in right direction



Rock County Nitrate Issue-Board of Health July 10, 2019

