



**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)**

**Agenda**

**Monday, November 5, 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 October 2, 2018**
- 5. Old 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. New Business**
  - A. Committee Purpose and function
- 7. Next Meeting date December 4 at 5:00 pm**
- 8. Adjourn**

# NRGC Meeting minutes

October 2, 2018 5:00 PM

1. Call to order: Dave Husebye called the meeting to order at 5:00.
2. Roll call: In attendance were Dave Husebye, Mark Have and Keith Hoffman. Bake Baker and Jack Kollmer were excused absentees. Bill Palmquist was in attendance representing the City Council.
3. Approval of agenda: The agenda was reviewed by the members. Mark made a motion to accept the agenda, Keith seconded, and the motion passed 3-0-0.
4. Approval of the minutes September 4, 2018: The minutes were presented from the meeting of September 4, 2018. Keith made a motion to approve, Dave seconded, and the motion passed 3-0-0.
5. Business
  - A. Well Testing Update and water sampling of Valley Creek at Putnam: Dave reached out to the City Administrator Ron. He contacted Mayor Bend who sent back information that was shared with all members of the committee. On the MPCA website Mark applied to fill the position, but found it was already filled. It was not known who this was, but the MPCA indicated there might be other sites on Valley Creek to monitor. He applied, but had not heard back. Discussion about having back up alternates to sample ensued. Dave and Keith offered to help if needed.
  - B. Well Testing for Nitrates 2018 and Prior: Several members reviewed that they had looked at mapping programs. It appeared free geocoding for one year might be possible. Dave reviewed some sites, and multiyear mapping likely would require a license and a fee. Mark had contacted the USGS and the State DOH on the nitrate testing. It appears there are no ongoing sampling efforts like is being done in Afton. The data shows the forested areas appear stable, farmed areas have nitrates but unclear if worse over time. Sampling for other compounds (like pesticides) could be quite expensive. Coliforms could serve as a marker. While City Staff has some expertise on mapping, it is not one of their functions, so they could not do. Council Palmquist mentioned the possibility of having a summer intern help with this. Discussion of frequency of testing (continuing yearly vs. doing every other year) occurred. It was felt that ongoing yearly collection might provide unique data to Afton as the City develops and land use and farm practice changes. Committee members will continue to look into mapping possibilities.
  - C. Well testing 2019—coliforms and nitrates: Dave brought MPCA data (see attached) from a Valley Branch Watershed District report from 2/2016. This showed frequency of sampling per month, and results. Summer months were most commonly tested, and in each month 33+% of samples were positive. The committee members agreed June could be an appropriate time to sample. This would require notification of Afton residents earlier in the year. A timeline will be worked on to have this set up.

Nitrates: Yearly testing was discussed. Separate samples for coliforms and nitrates are needed, so it was discussed that the sampling might best be done at different times.
  - D. PFC update: Councilman Palmquist noted he was appointed to serve as Afton’s representative for one of the committees set up in the 3M settlement. He will forward any pertinent information he receives to the members for review.
  - E. Bee action: Jack not here, no discussion.
  - F. List of reference items for NRGC: Dave reached out to Ron, and it appears there is currently no collection of resources and no “binder”. Jack was collecting information, but is not present. Councilman Palmquist noted there may have been something from years ago when the committee was operating, but this was

not certain. Dave was to reach out to Jack to begin to collect resources. Dave did share a short list he had collected on watershed information (attached).

G. NRG Management Organization Update

1. WCD: none
2. SWCWD: none
3. MSCWMO: none
4. VBWD: Mark noted funding for prairie restoration for one Afton resident
5. WCWC: There was some discussion of Woodbury's efforts to limit water use via sprinklers and possible water reuse by carwash

H. Update on City Council and Planning Commission Business: Councilman Palmquist discussed the Planning Commission review of a request to alter the slope of the bluff line for a proposed home addition and a 12% slope. He noted the Carlson PLCD likely would be before the Planning Commission and City Council for the Final Plat in November. The development agreement is still not ready for review, but should be prior to the meeting. Some discussion on the cancelled event for the completion of the Downtown Project took place.

I. Additional agenda items: A recent article showing E.coli bacteria in Hasting's water supply (enclosed) was handed out. This was the second recent reporting of contaminated Municipal Water, and points out the concerns for water quality, and need for ongoing monitoring.

J. Next meeting date: November 6, 2018 is Election Day, and thus cannot meet that day. Discussions on an alternate date ensued, and a meeting 11/5/2018 at 5:00 was set. It is noted the Planning Commission meets at 7:00 that day also.

K. Adjournment: Keith moved the meeting be adjourned, Mark seconded, and the motion passed 3-0-0 at 5:50.