

PORTAGE COUNTY GROUNDWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE ROOM 5, COUNTY ANNEX
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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	Absent	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
Dewey Alt	Kathy Girolamo	-----	Nelsonville	Tarion O'Carroll	Present
Eau Pleine	David Hansen	Present	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	Present	Rosholt	Jessie Anderson	Absent
Lanark	John Droske	Present Online	Whiting	Jake Wilcox	Present
Linwood	Garth Frost	Present	CITY:		
New Hope	Jenny Larsen	Present	Stevens Point	Eric Southworth	Excused
New Hope Alt	Anne Abbott	-----			

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Keller – District 14 Supervisor **ONLINE:** Bill Leichtnam **PHONE:** Bill Clendenning

1. CALL TO ORDER

Frost motioned for O'Carroll to run the meeting as the chair and vice-chair were not present. Motion was seconded by Hansen, which passed by voice vote. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by O'Carroll.

7:08 p.m. Chair E. Burns arrived.

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 JULY 21, 2022

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

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Nitrate screening event downtown on the square on Friday, September 30, 2022 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

5. UPDATES ON COUNTY PROJECTS:

a. County Wide Well Water Sampling Project

- 239 residents agreed to participate: 153 returning from 2017 and 85 new
- 195 samples submitted; 113 were resamples and 82 were new
- Nitrate levels varied from "non-detectable" to "40.6 mg/L"
- 39 of those samples were over 10 mg/L
- Full report is expected early 2023

Committee recommended not to combine ARPA funded nitrate tests with the County Wide samples as it will through off the County Wide numbers.

b. Nelsonville Workplan and Monitoring Wells

- Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) approved 7 monitoring wells with 7 different depths
- An application for ARPA funding will be submitted for installation and monitoring of those 7 wells

c. Po Co WATER Project

- 1st round had 26 participants with 16 being over 10 mg/L
- 2nd round has started and was at 61 participants
- Applications will be sent for those qualifying with reimbursement up to \$1,500

6. PRESENTATION: Update on CSGCC Project “Advancing the use of nitrate and neonicotinoid findings to inform groundwater protection and improvement strategies by counties”: (Presentation on file)

- Deadline extended to February for final report

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Request from Portage County Land and Water Conservation Committee to prioritize actions in the May letter, “Request for Action by Local Leaders”, to County Board Supervisors:

- Provide incentives to producers who utilize nitrogen reducing best management practices
- Target incentives in areas that would have the largest impacts on private residential wells
- Incentivize changing crops that are grown to less nitrogen intensive
- Incentives for farmers that develop and utilize Nutrient Management Plans (NMP), especially those that consider water quality impacts and not just economic profitability
- Research and fine tuning of the NMP to meet central Wisconsin's needs

8. MEMBER UPDATES

Keller introduced himself and invited GCAC members to the next Agriculture and Extension Committee meeting on October 13, 2022. McNelly invited GCAC members to the next LWCC meeting on October 4, 2022.

E. Burns stated he spoke to the crop insurance representative and all that is written in there for bean contract was that “best practices must be followed”.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE/TOPICS:

The next meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Zimmerman moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Meis. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.