



Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2020
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 December 3, 2019 Meeting
5. Old Business
 - A. NRGC Members and Officers for 2020
 - B. Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms 2019 and earlier
 - C. Perflourochemicals (PFC) update
 - D. List of reference items for NRGC
 - E. Wastewater Tour for Community for Spring 2020
 - F. NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter
 - 1) Lawns to Legumes
 - 2) Recycling update
 - 3) Water conservation
 - G. 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
 - H. Update on CC and PC Business - Mayor Palmquist
 - I. Additional agenda items proposed by members
6. Next Meeting Dates to be determined: February 4, March 3 (need to reschedule -Election Day – Presidential Nominating Primary), April 7.
7. Adjourn

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 2019
5:30 PM
Afton City Hall

- 1) Call to order: Chairperson David Husebye called the meeting to order at 5:33.
- 2) Roll call: *The following were in attendance: Bake Baker, Mark Have, David Husebye, Mayor Palmquist, and Valerie Stoehr. Committee member Keith Hoffmann was not in attendance.*
- 3) Approval of Agenda: *The chair made a motion to approve the agenda. Mark seconded; the motion passed 4-0.*
- 4) Approval of Minutes of the November 5, 2019 meeting: *The chair made a motion to approve the minutes; Mark seconded; the motion passed 4-0.*
- 5) Old Business
 - A) Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms 2019 and earlier:
Dave will continue his efforts to consolidate and collate data, especially after the end of 2019. Dave will reach out again to Dr. Peterson (the professor at St. Olaf College) about the data set.
 - B) Perfluorochemicals (PFC) update:
Mayor Palmquist and Barb Ronnigan have delivered the message that Afton wants individual treatment as its strategy, not a community-based treatment option. Afton's goal remains to have money set aside to deal with Afton's treatment issues, but no further information is available at this time. Public hearings are planned to start in January or February. A report is due in December but has not yet been released.
 - C) List of reference items for NRGC:
Dave continues this work and will partner with Councilperson Wroblewski in January.
 - D) Citizen Monitoring
 - (1) Valley Creek Water Clarity Monitoring (completed for 2019):
No update
 - (2) Algae Alert Network for St. Croix River Association (completed for 2019):
No update
 - E) Wastewater tour for community: *Deferred.*
 - F) Budget request for Fiscal Year 2020 for Nitrates and coliform testing by NRGC for Afton:
Budget hearing is on 12/17.
 - G) NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter
 - (1) Lawns to Legumes – *Dave will prepare an article.*

(2) Recycling update – *Mark prepared, was published. The committee believes that further information about this topic would be of interest to the community. To further educate us, Val volunteered to coordinate a tour of the recycling facility when our committee members are in town. Val will report back with more information and options at a subsequent meeting.*

(3) Spotted wing drosophila – *No update*

(4) Water conservation – *No update*

H) NRG Management Organization update

(1) Washington Conservation District—*Dave reports that funds are being dispersed to people in Afton and Denmark Township (among other communities).*

(2) South Washington County Watershed District—*Bake reports there are no updates regarding Afton.*

(3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization—*Dave reports no updates regarding Afton.*

(4) Valley Branch Watershed District—*Mark reports no updates regarding Afton.*

(5) Washington County Water Consortium—*Dave reported on Keith's behalf that there is a Water Consortium meeting 12/4 from 2-4.*

I) Update on CC and PC Business:

- *Mayor Palmquist reports the Council approved rate increases for recycling and hauling trash (fuel costs, wages, dumping fees are up).*
- *The committee expressed interest in knowing how Afton's trash and recycling metrics compare year over year, what our trajectory regarding the percent of recycling versus trash is, etc. Val volunteered to contact Highland Sanitation and attempt to gather information for an article she will write for the city newsletter about this topic.*
- *\$40,000 is available for community-based projects that demonstrate pollinator-friendly plantings. The Chair will add this information to the city newsletter.*
- *Regarding the Carlson project, there have been meetings about excess water and managing it. Plans for assessing how to make improvements are in process. There are related meetings scheduled for 12/4 and 12/17.*

J) Additional agenda items proposed by members: *None.*

6) Next Meeting Date is January 7, 2020. *A quorum is available to attend.*

- *We will not meet in February.*
- *We will meet on March 3, 2020.*

7) Adjourn. *The Chair made a motion to adjourn; Bake seconded; the motion passed 4-0.*

Minutes submitted by Valerie Stoehr, acting secretary.