

CITIZENS (WOOD COUNTY) GROUNDWATER GROUP MEETING

DATE: Monday, January 20, 2020
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Wood County Riverblock Building, Conference Room 206

Present: Rhonda Carrell, Bill Clendenning, Bruce Dimick, John Endrizzi, Kim Keech, Bill Leichtnam, Logan Manthe, Rick Potter, WI State Rep Katrina Shankland, Robert Sorenson, Cecile Stelzer Johnson, Jana Suriano, Gregg Wavrunek (Aide for US Senator Tammy Baldwin's office), Rachael Whitehair, Ken Winters and Shane Wucherpfennig.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Bill Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Bill Leichtnam introduced Gregg Wavrunek as an Aide for US Senator Tammy Baldwin's office. Other new attendees included Ken Winters (Town of Armenia) and Jana Suriano (UWSP-Marathon County student).
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Correspondence/Updates:**
Bill Leichtnam shared letters and news articles as handouts at the meeting:
 - A. WCA Capitol Watch "Assembly Releases Recommendations From Task Force on Water Quality"
 - B. Concerned Rome Citizens email – Year-end 2019 – 14 Mile Creek Joint Watershed Committee
 - C. College of Agricultural & Life Sciences letter – Nitrogen Rate Guidelines for Groundwater
 - D. Wisconsin Conservation Voters "The Water Quality Protection Checklist"

Bill Leichtnam shared meeting highlights of the Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council Inc on January 16th:

 - A. Residents from Town of Armenia, Juneau County & Town of Port Edwards, Wood County lawsuit may be 5 years before scheduled with Circuit Court.
 - B. Waushara County Land & Water Conservationists shared an ongoing lawsuit. A Waushara County Judge has been very patient. Significant action may be taken on an agricultural farmer as they were cited by the Wisconsin DNR and Waushara County Health Department for groundwater pollution of the waters of the state.
4. **Post-Panel Discussion: "Groundwater Contamination in Central Wisconsin: Science/Solutions" critique** Post-panel discussion on future suggestions. What is your reactions? What could we do better?
 - A. Discussion among panelists.
 - B. Lacked seeking solutions – How do we solve the issue? What will we do?
 - C. Presentations should have been limited having a panel discussion debate concept.
 - D. Questions from the audience and answers from the panelists would be helpful.
 - E. Panelists available after discussion.
 - F. Audience participation.
 - G. Too many panelists.
 - H. Panel suggests that it could be held every 2 months among Central Sands Groundwater Counties Collaborative rotating between counties.
5. **Speaker Vos's Task Force on Groundwater Quality Recommendations**
Are the 13 proposed bills bold & decisive enough? Support? Host another event?
Wisconsin State Representative Katrina Shankland explained the 13 proposed bills from Speaker Vos's Task Force on Groundwater Quality. \$10 million package.
 - A. LRB-4716/LRB-5277 Memo (Rep Shankland & Sen Testin): supporting the Center for Watershed Science and Education, creating a hydrogeologist position, funding research on phosphorus recovery and reuse, creating grant programs for counties to test wells and provide public education, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.
 - B. LRB-5062/LRB-5271 Memo (Rep Shankland & Sen Testin): the well compensation grant program and making an appropriation.
 - C. LRB-4931 Memo (Rep Kurtz): creating as office of water policy and making an appropriation.

- D. LRB-4360 Memo (Rep Summerfield): bio manipulation projects to improve the water quality of lakes and impoundments and making an appropriation.
- E. LRB-4489 Memo (Rep Ramthun): expanding the clean sweep program to include collection of certain firefighting foams and making an appropriation.
- F. LRB-3915 Memo (Rep Novak): county conservation staffing and making an appropriation.
- G. LRB-4806 Memo (Rep Felzkowski): public notice and comment period for certain groundwater standards.
- H. LRB-4751/LRB 5278 Memo (Rep Kitchens & Sen Cowles): creating a pilot grant program for farmers to reduce nitrate loading, funding research for nitrate loading reduction methods, extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.
- I. LRB-4984/LRB-5282 Memo (Rep Brooks & Sen Marklein): priorities and criteria for the municipal flood control and riparian restoration program and amending administrative rules.
- J. LRB-4717 Memo (Rep Tranel): grants and funding for water stewardship certification, a grazing coordinator position, producer-led watershed protection grants, lake protection, soil and water conservation, and crop insurance premium rebates for cover crops; granting rule-making authority; and making an appropriation.
- K. LRB-4304 Memo (Rep Krug): the private on-site wastewater treatment system replacement or rehabilitation
- L. LRB-3651/LRB-5281 Memo (Rep Kitchens & Sen Cowles): prohibiting the sale and use of coal tar-based sealants and PAH sealant products.
- M. LRB-5061 Memo (Rep Novak): funding a University of Wisconsin System freshwater collaborative and making an appropriation.

Rep Katrina Shankland shared five additional bills are being introduced with her colleagues on regulation and enforcement as well as funding of Wisconsin DNR scientists.
Discussion followed.

Wisconsin DNR Spill Hotline Number: 1-800-943-0003
Wisconsin DNR Tip Line: 1-800-847-9367

6. **CGG ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. Recommendations to CEED Committee – Please don't forget that the Citizens (Wood County) Groundwater Group can make recommendations to the Wood County CEED Committee.
- B. Lobby state legislators – Continue attending legislative events.
- C. Attend Central Sands Groundwater Counties Collaborative meeting – Meetings will be open to the public. Meets fourth Monday of the month. Next Meeting: January 27th @ Hancock Research Station

7. **Next Projects:**

- A. Groundwater Protection presentation in area schools (2-3 presenters) – Area school presentations similar to Marshfield Utilities Groundwater Guardians. Rachel Whitehair shared that in coordination with Portage County, Wood County and Friends of Mill Creek Watershed Inc. they are doing a Prairie Pollinator program. Rachel Whitehair volunteered to be the person that will be doing a groundwater piece for those Wood County area schools who are interested.
- B. "How to do Water Testing in a Wood County Town" seminar
- C. Coordinate with/assist UW-Extension Natural Resources Educator on outreach event. – Revamp Healthy Water/Healthy Soils Workshop. Planning Committee meeting on January 27th consists of Wood County Land & Water Conservation, UW Extension, Marshfield Ag Research Station, Marshfield Waste Water Plant, PACRS (Pettenwell & Castle Rock Stewards), EPPIC (Eau Pleine Partnership for Innovative Conservation), Pheasants Forever and Golden Sands RC&D.

Bill Leichtnam shared a Year-end 2019 – 14 Mile Creek Joint Watershed Committee citizens made a motion at a TriLakes annual meeting to fund a volunteer citizens committee. Currently, there is no funding for the Citizens Groundwater Group. Nine Key Element Plan brought together 50 stakeholder groups in

38 miles of water, 4 county watershed has established funding for 10-years, \$8 million and work with county conservationists. 14 Mile Creek Joint Watershed Committee citizen involvement and recognition: "Clean Water Cooperator" signs and Certification of Appreciation Plaques.

Rick Potter shared that the Castle Rock Stewards recognizes farmers for best practices through the County Conservationists in Juneau County, Adams County and Wood County. Castle Rock Stewards recognizes farmers for best practices with signage and publicity. Award type programs are a good grassroots effort for farmers to change farming practices.

8. **Future Speakers: a) North Wood County legislators, b) Green Fire representative, c) Andy Diercks**
Consensus of the group was to work on a working session/project idea at the February meeting. A Wood County legislator (Rep Jerry Petrowski or Rep John Spiros) would be invited as a speaker to attend the March meeting. Wood County Supervisor Lance Pliml has agreed to be a speaker at the March 16th meeting.

Excellent Video: <https://wigreenfire.org/nitrate-waters-and-health-videos/>

9. **Roundtable**

A. Bill Leichtnam shared the following:

- i. Wood County Board meeting (Kevin Masarik, UWSP Groundwater Education Specialist presentation) – January 21st, 9:30 a.m. @ Wood County Courthouse, Branch 3
 - ii. Central Sands Groundwater Counties Collaborative meeting – January 27th @ Hancock Research Station
 - iii. Wood County Solar Project by Developer Savion – January 29th, 5-7 p.m. @ Town of Saratoga Town Hall
 - iv. Clean Water Lobby Day – January 30th, 12:30-5 p.m. @ Madison Concourse Hotel & State Capitol
 - v. Wood County Solar Project by Drew Gibbons with Clean Green Action – February 5th, 4 p.m. @ McMillan Library, Margaret McCourt Conference Room
 - vi. "Right to Harm" movie – February 10th, 6:45 p.m. @ Rogers Cinema Theatre to be determined
 - vii. Panel Discussion meeting – February 19th, 6 p.m. @ Armenia Town Hall
 - viii. Wood County Board meeting (Doug Reinemann, UW Associate Dean for Extension & Outreach/John Exo, UW Extension Regional Natural Resources Education Program Manager) – March 17th, 9:30 a.m. @ Wood County Courthouse, Branch 3
- B. Ken Winters – Concerned how farmers spread manure.
- C. Cecile Stelzer Johnson – Attended Wisconsin Farmers Union meeting on January 15th reviewing the 13 bills. Wisconsin Farmers Union is in support of LRB-4717 for a Grazing Coordinator Position.
- D. Rick Potter – Encourages everyone to attend Clean Water Lobby Day in Madison. League of Conservation Voters are in opposition to one of the proposed legislations and feels that it would make water quality issues worse because it undermines scientific data.
- E. John Endrizzi – Supports LRB 3915 for full staffing of County Conservationists. 14 Mile Creek Watershed committee meeting is on February 3rd, 2-4 p.m. @ Town of Rome Town Hall. Please contact state legislators to find out their opinion and to do your own research before attending Clean Water Lobby Day.
- F. Bill Clendenning – Chairs are needed for Golden Sands RC&D and Wisconsin Farmers Union.
- G. Jana Suriano – Add contact information to email group list.
- H. Gregg Wavrunek – Add contact information to email group list. Enjoyed the Panel Discussion.
- I. Rep Katrina Shankland – Clarified LRB 4806 regarding the public notice and comment period for certain groundwater standards. DNR must categorize substances that can be detected in or have a reasonable probability of entering the groundwater resources of this state. Substances are then categorized by risk and public health concern. The DNR submits the list of substances to DHS. DHS then must develop recommendations on enforcement standards for those substances which DNR then incorporates into their rules. Under this bill, DNR must provide public notice of list of groundwater substances that it compiles including by publishing this list on the internet and must

include a notice of explanation and reasoning it used in compiling this list. Then DNR must provide a 21 day public comment period to allow to comment on those substances included on this list. DHS upon developing the recommended enforcement standard for the substance identified as a public health risk to provide public notice and a 21 day public comment period on the proposed recommendation and must provide notice of the reasoning it used in developing the recommendation before submitting the recommendation to DNR. This requires both departments to submit their comments on the internet and adds a 3 week public comment period which already exists. Governor just waived it. Please read the bills seeking information and clarification. Clean Water Lobby Day can be effective.

- J. Bruce Dimick – Encourages everyone to attend the viewing of “Right to Harm” documentary movie. Clean Water Lobby Day.

- 10. **Announcements of members / visitors (upcoming parallel events / meetings)** Upcoming events announced throughout the meeting.
- 11. **Agenda Items for next meeting:** Planning Future Project(s)
- 12. **Next Meeting**
Monday, February 17, 2020. 2:00-4:00 p.m. @ Wood Co Riverblock Building, Room 206
- 13. **Adjourn Groundwater Group Meeting** Bill Leichtnam adjourned @ 4:07 p.m.

Notes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office