

PORTAGE COUNTY GROUNDWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE ROOM 5, COUNTY ANNEX
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.
MEETING MINUTES

GROUNDWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GCAC) MEMBERS LISTING:

DECEMBER 05, 2024 ATTENDANCE

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

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Reed-Online, Tyler Kunze, and Nicki Winkelman, Planning and Zoning Department.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ray Reser-County Board Chair, Amberle Schwartz-County Board Supervisor, Vinnie Miresse-County Board Supervisor, John Pavelski-County Executive, Joel Lemke-Public Utilities Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 SEPTEMBER 12, 2024:

D. McFarlane moved to approve the minutes as presented. T. Zimmerman seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

None

5. UPDATES ON COUNTY PROJECT:

July Nelsonville Results:

- Wells 3, 4 & 5 are down gradient from the Village and closer to the river, these are much lower in nitrates at deeper depths, but higher towards the surface.
- Wells 1, 2, 6 & 7 are upper gradient and more random in nitrate levels.
- Each of the wells compare with past sampling except for well 6.
- Each well also tested for Septic Tracers (acesulfame, sucralose, caffeine & paraxanthine) & Ag Tracers (alachlor ESA, alachlor OA, metolachlor ESA & metolachlor OA)
- CAFO farm have been consciously planting alfalfa within Village recharge zones.

Portage County Water Project:

- Spending needed to be allocated to be paid next fiscal year.
- 300 homeowner test kits have been allocated for 2025.
- Pre-application is due December 20, 2024 for water treatment reimbursement.

6. DISCUSSION: FUTURE FUNDING FOR NELSONVILLE MONITORING WELLS

- Funds for testing monitoring wells will end in the spring of 2026.
- Each of the monitoring wells are County owned and would need to establish permission on who can continue with the sampling.
- The Village of Nelsonville does not want these wells to be abandoned.
- Giving permission to the University, the Village of Nelsonville, or the County to take over sampling.
- Testing currently done quarterly.
- Source tracing cost is \$25,000/per year.
- Nitrate only testing is \$6,000 for the homeowner package.
- Grant request, capital improvement request or DNR for possible funding.
- Planning & Zoning will add as a future agenda item.

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: WELLHEAD PROTECTION ORDINANCE REVIEW

Planning & Zoning Committee looking for guidance and recommendations from GCAC to revisit this ordinance.

T. O'Carroll made a motion to adopt the map as drawn in 2019 with a recommendation to include the full recharge area. J. Larson seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote.

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: PORTAGE COUNTY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

See attachment with proposed changes.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date is set for February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

P. Mallek moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by T. O'Carroll. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.