

CITIZENS (WOOD COUNTY) GROUNDWATER GROUP MEETING

DATE: Monday, November 18, 2019
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Wood County Riverblock Building, Conference Room 206

Present: Rhonda Carrell, Bill Clendenning, Bruce Dimick, Nancy Eggleston, John Endrizzi, Shari Grass-Redfox, Gordon Gottbeheit, Tamas Houlihan, Kim Keech, Bill Leichtnam, Representative Katrina Shankland and Shane Wucherpennig.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Bill Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Correspondence/Updates:**

Bill Leichtnam shared the following correspondence and updates at the meeting:

 - A. Hancock Scoping NR151 after testimony – (40+ people attended, 18 spoke-14 favor & 4 against) Kewaunee resident, John Rybicki, thought that the idea of a six county groundwater collaborative was a wonderful idea and plans to organize a northeastern Wisconsin county collaborative with Door, Kewaunee, Brown, Manitowoc and Outagamie counties.
 - B. Representative Scott Krug Monthly Newsletter –
Other possible legislation bills:
 - a. AB69/SB31 Permit Fees for CAFO
 - b. AB148/SB137 Nitrate Testing Pilot Program
 - c. AB511/SB451 Distributing & Labeling of Fertilizer and Soil or Plant Additives Produced by Manure
 - C. Waushara Argus press release article “Land, Water and Conservation Departments form Central Sands Groundwater Collaborative” – Central Sands Groundwater Collaborative was formed to meet the present and future needs for safe, high quality, reliable and sustainable drinking water. The group is made up of Land & Water Conservation Departments, Public Health Departments and County Board Supervisors from Adams, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Waushara and Wood Counties as well as UW Madison Extension. Goals and strategies of the collaborative group was highlighted.
 - D. WCA Agriculture, Environment & Land Use Steering Committee – Former Wood County Board Chair, Lance Pliml appointed Bill Leichtnam to steering committee. Committee meets quarterly.
Meeting Highlights:
 - a. Solutions to polluted rural wells with either nitrates or PFA’s.
 - b. Chuck Wagner (Kewaunee County) and Pat Laughrin (Calumet County) commented on our continued search for well water contamination in regards to nitrates or PFA’s.
 - c. Mandating rural well testing and inspections of septic systems at a cost to the homeowner. Invasion of privacy?
 - d. Meter attached to pressure tank for rural wells and should be tested for 30 days. Landowner bare costs.
 - e. What would be the homeowners cost?
 - E. WCA Government Affairs Association Lobbyist Day – Highlighted summary of legislation passed with a divided government:

<u>Years</u>	<u>Passed Legislation</u>
2003-2004	327
2005-2006	491
2008-2009	242
2018-2019	20
 - F. Article “Lake Superior Research Institute Launches New Study to document levels of fluoride, metals in groundwater” – A \$55,626 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Groundwater Coordinating Council makes the project possible.

4. **Panel Discussion: Nitrates in Central Wisconsin: Science/Solutions planning & preparation**

Panel Discussion (tentative suggestions):

- A. Name Changed to: "Groundwater Contamination in Central Wisconsin: Science/Solutions"
- B. Month: January 6th, 7th or 8th
- C. Time: 6:30 p.m.
- D. Location: McMillan Library, Wisconsin Rapids
- E. Sponsor Suggestions: Clean Green or Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative – Possible co-sponsors Protect Wood County, Saratoga Concerned, Wisconsin Potato Vegetable Growers Association
- F. Panel Format (2 minute length):
A good moderator is important to keep the discussion on track. Time limit and expectations of the panel discussion.
Opening Statement
Roundtable
Closing Statement
- G. Length: 75-90 minutes
- H. Moderator Suggestions: Peter Manley, Gus Mancuso, Nancy Turyk, Craig Broeren, Mark Skibba, Sam Steckbauer, Andy Barnett
- I. Media: Channel 7, Channel 9, Gannett, River City Times (Buyer's Guide)
- J. Panelists (6 Panelists):
Suggestions: Representative Katrina Shankland, Senator Patrick Testin, Matt Ruark, Yi Wang, Deana Knutson, Kevin Masarik, Nancy Eggleston, Dr. A.J. Bussan
Other Suggestions: John Eron, Dick Okray, William Hatch, Chris Kachrek, Andy Dirks, Andy Wallendahl, Kara O'Conner, Matt Krueger
- K. Planning Committee Members: Bill Leichtnam, Rhonda Carrel, Bruce Dimick, Gordy Gottbeheit, Rick Antin, John Endrizzi

5. **Speaker Vos's Task Force on Groundwater Quality-recommendations & legislation (member's discussion)**

Bill Leichtnam attended the WCA Agriculture, Environment & Land Use Steering Committee Meeting. The WCA Lobbyist members shared that the Speaker Vos's Task Force recommendations will not have anything mandatory coming from the state legislature, might not even get to the senate and partisan roadblocks in the way. WCA said that there may be money available for well testing, \$3 million for the county cons, 2025 new POWTS testing and CAFO fees may increase to \$1,000. Representative Katrina Shankland commented that the WCA information is inaccurate. There are approximately 12 bills that are drafted. The goal is to make sure that the bills have the co-sponsors and co-authors for the bills to pass. The Speaker Vos's Task Force on Groundwater Quality bills are ever evolving.

6. **DATCP/DNR Hearings on "Livestock siting" revisions AND possible NR151 Extension to areas with sensitive soils (Hancock Scoping Public Hearing Nov. 4th)-membership discussion**

Bill Leichtnam asked if the DATCP/DNR hearings on livestock siting are those revisions to livestock siting largely dead or dead in the water. Representative Katrina Shankland shared that DATCP announced two Fridays ago that they are withdrawing the rules for now in order to hear more public testimony. It did not say it was dead and it also did not give a timeline. There is no DATCP Secretary and only has an interim DATCP Secretary. A decision may not be made until they have a new DATCP Secretary. There is a lot of uncertainty as to DATCP ability to do its job without a DATCP Secretary. Their official statement kind of seemed like it was "a pause".

Bruce Dimick commented that the NR151 Extension to areas of sensitive soils of the Hancock Scoping Public Hearing was a preliminary hearing. There will be a full public hearing on either December 4th or December 6th. Comments from the November 4th public hearing will be consolidated and shared. Bruce Dimick encourages anyone who would like to make a statement to contact the liaison person of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board.

7. **CGG “Action Items”** UW-Superior water lab got a \$55,000 DNR grant. The panel discussion makes the group a player and much stronger. What action should we take? How can we move things along?
8. **Update on Wood/Juneau County MOU w/AGC**
Nothing to report. Last monthly teleconference call was a recap of the numbers. The third round of water testing is taking place in the Town of Armenia and Town of Port Edwards.
9. **“Outreach Activities” (Planning for Pittsville “Water” meeting in evening in the fall, possible water testing on site, coordination with UW-Extension “Natural Resources Educator” and Wood County Land & Water Conservation)-begin planning**
Agenda item to be discussed at the December meeting.
10. **Future Speakers-Green Fire? N Wood County legislators? Others?**
The next couple of months will be devoted to a working group.
11. **Roundtable**
 - A. Gordon Gottbeheit – Move panel discussion to January 13th as weather may be a factor.
 - B. Rhonda Carrell – Apologizes to Representative Katrina Shankland that the Speaker Vos’s Task Force wasn’t going to get anything done. Feels hopeless at times and partisan. Thanks to Representative Katrina Shankland for your tireless efforts and being optimistic.
 - C. Shari Grass-Redfox – Thank you for everything. Learned a lot.
 - D. John Endrizzi – WPVGA hosted a meeting. 14 Mile Creek Watershed was invited where they shared goals, who they are, past history and what they do. Collaboration is important.
 - E. Tamas Houlihan – Important to work together to solve problems. Would like more farmer collaboration.
 - F. Representative Katrina Shankland – Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.
 - G. Nancy Eggleston – Nancy will check to see if anyone wants to be on the panel from the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative.
 - H. Bruce Dimick – Positive meeting.
12. **Announcements of members / visitors (upcoming parallel events / meetings)**
Upcoming events announced throughout the meeting.
13. **Next Meeting**
Monday, December 16, 2019. 2:00-4:00 p.m. @ Wood Co Riverblock Building, Room 206

There will be a special Panel Planning Committee meeting on December 2nd @ 3:00 p.m. with location to be decided.
14. **Adjourn Groundwater Group Meeting** Bill Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned @ 3:56 p.m.

Notes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office