

PORTAGE COUNTY GROUNDWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE ROOM 5, COUNTY ANNEX
THURSDAY, JULY 21, 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	Absent	Plover	Joe Firkus	Absent
Amherst Alt	Peggy Farrell	Absent	Sharon	Ron Hensler	Present Online
Belmont	Mike Warzynski	Absent	Stockton	Curt Soik	Absent
Belmont Alternate	Rita Walkowicz	Absent	VILLAGES:		
Buena Vista	Zack Mykisen	Present Phone	Almond	Richard Burns	Absent
Buena Vista Alt	Roger Turzinski	Absent	Amherst	Mike Juris	Present
Carson	Fred Copes	Absent	Amherst Junction	Vacant	
Dewey	Dennis Meis	Present	Junction City	Peter Mallek	Present Phone
Dewey Alt	Kathy Girolamo	-----	Nelsonville	Tarion O'Carroll	Present
Eau Pleine	David Hansen	Absent	Park Ridge	Dan McFarlane	Excused
Grant	Cecile Stelzer-Johnson	Present	Park Ridge Alt	Christine Neidlein	Absent
Grant Alt	Andrea Musch	-----	Plover	Matt Saloun	Present Online
Hull	Tim Zimmerman	Excused	Rosholt	Jessie Anderson	Absent
Lanark	John Droske	Present Online	Whiting	Jake Wilcox	Present Online
Linwood	Garth Frost	Present	CITY:		
New Hope	Jenny Larsen	Present	Stevens Point	Eric Southworth	Present Online
New Hope Alt	Anne Abbott	-----			

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

OTHERS PRESENT: John Pavelski - County Executive **ONLINE:** Pete Arntsen

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by E. Burns, Chair.

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 MAY 19, 2022

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

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. Updates on County Projects:

a. Letter from GCAC to County Board Supervisors on Actions to Address Nitrates

- Land and Water Conservation Committee is looking at this and discussing.

b. County Wide Well Water Sampling Project

- 238 Total Samples Collected; 152 out of 214 were resamples and 86 were new.

c. Nelsonville Workplan and Monitoring Wells

- REI Workplan postponed until the August Land and Water Conservation Committee.
- Looking into ARPA funding for 6 monitoring wells within the Village and 3 on Gordondale Farms.

d. ARPA Funding Project

- "Well Owner Assistance for Treatment and Economic Recovery Project" to start soon. The steps are as follows:
 1. Private well users must register to receive a lab certified water test kit by completing the Water Test Registration Form online.
 2. Well users will be directly mailed a copy of their water test results. Well users with results over the nitrate-nitrogen drinking water standard of 10 mg/L will be contacted by Portage County Staff

and invited to fill out a pre-application for cost reimbursement of a reverse osmosis treatment system.

3. When the County receives a completed pre-application, County staff will review it for program qualification. The County will notify the well user if the pre-application is approved. The well user may proceed with the installation of a reverse osmosis system of their choosing that was identified in their pre-application.
4. After the water treatment system is installed, the well user may seek reimbursement through an application to the County. Specific requirements that must be met will be listed in the application materials.
5. After the water treatment system is installed, the well user may seek reimbursement through an application to the County. Specific requirements that must be met will be listed in the application materials.
6. Approximately one year from the date of installation of the reverse osmosis water treatment system, the County will mail to the well user a nitrate-nitrogen water test kit. The test kit will include the tasks that the well user will need to complete and the date to return the water sample to the county, which is a requirement of this program.

We will get the word out about the available funding through the Towns Association, media, and social media. McNelly stated she will also email GCAC members materials they can share with anyone that may be interested.

6. Discussion/Possible Action:

a. Nutrient Management in Portage County – Discussion with Steve Bradley, Portage County Conservationist

- There has been discussion about incorporating the irrigation water into the snap plus program.
- 24% of wells in Portage County test greater than the 10 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen drinking water standard.
- Having educational conversations with farmers every chance we get, not all are as receptive to the information as others.
- Need to follow-up with Associate Dean of CALS.
- Does crop insurance require a minimum nitrate application?
- Winter manure application is mostly a phosphorus concern via runoff, and occasionally if there is runoff into a depression that could cause leaching in the spring. It is a violation if manure leaves your property and we hardly have any manure spreading in the winter anymore.
- Farmland Preservation Plan offered tax incentives for NMP, but towns needed a certain percentage of cropland dedicated to A1 Exclusive Agricultural, and many could not meet that requirement.

7. MEMBER UPDATES

None

8. NEXT MEETING DATE/TOPICS:

The next meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

Topics:

- Follow-up information from the discussion with Steve Bradley
- Presentation on the Central Sands Collaborative Study
- Possibly preliminary results from the countywide groundwater study
- ARPA Funding Project

9. ADJOURNMENT:

O'Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Stelzer-Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Amy Heins
Recording Secretary**