



**GROUNDWATER NITRATE WORK GROUP  
TUESDAY JUNE 23, 2020 @ 7:30PM  
ZOOM MEETING**

**Minutes**

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Chair Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm.  
**Members present:** Wes Davis, Pat Mullooly, Tom Sweeney, Rick Wietersen, Dave Rebout, Lou Peer, Nick Baker, Rich Bostwick, Al Sweeney, and Rick Richard.  
**Members Excused:** Colin Byrnes and Chris Murphy  
**Others present:** Andrew Baker, Dave Gundlach, and Chris Newberry
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Wes Davis moved the agenda as presented, seconded by Rich Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2020 meeting.** Rich Bostwick moved the minutes for the March 16, 2020 meeting as presented, seconded by Nick Baker. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Communications, Announcements.** Tom Sweeney indicated that this was his last workgroup meeting and he is retired after June 26<sup>th</sup>. Al Sweeney and Rich Bostwick both congratulated Tom Sweeney and thanked him for his 21 years of service to the County. Wes Davis informed the workgroup that Al Sweeney was elected to the Wisconsin County's Associations Agriculture, Environment, and Land Use Committee.
5. **Monitoring Well Sampling Updates/County Wide Trends.** Rick Wietersen presented updated graphs for the monitoring wells sampling being conducted at the County Farm and the non-community wells in the study area. Wietersen noted the groundwater level in the observation wells were high but steady. Wietersen also noted the groundwater flow was high. The graphs also showed the amount of nitrate in the wells had dropped. Wietersen noted again that the lower levels of nitrate could be from dilution from more water being in the aquifer.
6. **Resolution Extending the Deadline for the Workgroup to Study the High Nitrates in Rock County's Groundwater.** Chris Newberry asked the committee to send a resolution to the Land Conservation Committee and the Board of Health to extend the deadline from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2025. This resolution will allow the workgroup to study nitrates in the groundwater. Chris Newberry indicated that more data is needed before the workgroup could make recommendations to the county board. Rich Bostwick moved the resolution to extend the deadline as presented, seconded by Al Sweeney. **Motion Carried.**
7. **Status of 9KE Plan.** Chris Newberry gave an update to the timetable of the plan. Newberry indicated that stream inventory was completed and is currently inventorying livestock and facilities. Tom Sweeney reaffirmed that the data collected will help with prioritizing conservation practices and areas within the watersheds.
8. **UW Discovery Farms Partnership**

**a. Letter of Support** Chris Newberry asked the committee to support the UW Discovery Farms in a DNR grant that they are submitting. Chris Newberry indicated the grant would be used to build, install, and monitor lysimeters to study groundwater nitrates in high nitrate areas in Wisconsin. Tom Sweeney indicated UW Discovery Farms would like to place them in Rock, Portage, and Calumet counties. Sweeney indicated the results could help this committee in creating nitrate reduction recommendations. Rich Bostwick moved to send a letter of support to UW Discovery Farms as presented, seconded by Al Sweeney. **Motion Carried.**

**b. Use a Portion of the Groundwater Nitrate Fund Balance to Conduct Groundwater Water Sampling.** Chris Newberry asked the committee to use some of the groundwater nitrate funds to sample the UW Discovery Farms lysimeters for UW Discovery Farms, to possibly increase the number of lysimeters installed by the UW Discovery Farms in the county. The request was moved to be tabled by Rick Richard and second by Pat Mullooly from insufficient data on costs. **Motion carried.**

9. **NR 151 Technical Advisory Committee Update.** Tom Sweeney updated the committee on the DNR's TAC. Sweeney informed the committee that the TAC is in the process of developing criteria for determining sensitive areas. Sensitive areas are areas throughout the state that have high nitrates in the groundwater and conservation practices should be put place to lower the nitrates. Sweeney insured the committee that he will still be a part of the TAC even into retirement. He will submit a report a monthly report to the workgroup until the TAC mission is completed.
10. **Producer Led Watershed Group Development - Update.** Chris Newberry informed the committee that he has been in contact with Rachel Rushman/DATCP. Rushman had indicated that DATCP will hopefully release new paperwork for the creation of producer led watershed groups on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Newberry is waiting for the DATCP information before setting another producer led watershed group meeting.
11. **Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location.** Date and time were set for August 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. Place is to be determined by Covid-19 restrictions.
12. **Adjourn.** Rich Bostwick moved to adjourn the June 23, 2020 meeting of the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup at 8:24 pm, seconded by Pat Mullooly. **Motion Carried.**

Respectively Submitted,

Chris Newberry  
Senior Conservation Specialist

**Minutes are not official until adopted by the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup.**

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