



**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Tuesday, August 6, 2019
5:30 PM**

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Roll call: Bake Baker, Mark Have, Keith Hoffmann, David Husebye, Valerie Stoehr
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes of the July 2, 2019 Meeting
5. Old Business
 - A. Well testing for Nitrates for 2018 and prior
 - B. Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms 2019
 - C. Perflourochemicals (PFC) update
 - D. List of reference items for NRGC
 - E. NRGC Management Organization update
 - 1) Washington Conservation District - Dave
 - 2) South Washington County Watershed District - Bake
 - 3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization - Dave
 - 4) Valley Branch Watershed District - Mark
 - 5) Washington County Water Consortium - Keith
 - F. Citizen Monitoring
 - 1) Valley Creek Water Clarity Monitoring
 - 2) Algae Alert Network for St. Croix River Association
 - G. Wastewater Tour for Community
 - H. Update on CC and PC Business - Mayor Palmquist
 - I. Additional agenda items proposed by members
6. New Business
 - A. Budget request for Fiscal Year 2020 for Nitrates and coliform testing by NRGC for Afton
7. Next Meeting Date: September 3, 2019
8. Adjourn

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)

Tuesday, July 2, 2019, 5:35 PM

Minutes

1. Call to order
2. Roll call: Mark Have, Keith Hoffmann, David Husebye, Valerie Stoehr. Bill Palmquist was in attendance representing the City Council. Bake Baker absent.
3. Approval of Agenda: agenda was amended by Keith's addition of possibly printing an update of the new operating shared city septic system the and possibly to publish a summary of the the recent County information regarding the septic system review and inspection program throughout Washington County. Valerie proposed adding a discussion on the Blanding's turtle study going on in Afton. Dave made a motion to accept the amended agenda, Valerie seconded. Items included under item 5-H. Approved 4-0
4. Approval of Minutes of the June 11, 2019 Meeting: Valerie made a motion to approve the minutes, Dave seconded. Approved 4-0
5. Business
 - A. Well testing for Nitrates for 2018 and prior: No update on the plan to plot all existing data to date. The issue of how to obtain all available data was discussed and maybe check through the City files for existing reports or summaries. Mark indicated that somewhere there is additional data possibly going back to 1999.
 - B. Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms 2019: Washington County will not charge Afton for any unused sample kits. The June preliminary sampling totals were 88 processed out of 117 requests equaling 75.2%. The County has indicated that the NRGC can request a final copy of the report in December 2019 to include any individual samples submitted by residents that were not processed by the NRGC. Valerie has a contact at the State level and suggested that we reach out to the MHD and other agencies to gather any available water quality data relating to Afton. Keith to check with Wash Cnty to explore any potential data sharing with other groups/agencies. Bill requested that the NRGC develop a cost analyses for any future well testing.
 - C. Perflourochemicals (PFC) update: Bill getting close to finalize the 3M plan and settlement process possible by the end of 2019. Mark asked the status of the Citizens Committee, Bill will follow up with Barbara Ronnigen for an update. In a separate matter, Mark discussed the problem of micro plastics being found in river and surface waters and may be something we could explore.
 - D. List of reference items for NRGC: No update with ongoing goal of consolidating all available information.
 - E. NRGC Management Organization update

- 1) Washington Conservation District – Dave None
- 2) South Washington County Watershed District - Bake None
- 3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization – Dave None
- 4) Valley Branch Watershed District – Mark None
- 5) Washington County Water Consortium – Keith July meeting cancelled

F. Citizen Monitoring

- 1) Valley Creek Water Clarity Monitoring: Mark reported that the sampling will continue through Oct 2019. The creek has starts to free flow on June 21 and leaving behind sand bars. The clarity is good and notated as being in recreational condition. The flood level readings were discussed with Afton being within 680-690 feet.
- 2) Algae Alert Network for St. Croix River Association: Network. Dave reported that Richard Easling is the scientist with the USGS (who we are collecting the samples for), and the contact person is Katie Sickmann . I will be collecting in Afton State Park and the samples are to be used to look for Blue Green Algae. At the intro meeting I attended, Red Algae blooms were discussed, but I am not sure they can grow in fresh water.

G. Update on CC and PC Business - Mayor Palmquist: PLCD environmental issues if proven appear to be acceptable in going forward. Activity is ongoing.

H. Additional agenda items proposed by members

- 1) Washington County Septic Review program: The recent County Newsletter outlined the County's increased responsibility for oversight of septic system. Bill indicated that Afton has issued permit inspections for any new or additions to homes. Afton has an ordinance that inspections near the levee are required. Any home sales or new build within the Village are required to hook up to the city system. Any high water levels from flooding etc.. must comply with inspection usage. Mark/Keith to draft a summary of the program for publishing in an upcoming Afton newsletter.
- 2) New City Sewer System: A tour by NRCG members and others was conducted on June 18. The system is up and running as designed with all tests results within compliance standards. New restrooms at the Park are hooked up and running. Discussion about offering a potential open tour for residents this fall (Sept). Valerie will contact the system operator for scheduling. We
- 3) Blanding's Turtle: Valerie discussed the ongoing study that Belwin has to record turtle siting's and identify nesting areas within Afton. The turtle is disappearing and becoming extinct. Belwin would like to expand the program to the new sewer system

area for a potential study sites. Valerie to follow up.

6. New Business: None
7. Next Meeting Date: August 6, 2019 5:30 pm
8. Adjourn: Keith moved to adjourn the meeting, Mark seconded.

Approved 4-0 at 6:45 pm