

CITIZENS (WOOD COUNTY) GROUNDWATER GROUP MEETING

DATE: Monday, August 17, 2020
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Teleconference via WebEx

Present: Caleb Armstrong, Ray Bossert, Rhonda Carrell, Bill Clendenning, Bruce Dimick, Tamas Houlihan, Kim Keech, Bill Leichtnam, Katrina Shankland (Wisconsin State Representative), Gregg Wavrunek (Congressional Aide-US Senator Tammy Baldwin), Shane Wucherpfennig and Tim Wuebben.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Bill Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Rick Potter charter member of the Citizens Groundwater Group passed away. Thank you to Planning & Zoning Director, Jason Grueneberg for allowing the use of the department WebEx program. Bruce Dimick shared that the Wisconsin State Senate has taken no action on the "Water Bills" and refuses to meet due to COVID-19.
3. **Correspondence/Updates:**
Bill Leichtnam shared the following at the meeting:
 - A. Doug Reinemann, Associate Dean for Extension & Outreach, UW-Madison & John Exo, Water Quality Program Coordinator, College of Ag & Life Science, UW-Madison will be presenting at Wood County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, August 18th at 9:30 a.m.
 - B. River Alliance of Wisconsin – Wisconsin Water agenda "New Path to Clean Water". All water is cumulative and connected. Wisconsin benefits in research.
 - C. Wisconsin State Senator Dave Hansen wrote an article that the Wisconsin State Senate has not met. What do we do? How do we address the bills passed by the Wisconsin Assembly?
 - D. Wisconsin Politics GOP radio address, by Wisconsin Representative Romaine Quinn acknowledged that August is National Water Quality Month and what the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality did to address water issues in Wisconsin.
 - E. Midwest Environmental Advocates letter to Polk County Board of Supervisors and Polk County Environmental Services Committee dated July 17, 2020 – "Adams versus State Livestock Facilities Siting" lacks a basis of how boards function.
 - F. Bill Leichtnam, Bill Clendenning and Rhonda Carrell attended Portage County Groundwater Protection Committee – Portage County Village of Nelsonville has 62% village wells polluted with high nitrates. Portage County Land Conservation Department stated that they have the authority to enforce land use.
4. **Future of Assembly "Water Bills"**
Bill Leichtnam asked "Where do we go from here?" Wisconsin State Senate has not met to vote on the 13 water bills that passed the Wisconsin State Assembly in February. This group can make recommendations to the CEED Committee asking that the Wisconsin Counties Association and Wisconsin Town Association demand that the Wisconsin State Senate to act on the bills this session.

Motion by Bruce Dimick that the CEED Committee encourage the Wisconsin Counties Association and Wisconsin Towns Association to ask the Wisconsin State Senate to act on the water bills after the 2020 November election and January 2021. Second by Bill Clendenning. Motion carried unanimously.

Wisconsin State Representative Katrina Shankland commented that there is no lame duck session. The Wisconsin State Senate should act on the 160 bills that the Wisconsin Assembly passed in February before the election.

Motion amended by Bruce Dimick to remove the time limit from the original motion. Second by Bill Clendenning. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Discussion: Future CGG "Action Items"**

- A. Continue to encourage the Wisconsin State Senate to act on the 13 Water Bills.
- B. Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group possible alliance with River Alliance of Wisconsin.
- C. Email to town, village and city municipalities to join Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group.
- D. Citizen education of "cutting versus spraying".

6. **Future Speakers:**

- A. September – Lance Pliml (Wood County Board)
- B. October – Rachael Whitehair (UW Extension Natural Resource Educator)
- C. November – Matt Krueger (Executive Director of Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association)

Bruce Dimick suggested John Endrizzi and Don Ystad of the 14-Mile Watershed for December.

7. **Roundtable**

- A. Katrina Shankland – What will happen with the Task Force? What will the next legislature session look like?
- B. Gregg Wavrunek – Thank you for everything that you do. The focus on the national level has been on COVID-19 grants and funding.
- C. Shane Wucherpfennig – The Land & Water Conservation Department no-till drill purchase has been used steady by Wood County farmers all spring and summer for cover crops. Field visits have been suspended and 2020 Tree Sale cancelled due to COVID-19. Extension of 2020 funding for nitrate testing.
- D. Tamas Houlihan – Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association water task force has been meeting by Zoom. Research projects continue. Led-watershed grants. Little Plover River tour will be Wednesday, August 19th meeting at Comfort Inn in Plover at 10:15 a.m.
- E. Bill Clendenning – Membership donation for Bill Leichtnam to join River Alliance of Wisconsin.
- F. Bill Leichtnam – Thank you to Bill Clendenning for the membership donation to join River Alliance of Wisconsin.

8. **Announcements of members / visitors (upcoming parallel events / meetings)** Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative next meeting is Monday, August 24th as a virtual meeting. Public is welcomed to attend.

9. **Agenda Items for next meeting**

The consensus of the group is to meet virtually via WebEx until COVID-19 improves and is safer.

10. **Next Meeting – Monday, September 21st, 2:00 p.m. (Webex)**

11. **Adjourn Groundwater Group Meeting** Bill Leichtnam adjourned @ 3:28 p.m.

Notes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office