

CITIZENS (WOOD COUNTY) GROUNDWATER GROUP MEETING

DATE: Monday, October 19, 2020
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Teleconference via WebEx

Present: Ray Bossert, Bill Clendenning, Bruce Dimick, Nancy Eggleston, Tamas Houlihan, Kim Keech, Bill Leichtnam, Jen McNelly, Allison Werner, Rachael Whitehair and Shane Wucherpfennig.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Bill Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Speaker: Rachael Whitehair (Natural Resource Educator for Wood County/Central Sands Region, UW-Madison Extension – “Nitrate Reduction”**
Highlights of the presentation:
 - Non-Point Source Pollution: Nitrogen and Phosphorus
 - The Watershed Approach: All who are involved or affected are at the table. Empower people to address environmental issues is the goal. A change in attitude then a change in behavior leads to environmental impact.
 - The Farmer-Farmer Education Model: Perceived practice characteristics. Trust is a huge factor
 - The Multiplier Affect: Creating Opportunities for Attitude Change such as Got clean water?, Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council, Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards, 14 Mile Watershed, Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo.
 - Local: Central WI Farm Profitability Expo – Our Mission: Working to encourage profitability farming by building resiliency, diversifying farming operations, reducing inputs, and increasing farmer’s return on investment.
 - State: Process-based evaluation of farmer-led councils
 - Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGCC) prepares Groundwater Gap Analysis: Focused review and study of existing data. Develop guidance of optional practices.
 - What you can do? Stay involved and informed. Spread the word about learning opportunities. Be an advocate for conservation and conservation farming.
4. **Correspondence/Updates/Handouts/Reports:**
Bill Leichtnam shared the following at the meeting:
 - A. “High Water now, but prepare for normal and dry times” by Waushara Argus website link: <https://www.wausharaargus.com/high-water-now-prepare-normal-and-dry-times?fbclid=IwAR3N36h7oSLEBPRJpV1vGAgGd8ewWNuzqRe7kucnLMa9NsDb83n-4MnDU4s>
 - B. Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative (CSGCC) – Grant funds are being applied for. Phase 1 – GAP Analysis (outreach plan). Phase 2 – Implementation (“boots on the ground”).
 - C. Bruce Dimick shared the following three presentation highlights:
 - “Groundwater Outreach, Management, and Data Collection” by Kevin Masarik, UWSP
 - “Hydrogeology of Wisconsin” by Maureen Muldoon of Wisconsin Geology & Natural History Survey
 - “Columbia County Groundwater & Rural Drinking Water Testing and Education Program” by Kathleen Haas, Associate Professor & Community Development Educator UW–Madison Extension
 - D. WCA Virtual Workshop “Large Livestock Siting – Where do we go from here?” website link: <https://www.wicounties.org/uploads/EventMaterials/10-19-livestock-siting.pdf>
 - E. WCA Virtual Workshops website link: <https://www.wicounties.org/events/#past-event-materials>
5. **Action Items:**
 - A. Next Steps
What should we do? How do we proceed? Where do we go from here?

- B. Protecting our ground & surface water with or without legislative support
Continue to elevate water issues by educating citizens on clean water. Raise awareness to the community.

6. **Roundtable**

- A. Bill Clendenning – Introduced Allison Werner of River Alliance.
- B. Allison Werner – Policy and Advocacy Director of River Alliance
- C. Bruce Dimick – Recommends reading a book by Erin Brockovich titled “Superman’s Not Coming: Our National Water Crisis and What WE THE PEOPLE Can Do About It”.
- D. Nancy Eggelston – NR151 Rule Changes for Nitrate Technical Advisory Committee has been meeting. Public Hearings will be announced shortly.
- E. Rachael Whitehair – Suggests helping the 14 Mile Creek Watershed host the movie “Kiss the Ground”. This is currently available on Netflix. The movie time and date will be announced shortly.

7. **Announcements of members / visitors (upcoming parallel events / meetings)** Announcements shared throughout the meeting.

Bruce Dimick announced that George Kraft is presenting “Record Rain, The Hydro-illogical Cycle: It’s a Busy Time in Water” webinar on Monday, October 19th @ 6:30 p.m.

YouTube Live Stream: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unlYB8CxAY&feature=youtu.be>

Website link: <https://www.winchesterwaupaca.org/>

8. **Future Speakers:**

November – Don Ystad, 14 Mile Creek Watershed of Town of Rome
December – River Alliance

9. **Agenda Items for next meeting**

Agenda items should be submitted to Bill Leichtnam.

10. **Next Meeting** Monday, November 16th, 2:00 p.m. (VIRTUAL)

11. **Adjourn Groundwater Group Meeting** Bill Leichtnam adjourned @ 3:44 p.m.

Notes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office