

CITIZENS (WOOD COUNTY) GROUPWATER GROUP MEETING

DATE: Monday, June 17, 2019
TIME: 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Wood County Riverblock Building, Conf Room #206

Present: David Carrell, Rhonda Carrell, Bill Clendenning, Bruce Dimick, Kim Keech, Bill Leichtnam, Logan Manthe, Dean Oilschlager, Doug Passineau, Rick Potter, Rep Katrina Shankland, Cecile Stelzer Johnson and Nancy Turyk.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Bill Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m .
2. **Public Comment:** Bruce Dimick shared that the Joint Finance Committee eliminated all water funding out of the Wisconsin state budget. Senator Robert Cowles had to fight to retain four of the five proposed new DNR positions that oversee the CAFO's.

Rick Potter commented that the Joint Finance Committee cut lead pipe replacement, carbon create electricity by 2050, proposed office of Clean Energy & Sustainability, clean water programs, requiring CAFO's to pay their fair share for permitting costs and proposed Bureau of Natural Resource Science have been eliminated from the proposed budget.

Rep Katrina Shankland explained that \$95 of the \$345 CAFO permit fee funds the DNR WPDES Division enforcement of CAFO oversight. CAFO's are the only WPDES permittee who are subsidized by taxpayers when it comes to their pollution. Governor Evers proposed to increase the CAFO permit fee to approximately \$600 per CAFO to help fund the CAFO oversight so taxpayers were not subsidizing the oversight and compliance of CAFO's. In the budget, the Joint Finance Committee decided to fund 4 new oversight and compliance DNR positions using the current CAFO permit fee directing 100% of the \$345 CAFO permit fee for oversight and compliance. Taxpayers would still subsidize the CAFO's but 100% of the CAFO permit fee will be set aside for oversight versus a small portion. Rep Katrina Shankland confirmed that lead pipe removal and clean water initiatives was eliminated in the proposed budget. She shared that you have to spend money to clean up pollution but you also have to create a preventative strategy to prevent pollution.

Rep Katrina Shankland announced that the Senator Vos's Water Quality Task Force hearing would be mid-July at UWSP. Please watch the Water Quality Task Force website for upcoming dates and news: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/committees/assembly/STF-WQ>.

3. **Correspondence/Updates:** None
4. **Thoughts on Jason Fuller's "Composting" presentation on May 29th**
Comments from presentation:
 - a. No carbon collection.
 - b. Is the purpose of composting to enable operations to expand in size and not to have a Nutrient Management Plan?
 - c. Compost manure versus liquid manure. Compost manure gives a farmer another option to dispose of waste.
 - d. Problem is disbursing the manure.
 - e. Imposed regulations on farmers. Nutrient Management Plans rarely followed. Maximizing the crops not keeping the water pure.
 - f. Containment tanks and manure lagoons can leak over time.
 - g. Create a manure cooperative in every county to compost, dehydrate and treat cow manure to resell.
 - h. Salesperson selling a piece of equipment.
 - i. The liquid from composting manure has to go somewhere having the same issues.
 - j. What is the impact of the gases from composting?
 - k. Assumptions not physically or chemically accurate.

- l. Engage technical people for clarification and input.
- m. Invite Jason Fuller back at a future meeting for clarification and feedback.

5. **Action Item-Prioritize “36 Ideas for Clean Water”/Disseminate**

Discussion of handout “Steps needed to Protect Wisconsin Waters”. Top priorities ranked in each category for Legislature, WDNR and Town & Counties. The top ranked are as follows:

Legislature

- a. Across-the-board nitrogen/phosphorous application reductions (specific to soil type)
- b. Re-write “Livestock Siting Act” based on soil type and water quality issues
- c. Strengthen WDNRs enforcement of water pollution standards
- d. Take application fields over 20 ppm nitrates out of production until significant reduction? Change crops/crop rotation

WDNR

- a. Creation of “Office of Groundwater Safety and Enforcement”
- b. Monitoring wells down gradient of known pollution sources
- c. Request added scientific staffing
- d. Sponsor radio/TV/multi-media commercials for safe lawn fertilization

Towns & Counties

- a. New “Livestock siting (93,90) which empowers local government involvement
- b. 100% NMP participation by ?? with a “Groundwater Protection Plan” component

6. **Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Facilitator**

Rhonda Carrell nominated Bill Leichtnam as Chair of the Citizens Groundwater Group. No other nominations received. Bill Leichtnam closed nominations.

Motion by Bill Clendenning to approve Bill Leichtnam as Chair for the Citizens Groundwater Group. Second by Rhonda Carrell. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Clendenning nominated Bruce Dimick as Vice Chair of the Citizens Groundwater Group. No other nominations received. Bill Leichtnam closed nominations.

Motion by Bill Clendenning to approve Bruce Dimick as Vice Chair for the Citizens Groundwater Group. Second by Doug Passineau. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **BY-LAWS discussion (appoint committee)** There was discussion as to whether or not by-laws was needed for the Citizens Groundwater Group. Consensus of those in attendance was to have Wood County Corporation Counsel Peter Kastenholz attend the July meeting to explain if by-laws should be required by Wood County.

8. **Speaker Vos’s Task Force on Groundwater Quality on July 12th in Mauston**

Bill Leichtnam reported on Speaker Vos’s Water Quality Task Force, which was held on June 12th in Mauston, WI.

Citizen input comments:

- Juneau County Conservationist, Dustin Ladd shared that he purchased a home 8 months ago. Nitrates tested 2.5 ppm at home purchase 8 months later tested 17 ppm.
- Patti Stoltz a Wood County resident shared that most of her dogs that she shows nationally are no longer fertile due to drinking contaminated nitrate water.

Rep Katrina Shankland commended Wood County Health Department Nancy Eggleston for doing a great job representing Wood County as a speaker for Speaker Vos Water Quality Task Force meeting in Mauston. Bill Leichtnam expressed that personal emotional stories should be shared at any of the upcoming Speaker Vos Water Quality Task Force meetings. Personal stories offer an impact.

9. **Update on MOU w/ AGC & status of bottled water distribution and RO System Installation (monthly conference call)**

Bill Leichtnam reported that there are over 1,000 rural wells between Wood County and Juneau County with approximately only half of those wells tested. Wood County Health Department will be making home visits the week of 4th of July along Petenwell Lake vacation homes.

Bottled water received by 47 homes. There are 5-7 new water requests each week. 42 agreements signed to install RO Systems in homes. Armenia Growers Coalition have hired two plumbing firms. Hydrologic and Geologic Study agreed to by the Armenia Growers Coalition with funding matched by the Wisconsin DNR.

10. **“Membership Growth” & “Outreach Activities” (Making our influence felt)**

Bill Leichtnam encourages outreach activities outside the meetings. Bill Leichtnam encourages farmers to go to the lake and the lake peoples will come to the farm.

11. **Nancy Turyk on “Green Fire”**

Green Fire formed 1-1/2 years ago with membership made up of mostly technical professionals across the state of Wisconsin. The group is a source for those seeking expertise to bring scientific clarity to complicated environmental statewide issues. Wisconsin’s Green Fire has formed work groups to analyze issues and provide information based on science and experience with natural resources. Work groups are comprised of volunteer members with extensive experience in their topic area communicated through emails. Green Fire are scientists producing science information. Advocacy groups can take their information but Green Fire are not advocates. Annual Meeting held in September. Website address: www.wigreenfire.org

12. **Future Speakers to invite**

Rick Potter suggested the farmer from the Town of Summit in Juneau County who is a conservationist that spoke at Senator Vos’s Water Quality Task Force Meeting in Mauston, WI. Bill Leichtnam will find out who the farmer was inviting him to be speaker at a future meeting.

13. **Roundtable**

- a. Bill Clendenning - The cost for a CAFO permit is \$345. The cost for a septic system sanitary permit is \$400 with a cost to install at \$13,000. He would rather pay \$345 for a permit fee.
- b. Rick Potter - The Renewable Energy Fair in Custer, WI will be June 21-23, 2019. Free water testing for nitrates is available.
- c. Nancy Turk - The recent radio show topic in Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield was on drinking water and water testing. Shows are taped which can be viewed on their website.
- d. Rep Katrina Shankland – The CAFO permit fee is \$345 with \$95 of that fee for oversight. 1 in 3 CAFO permits have expired.

14. **Announcements of members / visitors (upcoming parallel events / meetings)**

Various upcoming events and meetings announced throughout the meeting.

15. **Next Meeting**

Monday, July 15th. 2:00-4:00 p.m. @ Wood Co Riverblock Building, Room 206

16. **Adjourn Groundwater Group Meeting** Bill Leichtnam adjourned @ 3:53 p.m.

Notes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office