

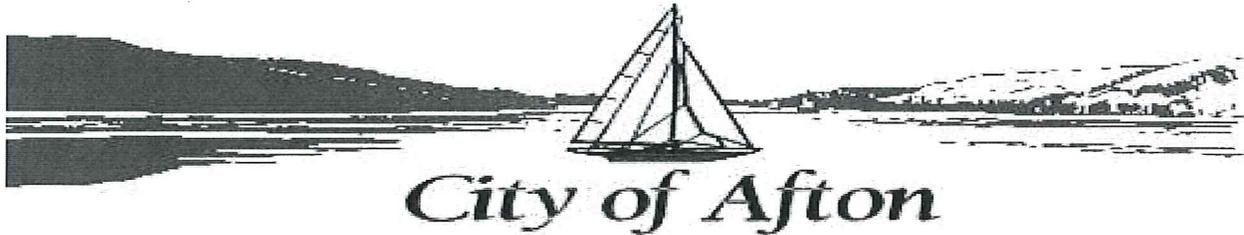


City of Afton

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)

**Agenda
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
6:30 PM**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of minutes from July 20th**
- 5. Business**
 - A. Well testing Update
 - B. NRGC meeting quorum requirement of five members - should this be changed?
 - C. Comprehensive Plan Update: Environmental Resources Plan section - review and provide feedback on updates or revisions needed
 - D. Natural Resources and Groundwater Management Organizations updates
 - E. General Resource and groundwater information sharing
- 6. Adjournment**



Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)

Minutes (unapproved)
 Wednesday, July 20, 2016
 6:30 PM

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Jill, Annie (part of the time), Mark, Keith, Susan, the Mayor
 Absent were Jack, Perry.
3. **Agenda** approved without changes.
4. **June 15, 2016 minutes:** Mark moved to approve;
 Keith seconded
5. **Business**
 - A. **NRGC secretary replacement:** Susan, Annie, Mark and Keith agreed to rotate secretary duties.
 - B. **Update on septic system compliance inspection recommendation** to City Council:
 City Council concerned about redundant inspections, first from relatively low remodeling threshold (\$50K), and again the following year when selling the property. Dewey suggested \$100K trigger; CC tabled for reconsideration.
 - C. **Well testing update:** approved by City Council to proceed?
 Yes, proceed, due to \$1,500 line item in Afton city budget, mayor says.
 - * Phase 1 logistics all set up, Keith says, except question of how people will contact the committee. After discussion, mayor suggested that having citizens call city hall is most appropriate way for people to signal interest.
 - *County needs 2 weeks' notification before it begins. There are two water test drop off sites: IGH and Stillwater.
 - *Question of how accurate public well data is? Mark assumes it is accurate.
 - *September city newsletter will inform citizens about the well testing program..
 - *Past water testing: there were designated drop off times at City Hall, Pat Snyder told the mayor.
 Other details from Pat Snyder about how it was done in the past: Pat got the list and supplied it to Washington County; it prepared kits and sent them to Afton City Hall. She gave list to city staff they prepared labels and mailed kits to residents. Pat has list of who participated in the past.
 - *Mayor: We may want future commitment to track data over time.

*Keith will contact Pat and see what she would do differently

D. Homebuyers don't receive well water quality data--Keith raised concern about this. Concluded that related tracking and paperwork is prohibitive to require this given Afton resources and staff.

We can revisit the issue after seeing the new well data.

E. Comprehensive plan Environmental Resource portion update—Committee needs to select a few key parts and suggest updates next meeting.

*Focus on Conservancy overlay district: impose more specific standards?

Or put other standards in that would trigger ordinance changes.

*Reminder of the density standard average of 1 per 10 acres; that effectively limits the development rights once that threshold is reached, keep in mind. How this average is calculated has been debated.

*Focus on policies at the end of Environmental Resources Plan section - they are the teeth of it. We will, focus on #8 cause committee's already working on that, put teeth in it.

*Preliminary overarching statement deemed to be vague and verbose, Mark submitted condensed version.

F. Natural Resources and Groundwater Management Organizations updates: Mark had submitted watershed summary earlier. Nothing from Wash Co. SWCD, Susan says. Keith shared website showing DNR map of required buffers going forward (see separate correspondence).

General Resource and groundwater information sharing: none

6. **Adjourn**

September 20, 2016

Dear Afton Resident:

Thank you for volunteering for the city's well monitoring program. Enclosed is your water testing kit. **Please fill out the form as completely as you can and provide a fresh water sample, drawn no more than two hours prior to bringing in.**

This year the city will be testing for nitrates only. If you wish to have additional testing done, please contact the Washington County Public Health & Environment office at 651-430-6655 for more information.

Drop off Location: Afton City Hall parking lot, 3033 St. Croix Trail S. in Afton
Time: Between 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
Dates: Tuesday, October 11 or October 25

If it is more convenient, you can drop off your sample at the office of the Washington County Public Health & Environment:

Location: 4th Floor, Washington County Government Ctr., 14949 62nd Street N., Stillwater
Time: Tuesday mornings between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Dates: Tuesday, October 11, October 18 or October 25

Test results will be mailed to you.

If you are unable to make any of the above testing dates, please call either Keith Hoffmann at 651-436-5446, Mark Have at 651-528-2370, or Susan Winsor at 651-491-4759, and we will arrange for your water sample to be picked up.

Once again, thank you for your participation. Afton remains committed to ensuring its water quality.

Sincerely,

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee

Notes from the last three Valley Branch Watershed District meetings.

Please forward to NR&GW Committee members; next NR&GW meeting is Sept 21, 2016.

August 18th meeting - Cancelled.

August 25th meeting - No Afton news.

September 8th meeting - Brockman Trucking's permit for a gravel parking lot was approved. Runoff will be treated via travel to a wet pond (always has water) that overflows into a dry depression, where it will percolate through the ground. Brockman Trucking is located on the north side of frontage road and west of Indian Trail.

- In the Kelle's Creek watershed, two applications for septic-system upgrades were approved for cost sharing:

John Stadelman will receive \$1200 for installing new tanks. Drain field was okay. Total cost is \$4883.

Dan Bennelli will receive \$5000 for replacing his entire septic system. Total cost is \$25,102.