

PORTAGE COUNTY GROUNDWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE ROOM 5, COUNTY ANNEX
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

GROUNDWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GCAC) MEMBERS LISTING:

MUNICIPALITY	MEMBERS NAME	Attendance	MUNICIPALITY	MEMBERS NAME	Attendance
TOWNS:			TOWNS:		
Alban	Vacant		Pine Grove	Ben Sawyer	-----
Almond	Edward Burns	Present	Pine Grove Alt	Jeanette Wilson	Present
Amherst	Gary Rzentkowski	Present	Plover	Joe Firkus	Absent
Amherst Alt	Peggy Farrell	-----	Sharon	Ron Hensler	Present
Belmont	Mike Warzynski	Absent	Stockton	Curt Soik	Absent
Belmont Alternate	Rita Walkowicz	Absent	VILLAGES:		
Buena Vista	Zack Mykisen	Present	Almond	Richard Burns	Absent
Buena Vista Alt	Roger Turzinski	Present	Amherst	Mike Juris	Present
Carson	Fred Copes	Absent	Amherst Junction	Vacant	
Dewey	Dennis Meis	Present	Junction City	Peter Mallek	Excused
Dewey Alt	Kathy Girolamo	-----	Nelsonville	Tarion O'Carroll	Present
Eau Pleine	David Hansen	Excused	Park Ridge	Dan McFarlane	Excused
Grant	Cecile Stelzer-Johnson	Present	Park Ridge Alt	Christine Neidlein	Absent
Grant Alt	Andrea Musch	-----	Plover	Matt Saloun	Present
Hull	Tim Zimmerman	Absent	Rosholt	Jessie Anderson	Absent
Lanark	John Droske	Present	Whiting	Jake Wilcox	Excused
Linwood	Garth Frost	Present	CITY:		
New Hope	Jenny Larsen	Present	Stevens Point	Eric Southworth	Present
New Hope Alt	Anne Abbott	-----			

STAFF PRESENT: Jen McNelly, and Amy Heins, Planning and Zoning Department.

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by E. Burns.

2. PUBLIC NOTICE: *Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their requests at this time with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.*

3. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 24, 2023

Garth moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mykisen seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. UPDATES ON COUNTY PROJECTS:

a. Nelsonville Monitoring Wells

- Currently collecting the 2nd round of samples
- Just received July's results and will share soon. They took longer to process due to testing for organics

b. Po Co WATER Project

- Plenty of funding left for water samples as well as reverse osmosis systems through 2024

c. Portage County water levels

- Waters levels are down, slightly below average
- Lakes and streams were not monitored much this year as the equipment was sent out for calibration
- To view local levels, go to USGS water data for the nation website

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: REVIEW GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE – WATER QUALITY SECTION:

- o Add map of corrosivity across the County
- o Page 3 – remove highlighted section

- Page 6 Rewording:
 - "Therefore, application of fertilizers rich in nitrogen, and underlain by more permeable soils (low nitrogen attenuation capacity) should be more closely scrutinized. They pose a more..."
 - "Portage County was developed using a multiple linear regression model developed..."
 - "Due to some of these varying factor's areas predicted to have a high nitrate risk do not necessarily mean that wells in those areas will have high nitrates."
- Page 8
 - Change "still suggested" to strongly recommended"
 - Table 2:
 - ❖ Add Well Number and Dates
 - ❖ Reference the Annual Consumer Confidence Reports
 - ❖ Update data on costs - will send to municipalities for updates
- Page 9
 - County wide well water sampling was in 2017, not 2018
 - Add a table that would simplify the correlation between corn land use, dairy, and septic systems. Similar to the table one page 15.
 - Typos:
 - ❖ "count" not "County"
 - ❖ "the" not "he"
 - ❖ "'Groundwater" with poorly drained soils..."
- Page 10, 12 & 14 Figures – Change out the yellow dots as they are very hard to see & increase the font size
- Page 11 – Remove "In 2022, the Portage County Well Water Quality Sampling project was redone." This is a duplicate to the first paragraph.
- Page 13
 - Reword "56.6% of the samples showed a difference of less than 1 mg/L"
 - Remove "asterisk" from table
 - Add sentence about "trying to incentivize/encourage homeowners to do this to increase participation, especially for wells that were previously tested".
- Remove maps on pages 21 - 24.
- Add list of strategies that will aid in the recommendations/actions at the very end of the plan
 - Insert list that was previously created

7. MEMBER UPDATES

None

8. NEXT MEETING DATE/TOPICS:

The next meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Stelzer-Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by O'Carroll. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.