

CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
AGENDA

DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2019

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse, Room 317A

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Declaration of Quorum.
3. Public Comments (*brief comments/statement regarding committee business*)
4. Review Correspondence.
5. Consider/take action on a resolution to develop nitrogen application rate guidelines for groundwater protection.
6. Consider/take action on a resolution to support Bill 2019 AB 21 to maintain and improve groundwater quality statewide.
7. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.
8. Adjourn.



RESOLUTION#

Introduced by CEED
Page 1 of 2

ITEM# 4DATE April 16, 2019Effective Date April 16, 2019

LAR

Motion: Adopted: ☐1st _____ Lost: ☐2nd _____ Tabled: ☐

No: _____ Yes: _____ Absent: _____

Number of votes required:

☒ Majority ☐ Two-thirdsReviewed by: PAK, Corp Counsel

Reviewed by: _____, Finance Dir.

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To request the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW-Madison and UW-Extension to develop nitrogen application rate guidelines for groundwater protection.

FISCAL NOTE: There are no fiscal obligations to Wood County.

WHEREAS, in areas of Wood County where intensive agriculture on sand exists, many residents obtain drinking water from groundwater and many have concentrations of nitrate-nitrogen that exceed the Environmental Protection Agency health and enforcement limit of 10 parts per million; and

WHEREAS, the highest documented area in Wood and Juneau Counties has 42% of wells exceeding the state standard; and

WHEREAS, Local, State and Federal programs require use of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service 590 Nutrient Management Standard, which dictates use of the UW-Extension Publication A2809 "Nutrient Application Guidelines for Field, Vegetable, and Fruit Crops in Wisconsin"; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Madison nitrogen recommendations contained in A2809 were developed to maximize economic profitability, not to protect groundwater and drinking water quality; and

WHEREAS, the most recent revision of A2809 contains increased nitrogen application rate recommendations by UW-Madison on corn; and

WHEREAS, farmers striving to voluntarily reduce nitrogen applications to rates that will allow for drinking water nitrate levels below the 10 parts per million enforcement limit have no guidance to do so; and

WHEREAS, fertilized public and private lawns; golf courses, and fertilized public and private green spaces contribute to nitrates in groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation, Education, and Economic Development Committee passed a motion at their April 2, 2019 meeting to request this resolution be developed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the County of Wood hereby requests the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW-Madison and UW-Extension develop nitrogen application rate guidelines for groundwater protection, including, agricultural uses, fertilized lawns, golf courses, and green spaces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Wisconsin provide funding and other necessary resources to aid in this effort.



RESOLUTION# _____

Introduced by CEED
Page 2 of 2

ITEM# 4

DATE April 16, 2019

Effective Date: April 16, 2019

_____ Committee

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be directed to the attention of the State Legislators representing constituents in Wood County, the Governor and the President of the University of Wisconsin System.



RESOLUTION#

Introduced by CEED
Page 1 of 1

ITEM# 4DATE April 16, 2019Effective Date April 16, 2019Motion: Adopted: ☐1st _____ Lost: ☐2nd _____ Tabled: ☐

No: _____ Yes: _____ Absent: _____

Number of votes required:

☒ Majority ☐ Two-thirdsReviewed by: PAK, Corp Counsel

Reviewed by: _____, Finance Dir.

LAR

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To support Bill 2019 AB 21 and Wisconsin Legislative action to maintain and improve groundwater quality statewide.

FISCAL NOTE: There are no fiscal obligations for Wood County.

WHEREAS, groundwater and surface waters in Wisconsin are considered waters of the State, held in public trust and regulated primarily by the State of Wisconsin; and

		NO	YES	A
1	LaFontaine, D			
2	Rozar, D			
3	Feirer, M			
4	Zaleski, J			
5	Fischer, A			
6	Breu, A			
7	Ashbeck, R			
8	Hahn, J			
9	Winch, W			
10	Holbrook, M			
11	Curry, K			
12	Machon, D			
13	Hokamp, M			
14	Polach, D			
15	Clendenning, B			
16	Pliml, L			
17	Zurfluh, J			
18	Hamilton, B			
19	Leichtnam, B			

WHEREAS, after a spring 2018 well testing effort in the towns of Armenia and Port Edwards, testing results identified that private drinking wells of Wood and Juneau County citizens have been affected with contaminants such as nitrate and pesticides at levels exceeding safe drinking water standards. According to the study results, approximately 42% of homeowners well sampled exceed the State nitrate-nitrogen standard of 10 parts per million, compared to the State average of 9%; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has historically provided assistance to citizens with high levels of drinking water well contamination through the Well Compensation Grant Program (under CH 281.75, Wis. Stats.); and

WHEREAS, a large number of citizens do not qualify for assistance under the current program due to income restrictions, limits on cost of work, and the requirement of livestock to be on the property, and modifying program requirements would allow for greater access to these funds, which could help additional citizens have access to drinking water that meets water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature is currently considering, through 2019 AB 21, modification of Well Compensation Grant Program requirements to expand eligibility to more citizens and establishing a private well testing grant program to provide well testing; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wood County Board of Supervisors strongly supports and encourages the Wisconsin State Legislature to take action to adopt 2018 AB 21 to increase assistance to citizens regarding water quality issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wood County Board of Supervisors strongly endorses and encourages the Wisconsin legislature to move with a sense of urgency to bring forward any additional legislation necessary to further enhance assistance to citizens with regard to improving the water quality of potable water wells, and protect and improve groundwater quality in the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be directed to the attention of the State Legislators representing constituents in Wood County and the Governor.