

PORTAGE COUNTY GROUNDWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE ROOMS 1 & 2, COUNTY ANNEX
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022 - 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	Absent
Almond	Edward Burns	Present	Pine Grove Alt	Jeanette Wilson	Absent
Amherst	Tommy Enright	Present Online	Plover	Joe Firkus	Absent
Amherst Alt	Peggy Farrell	-----	Sharon	Ron Hensler	Present Online
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	Absent	Amherst	Mike Juris	Absent
Carson	Fred Copes	Absent	Amherst Junction	Vacant	
Dewey	Dennis Meis	Present	Junction City	Peter Mallek	Present
Dewey Alt	Kathy Girolamo	-----	Nelsonville	Tarion O'Carroll	Present
Eau Pleine	David Hansen	Present	Park Ridge	Dan McFarlane	Excused
Grant	Cecile Stelzer-Johnson	Absent	Park Ridge Alt	Christine Neidlein	Absent
Grant Alt	Andrea Musch	Absent	Plover	Matt Saloun	Excused
Hull	Tim Zimmerman	Present	Rosholt	Jessie Anderson	Absent
Lanark	John Droske	Present Online	Whiting	Jake Wilcox	Present Online
Linwood	Garth Frost	Present	CITY:		
New Hope	Jenny Larsen	Present Online	Stevens Point	Eric Southworth	Present Online
New Hope Alt	Anne Abbott	-----			

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

OTHERS PRESENT: In-person: Barry Jacowski, County Board Supervisor, District 23.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:29 p.m. by E. Burns, Chair.

2. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 19, 2021

Meis moved to approve the minutes. Zimmerman seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Nitrate screening event at Amherst Town Hall on February 26, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

4. 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.*

5. Discussion/Possible Action:

- a. Potential resolution brought forward by Committee member Ron Hensler:
 - Substitute wording: "groundwater contamination by nitrates has been established in Portage County and we expect the elected bodies pursue remedies for this problem."
 - Potentially add funding/total cost
 - Include known health concerns as a "whereas"
 - Potentially include PFAS to head off before it becomes a bigger issue
- b. Potential actions to address nitrate contamination in Portage County:
 - Nutrient Management Plan only addresses phosphorus and not nitrogen
 - Farmer incentives; best management practices/targeting residential areas
 - Find the sweet spot for nitrogen application
 - Grow cover crops while growing primary crop
 - Nitrogen crediting of irrigation water
 - Encourage participation of corporations in providing assistance
 - Encourage UW Extension to verify validity for reduced nitrogen application on corn

Zimmerman moved that McNelly make suggested revisions and forward on to the Land and Water Conservation Committee. O'Carroll seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

c. Potential meeting months and topics:

- Solar Project topic proved to be of interest and raised many questions.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

None

7. NEXT MEETING DATE/TOPICS:

The next meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Mallek moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Zimmerman. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.