



Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)

**Agenda
Tuesday, October 2, 2018
5:00 PM**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call:** Bake Baker, Mark Have, Keith Hoffman, David Husebye, Jack Kollmer
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes September 4, 2018**
- 5. Business**
 - A. Well Testing Update and water sampling of Valley Creek at Putnam
 - B. Well testing for Nitrates 2018 and prior
 - C. Well testing 2019 – coliforms and nitrates
 - D. Perflourochemicals (PFC) update
 - E. Bee action
 - F. List of reference items for NRGC
 - G. NRGC Management Organization Update
 1. Washington Conservation District
 2. South Washington County Watershed District
 3. Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization
 4. Valley Brand Watershed District
 5. Washington County Water Consortium
 - H. Update on City Council and Planning Commission Business – Council Member Palmquist
 - I. Additional agenda items proposed by members.
- 6. Next Meeting date**

NRGC Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2018 5:00 PM

- 1. Call to Order:** Dave Husebye called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.
- 2. Roll Call:** In attendance were Jack Kollmer, Dave Husebye, Mark Have, and Keith Hoffmann. Bake Baker was an unexcused absentee. Bill Palmquist was in attendance representing the City Council.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was amended by Keith's addition to item 5.G #5 Washington County Water Consortium. Jack made a motion to accept the amended agenda, Dave seconded, and the motion passed 4 to 0.
- 4. Approval of Minutes August 7, 2018:** Dave presented minutes from the August 7 2018 meeting. Jack made a motion to approve the minutes, Keith seconded, and were approved 4 to 0.
- 5. Business:**
 - A. Well Testing Update and water sampling of Valley Creek at Putnam:**

No update on the need to take samples from the creek. Dave to follow up with the City Administrator
 - B. Well testing for Nitrates 2018 and prior:** Keith submitted a written response form the County regarding the plotting of existing Afton NO3 data. The county does not have the expertise to provide this service but suggested that we look at several geocoding online services for this. They also thought that we may qualify for a free online account which would give us mapping capability. Keith to follow up with Ron to explore our account options as follows:

<https://batchgeo.com/>

<http://geoservices.tamu.edu/Services/Geocode/>

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

Dave discussed with Julie that her background might lend itself to do some plotting but that may be beyond her scope of responsibility at this time. Mark suggested that we consider other agencies to help us out and will follow up with the USGS to ascertain any support or interest on their part.

Mark and Keith submitted an article for the October Newsletter summarizing the NO₃ data collected in the June 2018 sampling. The article included a map showing ranges in concentration and section number throughout Afton.

C. Well testing for 2019 – coliforms and nitrates: A discussion regarding the timing of the testing ended with a suggestion by Mark that in keeping with past schedule late June would be a good time to sample. We will submit a notice in the April and May Newsletter describing the sampling plan and discuss the new procedures required for coliform testing. We will also need to have a total count to submit to the County for sample containers. Bill indicated that our testing budget of \$2000.00 was readily accepted by the council to continue the testing program.

D. Perfluorochemical (PFC) update: Bill indicated that Ron had attended the recent technical/city task force meeting on 8/29 to represent Afton's interests in this ongoing settlement.

E. Bee action: Jack submitted the information packet to Ron for upcoming Newsletters.

F. List of reference items for NRG: Jack is actively updating the reference items for the NRCC operating manuals. Dave will send Jack updated information on Kelles Creek including current engineering reports on

the water quality of the creek.

G. NRGC Management Organization Updates:

1. Washington Conservation District – none
2. South Washington County Watershed District – none
3. Middle St Croix Water Management Organization-none
4. Valley Branch Watershed District-none
5. Washington County Water Consortium-none

H. Update on City Council and Planning Commission: Bill gave an update on the Carlson PLCD project. Neal/N Valley Creek 40 acre single home was approved. Levee natural prairie grass plant project abandoned due to weeds and other problem plants. Plan is to mow the top of the levee with the growth a is. He also discussed the flood control pumping process in place and running.

I. Additional agenda items proposed by members: Jack gave notice that he will miss the next October meeting and possibly the November meeting as well.

Jack moved that the meeting be adjourned, Mark seconded.

Approved 4-0 at 5:50 pm

6. Next meeting listed October 2, 2018, 5:00 pm

Hastings

E. coli bacteria found in public water supply

Hastings issued a boil water advisory Saturday evening after E. coli bacteria was found in a section of the public water system.

According to the alert, the bacteria is isolated to one section of the system.

"The MN Dept of Health and the City of Hastings are working together to try to identify the cause of the positive results," the city stated. "We will inform you when tests show no coliform bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving problem within 3-5 days."

The city will be adding chlorine to that area Saturday and Sunday to disinfect the water. The addition of chlorine may react with iron and manganese in water mains, causing the water to temporarily appear black or reddish-brown in color but, the statement said, it does not present a health threat.

The city advises residents to let the water

run for a few minutes to flush plumbing before using it for cooking or laundry. Fish tanks and bait shops should not use chlorinated water in tanks at this time.

Residents in the affected area should bring all drinking/cooking water to a full, rolling boil for over a minute and then let it cool before using, or just use bottled water. Boiled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth and food prep until further notice.

E. coli bacteria, which indicates the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste, can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea and headaches. Infants, young children, the elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems are most at risk.

— Deanna Weniger