

**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Tuesday, January 7, 2025
5:00 PM**

Note: The January 7, 2025 NRGC meeting will be held both remotely and in-person at City Hall. Instructions for participating in the meeting remotely are provided below.

Instructions for Participating in the Meeting Remotely Via Zoom

Options for Joining the Zoom Meeting:

RECOMMENDED: Use your computer, tablet or smart phone to join the meeting by logging on to:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84315229443?pwd=VJhSBMHq3IZIS7GqBea1111L1ZK9PW.1>

- Meeting ID: (843 1522 9443)

Passcode: 468906

Dial-in Number (to call in to the meeting)

+1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 843 1522 9443

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Roll call: David Husebye, Susan Loomis, Kim Myhers, Elissa Thompson, Cody Kaye, Petra Brokken, Scott Hafner and Sven Risom
3. Approval of Agenda for January 7, 2025 meeting and additional agenda items proposed by members.
4. Election of Officers for 2025
5. Approval of Minutes of the December 3, 2024 meeting.
6. Old Business
 - i) Belwin conversations on deer count and issues, prescribed burn initiative and collaboration opportunities regarding natural resources
 - ii) Well testing for nitrates and coliforms
 - 1) Plans for 2025
 - 2) Possible PFAS or other testing to be added
 - iii) PFAS educational forum for Spring 2025
 - 1) Identification of specific topics to be addressed
 - iv) NRI/Greenway Corridor

v) Grant for native vegetation restoration project on City property west of City Hall

vi) NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter

- 1) Dark sky initiative – Petra for winter
- 2) Invasive species, resources, inspectors -- future
- 3) Buckthorn removal and post removal re-vegetation for spring
- 4) Grants for planting – for spring
- 5) Prescribed burns – future

vii) Invasive Species Topic – group

- 1) Invasive plant database
- 2) Collaboration with Washington Conservation District and Washington County
- 3) Noxious weed inspector => future article

viii) NRGC Management Organization update

- 1) Washington Conservation District – Elissa
- 2) South Washington County Watershed District – Kim
- 3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization – Susan
- 4) Valley Branch Watershed District – Scott
- 5) Washington County Water Consortium – Dave
- 6) Belwin - Sven

ix) Update on CC and PC Business

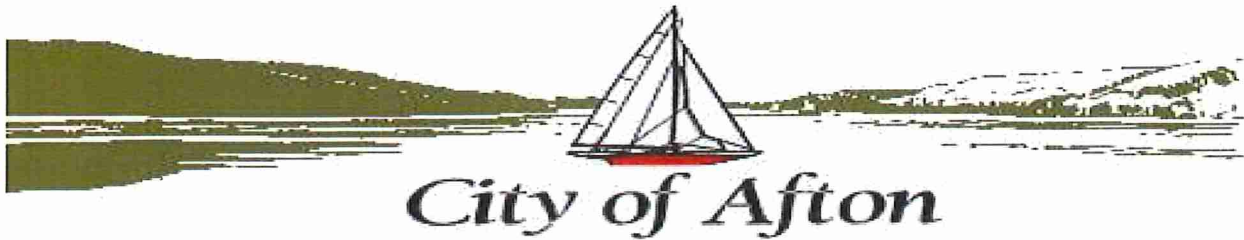
x) Additional agenda items proposed by members

7. New Business

i) Discuss natural resource awareness opportunities for Afton – Sven

8. Next Meeting Date: February 4, 2025 at 5:00 PM

9. Adjourn



**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
5:00 PM**

Note: The December 3, 2024 NRGC meeting will be held both remotely and in-person at City Hall. Instructions for participating in the meeting remotely are provided below.
Instructions for Participating in the Meeting Remotely Via Zoom

Options for Joining the Zoom Meeting:

RECOMMENDED: Use your computer, tablet or smart phone to join the meeting by logging on to:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85456497380?pwd=urJqjRLkQE41csAcREdR8nFyiskbda.1>

- Meeting ID: (854 5649 7380)
Passcode: 443754
- Dial-in Number (to call in to the meeting)
+1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 854 5649 7380

Agenda

1. Call to order **Called by David at 5:04**
2. Roll call: David Husebye (**Present**), Susan Loomis (**Present**), Kim Myhers (**Absent**), Elissa Thompson (**Present**), Cody Kaye (**Present**), Petra Brokken (**Present**), Scott Hafner (**Absent**) and Sven Risom (**Present**)
3. Approval of Agenda for December 3, 2024 meeting and additional agenda items proposed by members. **Motion to approve Sven, Second David. Vote 6-0 Pass.**
4. Approval of Minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting. **Motion to approve Petra, Second David. Vote 6-0 Pass.**
5. Old Business
 - i) Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)/Greenway Corridors – **Greenway trails and open space connection, update plan? Subcommittee for regional trail?**
 - ii) **Belwin Deer Hunt, do we want Katie to come? Deer issue in Afton.**
 - iii) PFAS Update and FAQ's – Ron Moore
 - 1) **MPCA/ DEPT of Health Presentation on PFAS**
 - 2) **Memo to Council from Committee- David to write Memo**
 - iv) Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms
 - 1) Possible PFAS or other testing in future years
 - 2) Possible forum/educational meeting

- v) NRG items for Afton's monthly newsletter
 - 1) Dark sky initiative – Petra for winter **Todd with Starry Skies North- to present Late Jan-March. No Cost.**
 - (a) **Petra to send ordinance examples to Ron**
 - 2) **Community Event with Parks- Homegrown National Park and Outback Nursery. Invasives and Natives.**
 - 3) Invasive species, resources, inspectors -- future
 - 4) Buckthorn removal and post removal re-vegetation for spring
 - 5) Grants for planting – for spring
 - 6) Prescribed burns – future **Connect Belwin, WCD, Parks and LSCFD.**

- vi) Invasive Species Topic – group
 - 1) Invasive plant database
 - 2) Noxious weed inspector => future article

- vii) NRG Management Organization update
 - 1) Washington Conservation District – Elissa
 - (a) **SLB- Send info to committee**
 - (b) **Meadow Ridge Park CPL Grant- City Project- project proposal**
 - (c) **Afton Garden Club- David, Petra, Susan**
 - (d) **Pollinator Pathways Grant**
 - 2) South Washington County Watershed District – Kim
 - 3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization – Susan
 - 4) Valley Branch Watershed District – Scott
 - 5) Washington County Water Consortium – Dave
 - (a) **Tomorrow- Community Garden and buckthorn/water quality.**
 - 6) Belwin – Sven
 - (a) **Deer Count**
 - (b) **Regional trail**
 - (c) **Would like to work with NRG**

- viii) Update on CC and PC Business
 - 3) **Short term rental ordinance- final vote in Dec. allowed in commercial district.**
 - 4) **Cannabis ordinance, required by state law to offer one retail outlet. 500 feet away from public park, allow in industrial zone?**
 - 5) **Stan will be gone the next 3 months**

- ix) Additional agenda items proposed by members

6. Next Meeting Date: January 7, 2025 at 5:00 PM

7. Adjourn **Motion to adjourn Sven, second by Susan. Vote 6-0 Pass.**

December 17, 2024 City Council Meeting Highlights

The Council:

- Approved the 2025 Budget and Tax Levy.
- Approved a variance application to add a garage next to the house at 2451 Stagecoach Tr S.
- Approved an Ordinance to Regulate Cannabis & Hemp Businesses— Ordinance 13-2024.
- Approved an Ordinance Amendment relating to Short Term Home Rentals—Ordinance 14-2024.