



**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Tuesday, November 5, 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 October 1, 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 (completed for 2019)
 - 2) Algae Alert Network for St. Croix River Association (completed for 2019)
 - E. Wastewater Tour for Community Spring 2020
 - F. Budget request for Fiscal Year 2020 for Nitrates and coliform testing by NRGC for Afton
 - G. NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter
 - 1) Black swallowwort
 - 2) Lawns to Legumes
 - 3) Other
 - 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 Dates to be determined: December 3, 2019, January 7, 2020, February 4, 2020, March 3, 2020.
7. Adjourn

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Tuesday, October 1, 2019
5:30 PM
Afton City Hall

- 1) Call to order: David Husebye called the meeting to order at 5:40.
- 2) Roll call: The following were in attendance: Mark Have, Keith Hoffmann, David Husebye, and Valerie Stoehr. Committee member Bake Baker and Mayor Palmquist were not in attendance.
- 3) Approval of Agenda: Keith made a motion to approve the agenda, amended to expand item #6 to discuss the schedule of future committee meetings during upcoming months. Dave seconded; the motion passed 4-0.
- 4) Approval of Minutes of the September 3, 2019 meeting: Val made a motion to approve the minute. Dave seconded; the motion passed 4-0.
- 5) Old Business
 - A) Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms 2019 and earlier: The committee has all data from the 2019 effort as well as historical data from the county, and Dave and Keith are in the process of consolidating data from multiple sources. Dave has not heard back after reaching out to Dr. Peterson (the professor at St. Olaf College) about the data set. Dave will ask the City Clerk whether she knows the location of Afton water quality data the State collected in the 1990s with a portable analyzer.
 - B) Perfluorochemicals (PFC) update: No updates reported.
 - C) List of reference items for NRGC: Dave continues his work on this effort.
 - D) Citizen Monitoring
 - (1) Valley Creek Water Clarity Monitoring: Mark collected his final clarity sample last week (9/26). Weekly samples were collected during the sampling period, April 1 to September 30th; Mark sent MPCA the data that he collected during that period.
 - (2) Algae Alert Network for St. Croix River Association: Dave reported that the sampling is ongoing and takes place into October.
 - E) Wastewater tour for community: Deferred until closer to spring 2020.
 - F) Budget request for Fiscal Year 2020 for Nitrates and coliform testing by NRGC for Afton: No updates since the September meeting. We expect that our request was represented in preliminary budget the City Council approved.
 - G) NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter: We are pleased with the "2019 Water Sampling Program" article that Keith and Mark drafted for the October newsletter. Val will draft an article for the city's monthly newsletter on the threat posed by the invasive black swallow wort. She will base the article on the information Keith provided via email.

- H) NRG 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 reports no updates.
 - (4) Valley Branch Watershed District—Mark reported a) the Valley Branch Watershed district engineer reported that any project that proposes 6000 square feet of impervious surface requires a VBWD permit, and that subdivisions, work in a floodplain, work in a wetland, etc., also require a VBWD permit; b) a property owner built a large ag building without a permit and the situation is being rectified via an after-the-fact permit; c) a property owner on Valley Creek Trail started to replace a driveway over the south fork of Valley Creek without permits and the work is shut down until permits are obtained; d) there were sediment control issues on the Stagecoach bridge replacement over Valley Creek.
 - (5) Washington County Water Consortium—Keith shared that the county is starting a program to explore reusing storm water runoff. He raised the possibility that the city may want to engage in this exploration.
- I) Update on CC and PC Business: Dave reported about discussion at a City Council meeting about the Carlson PLCD development. There has been more runoff than expected and the MPCA was called because of sediment loss.
- J) Additional agenda items proposed by members: None.
- 6) Next Meeting Date is November 5, 2019. Regarding future meetings: Keith will be out of town December through March. Mark will be out of town January through March. Mindful of their schedules, we will front-load agenda items and make decisions about the structure of our tasks and meetings such that we can make progress over the winter months. We will be aware of people's availability and potentially cancel meetings if we do not have a quorum.
- 7) Adjourn. Keith made a motion to adjourn; Mark seconded; the motion passed 4-0.

Minutes submitted by Valerie Stoehr, acting secretary.