



**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Tuesday, October 1, 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 September 3, 2019 Meeting
5. Old Business
 - A. Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms 2019 and earlier
 - B. Perflourochemicals (PFC) update
 - C. List of reference items for NRGC
 - D. Citizen Monitoring
 - 1) Valley Creek Water Clarity Monitoring
 - 2) Algae Alert Network for St. Croix River Association
 - E. Wastewater Tour for Community
 - F. Budget request for Fiscal Year 2020 for Nitrates and coliform testing by NRGC for Afton
 - G. NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter
 - H. 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
 - I. Update on CC and PC Business - Mayor Palmquist
 - J. Additional agenda items proposed by members
6. Next Meeting Date: November 5, 2019
7. Adjourn

NRGC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 3, 2019

- 1) Call to order. David Husebye called the meeting to order at 5:35.
- 2) Roll call. In attendance were Mark Have, Keith Hoffmann, David Husebye and Valerie Stoehr. Bake Baker was an excused absence. Mayor Palmquist was in attendance representing the City Council.
- 3) Approval of Agenda. Mark made a motion to approve the agenda, Dave seconded and the motion passed 4-0-0.
- 4) Approval of Minutes August 6, 2019. Val noted a correction needed to be made on the meeting minutes. Discussion ensued, and it was noted that under 5. Old Business. H that Article IX was not discussed at the meeting, and that sentence should be removed. Val made a motion to approve the amended minutes, Dave seconded and the motion passed 3-0-1. Dave abstained as he was not present at the meeting.
- 5) Old Business
 - i) Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms 2019 and earlier. Keith and Mark reported the final results were received. Of 120 sample kits ordered, 88 were returned with 12 growing for Coliforms, but none with E. Coli (which would indicate concerns with organisms that may be disease causing pathogens and suggests contamination of water supplies with feces from humans or animals). Each of these individuals were contacted by the county with the results and offered information. It was not known how many follow up cultures were done. Dave reported he had made contact with a professor at St. Olaf College about the data set. He noted there were concerns about confidentiality issues (answered by Washington County). At present he has not heard back further. There was discussion that this data should be presented to the community. Keith and Mark will draft something for the Afton Newsletter.
 - ii) Perfluorochemicals (PFC) update. Update was provided by Mayor Palmquist. He notes meetings are being held, but no definitive decisions have yet been made.
 - iii) List of reference items for NRGC. Dave has reached out to Councilmember Wroblewski and will be working on this into the fall.
 - iv) Citizen Monitoring
 - (1) Valley Creek Water Clarity Monitoring. Mark notes Valley Creek is running quite clear. Dave noted some of the prior year data is available for review.
 - (2) Algae Alert Network for St. Croix River Association. Dave reports the collections are ongoing. To date no bluegreen algae has been detected in the study area, but there were several areas noted on the St. Croix River with bluegreen algae (not clear if near “study sites”). Older data has been collected, but has not been shared. Dave noted there is some information that he will share with the Committee.
 - v) Wastewater tour for community. This has been delayed to 2020, and will be placed back on the agenda in 2020.
 - vi) Budget request for Fiscal Year 2020 for Nitrates and coliform testing by NRGC for Afton. Mayor Palmquist reviewed what was spent on the above data collected and the amounts spent in prior years. A request for 2020 is being put forth, but the exact amount has not been determined. Committee members thanked the Mayor for his efforts. Future efforts to perhaps look for microplastics in well water was also discussed.
 - vii) NRGC items for Afton’s monthly newsletter. This topic was discussed at the last meeting. It was suggested that items could be submitted perhaps bimonthly. The committee agreed to send an update on the Nitrate / Coliform collection for October. There is a new program—Lawns to Legumes that may be of interest to the Committee and the residents of Afton. Grants might be available, but the specifics are not yet known. This will be explored, and perhaps information shared in a later newsletter.
 - viii) NRGC Management Organization update

- (1) Washington Conservation District—Dave reports no new updates.
 - (2) South Washington County Watershed District—Bake was not present.
 - (3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization—Dave reported he had not heard from Councilmember Perkins.
 - (4) Valley Branch Watershed District—Mark reported 2 Afton residents received stewardship grants. He noted the VBWD was celebrating it's 50th year, and a celebration was planned for 9/12.
 - (5) Washington County Water Consortium—Keith had shared information about 2 upcoming meetings about the One Watershed One Plan on 9/4 and 9/16.
- ix) Update on CC and PC Business. Mayor Palmquist gave a brief update on a few CC and PC items. There was some discussion on Steamboat Park and changes related to recent elevated water levels.
- 6) Additional agenda items proposed by members. There was discussion of new findings of zebra mussels in McCarron Lake (the water source for St. Paul). Several lakes and beaches have been closed for Coliform issues.
 - 7) Next Meeting Date October 1, 2019
 - 8) Adjourn. Mark made a motion to adjourn, Keith seconded and the motion carried 4-0 at 6:20.

Minutes submitted by Dave Husebye acting secretary.