

**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
5:00 PM**

Note: The February 7, 2023 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/88057211641?pwd=NFZxalJPQlBpY3h2dUFJMJRTbzIrZz09>

- Meeting ID: (880 5721 1641)
Passcode: 069114
- Dial-in Number (to call in to the meeting)
+1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 880 5721 1641

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Roll call: David Husebye, Susan Loomis, Kim Myhers, Jack Kollmer and Elissa Thompson, Cody Kaye
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes of the January 3, 2023
5. Old Business
 - A. Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms
 - 1) Program for 2023
 - B. Perflourochemicals (PFC) update
 - C. List of reference items for NRGC and educational resources for community
 - D. NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter
 - 1) Recycling update
 - 2) Well Testing for 2023
 - 3) VBWD Presentation to NRGC
 - E. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) – Report David Husebye

F. Kelle's Creek Septic System Inspection Program – Report Jack Kollmer

G. NRGCC Management Organization update

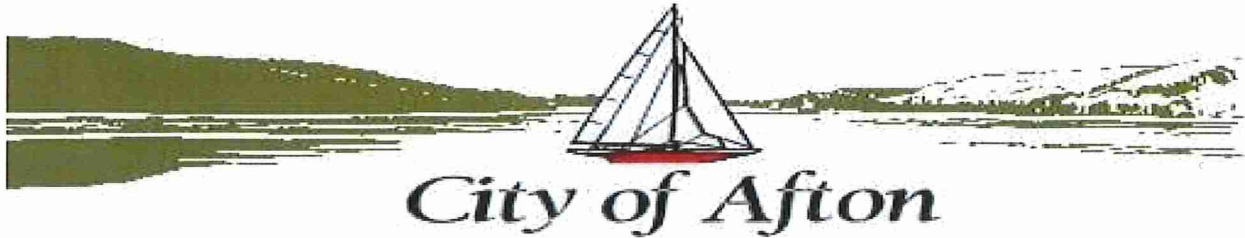
- 1) Washington Conservation District – Elissa Thompson
- 2) South Washington County Watershed District – Kim Myhers
- 3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization – Susan Loomis
- 4) Valley Branch Watershed District – Jack Kollmer
- 5) Washington County Water Consortium – David Husebye

H. Update on CC and PC Business - Mayor Palmquist

I. Additional agenda items proposed by members

6. Next Meeting Date TBD: March 7, 2023?

7. Adjourn



**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2023 5:00 PM**

Note: The January 3, 2023 NRGC meeting will be held both remotely and in-person at City Hall. Instructions for participating in the meeting remotely are provided below.

Member David Husebye will participate remotely via Zoom from the following location:

**5830 Osgood Ave. Ct. S.
Afton, MN 55001**

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/86267455033?pwd=UEtOVnJNeHMvM2puVjQxRlM0b2ttZz09>

- Meeting ID: (862 6745 5033) Passcode: 194710
- Dial-in Number (to call in to the meeting)
+1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 862 6745 5033

Agenda

1. Call to order **2022 Chairperson Dave Husebye called the meeting to order at 5:03.**
2. Roll call: **Mark Have**, David Husebye, Susan Loomis, Kim Myhers, Jack Kollmer and Elissa Thompson, **Cody Kaye. All Present. A Quorum was present. The meeting was held in person, but Dave and Kim joined via ZOOM. Mayor Palmquist was also in attendance.**
3. Approval of Agenda **Motion to approve by Dave, seconded by Susan. The motion carried 5-0, one abstain.**
4. Election of Officers for 2023 **Chair: Jack; Vice Chair: David; Secretary: Elissa- Motion to approve- David, Second- Jack Vote 6-0**
5. Approval of Minutes of the December 6, 2022 **Motion to Approve: Dave; Second, Susan; Vote 5-0, 1 Abstain**
6. Old Business
 - A. Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms
 - 1) Decision of when next to test

- 1 Annual testing for last few years
 - 2 115 sample kits taken, 87 returned; follow-up to increase participation?
- 2) Determine if Funding is Available- Funding typically not an issue for this item

Motion to recommend annual testing 1st Dave, 2nd Jack Vote: 6-0

B. Perflourochemicals (PFC) update -No Updates/No comments

C. List of reference items for NRGC and educational resources for community

- 1) Develop a list for website
 - 1 NRHI
 - 2 Landowner Guide
 - 3 MPCA Water Quality

D. NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter

- 1) Recycling update
 - 1 Kim connected with Sam at R&E Center
 - a Waste Tipping Floor Tour for Committee
 - b Newsletter article written by Sam- Common recycling mistakes?

Motion to follow up with Sam and have them write an article. 1st- Jack, 2nd- Susan Vote 6-0

Newsletter Process: Send to Committee for approval; once approved send to Julie and CC Ron (E-mail addresses on Afton City Website).

E. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

- 1) EOR Report from 2001
- 2) Grant funding available? 1,500.00 in city budget.
- 3) What items should be reviewed/updated
- 4) What, Why, and How is it used?

Motion to have Dave contact EOR for updated pricing. 1st Jack, 2nd Dave. Vote 5-0; 1 abstain.

F. Joint PC/NRGC Meetings from 2022- No update

G. NRGC Management Organization update

- 1) Washington Conservation District Elissa- No update, remind residents of funding available for indigenous plantings
- 2) South Washington County Watershed District- Kim, No update. Elissa to connect Kim and Tony Rondazzo.
- 3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization- Susan- No update, Financial assistance with septic compliance (40% in Washington County have failed)
- 4) Valley Branch Watershed District – Jack- No update
- 5) Washington County Water Consortium- Dave, no Update- No Dec Meeting.

H. Update on CC and PC Business - Mayor Palmquist Solar Panel Update

I. Additional agenda items proposed by members

- 1) Education Plan- Calendar w/ Education Topics/Month. Elissa to put together an electronic Document.

7. Next Meeting Date TBD: February 7, 2023 or March 7, 2023?

Motion February 7th @ 5 PM. 1st Jack, 2nd Cody. Vote 6-0

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. 1st Jack, 2nd Susan. Vote 6-0

Kelle's Creek Septic System Inspection Program

The Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) obtained a State of Minnesota Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant (C15-2471) to develop a voluntary septic system inspection pilot program for all properties located within the Kelle's Creek watershed in Afton, Minnesota. Kelle's Creek does not meet Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) water quality standards. It is classified by the MPCA as impaired, due to high levels of E. coli bacteria—typically associated with human and animal waste. According to a water quality study of Kelle's Creek, one of the primary sources of the E. coli bacteria is noncompliant (failing) septic systems.

With the CWF grant funds, from 2016 through the end of 2018, the VBWD was able to offer FREE septic system inspections (normally \$400–500) to all property owners within the Kelle's Creek watershed to help identify systems that may be polluting Kelle's Creek and shallow groundwater in the area.

Proactive inspection and subsequent improvements to noncompliant systems will have a direct positive effect on the water quality of Kelle's Creek and reduce threats to public health. Based on the TMDL study completed for the Kelle's Creek watershed, there are approximately 160 septic systems within the watershed and based on inspection information from Washington County, as many as 50-60 of these systems could be noncompliant and not adequately treating wastewater. Some of the septic systems (approximately 12 current systems) in the lower portion of the Kelle's watershed

(within Afton village) have been connected to the Afton community septic system. However, there are still many septic systems in the upper portion of the Kelle's Creek watershed that should be inspected.

A complete summary of the program can be found here: [Program Summary](#).

As part of the Kelle's Creek septic system inspection program, 23 septic system inspections were completed. Additionally, approximately 16 inspections completed within the watershed as part of recent home sales were also reviewed. Based on this data, 56% of the septic system inspected within the watershed were non-compliant.

The VBWD established a septic system replacement cost-share program to help offset the potential costs to residents of having to replace or upgrade their systems and incentivize participation in the voluntary inspection program. Ten residents applied to participate in the cost-share program, with nine of the 10 systems being replaced as of the end of the program. The VBWD provided \$36,096 in cost-share funds to Kelle's Creek watershed residents that had noncompliant septic systems.

In addition to reducing bacterial pollutant loading to Kelle's Creek, replacing noncompliant septic systems can reduce nutrient loading to downstream resources. According to the University of Minnesota Extension Onsite Sewage Treatment Program Septic System Improvement Estimator, the replaced SSTS will prevent 3.17×10^{14} CFU of bacteria per year from reaching the groundwater in the Kelle's Creek watershed (Heger 2013). Nutrient loading will also be reduced to Kelle's Creek and Lake St. Croix, which is located immediately downstream from Kelle's Creek and is impaired for excess nutrients. Replacement of the noncompliant septic systems is estimated to have resulted in the removal of approximately 46 pounds of total phosphorus and 80 pounds of nitrogen per year from groundwater that is potentially discharging to the creek.

| Grant Budget Summary (through end of grant 12/28/2018) | | |
|---|----------------------|--|
| Funding Source | Budget Amount | Amount Spent through 12/28/2018 |
| | | |

| | | |
|--|----------|-------------|
| CWF Grant Funds | \$48,000 | \$38,535.54 |
| VBWD Match Funds | \$12,000 | \$10,772.32 |
| Total Project | \$60,000 | \$49,307.86 |
| VBWD Septic System Replacement Cost-Share Funds | | \$36,096.25 |

For more information related to septic system ordinances and inspections, see the following:

Washington County Septic System Program:

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/618/Septic>

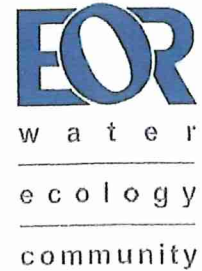
Washington County Development Code for Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Regulations:

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/90/Chapter4?bidId=>

University of Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Program:

<https://septic.umn.edu/>





March 1, 2020

Bake ~~Bakeman~~ *Baker*
City of Afton
Sent via email: bbafton@gmail.com

Subject: Afton NRI Update

Dear Mr. ~~Bakeman~~: *Baker*

Thank you for contacting EOR with your interest in updating the City of Afton Natural Resources Inventory. As you know, EOR completed the original work in the early 2000's. As nearly two decades have past, an update to the past work is recommended. From our phone conversation, EOR has compiled a list of tasks and estimated fees.

- A. Evaluation of Existing/Most Current GIS data and build a GIS layer containing most up-to-date and thorough information available integrating detailed knowledge of the city from our prior work. (20 hours). Estimated Fee= \$2,300
- B. Update historic landcover data using remote sensing (40 hours). Estimated Fee = \$4,300
 - a. Update landcover using contemporary aerial photography
 - b. Add layer to web map
 - c. Provide data analysis memo on land use changes, trends and areas/resources of interest
- C. Create Natural Resources Inventory (112 hours). Estimated Fee = \$12,500
 - a. Field inventory of notable areas of change (i.e. changes in development, high quality natural areas) – max of 24 hrs field time assumed.
 - b. Assess trends in landuse changes, invasive species trends/changes, etc.
 - c. Establish priority resource management objectives
 - d. Provide quality ranking for natural areas
- D. Build a web-based map to view existing data (40 hours). Estimated Fee = \$4,300
 - a. Develop an interactive web map to display the updated GIS data.
 - b. Additional features, maintenance and hosting can be discussed based on preferences.

We look forward to continuing conversations with you about this natural resources work. As your conversations progress at the city level, please let us know what additional information you need to develop a refined scope of work and fee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. R. Naber', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason R. Naber
Sr. Partner- Natural Resources Team Lead

Kelle's Creek

message

John P. Hanson <JHanson@barr.com>
to: "jack.kollmer1@gmail.com" <jack.kollmer1@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:30 PM

Mr. Kollmer,

Last night, you requested information on Kelle's Creek's water quality. VBWD has been monitoring Kelle's Creek and other waters for years. We analyze the data and publish annual reports each spring. Last year's report is posted on the District's website here: https://cms6.revize.com/revize/vbwd/reports/water_quality/docs/2021%20VBWD%20Monitoring%20Report.pdf Information on Kelle's Creek starts on page 31 of the report (page 35 of the PDF) in Section 3.3.2. 2021 monitoring results indicate that the creek continues to be impaired for E. coli.

I'll put on the agenda for the 2/26 your request for a presentation to the Afton Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee. I'll also copy and forward your CAC application to the Managers so that they can officially add you to the CAC at the next meeting.

Thanks,

John

John P. Hanson, PE

Valley Branch Watershed District Engineer

Barr Engineering Co. | [4300 MarketPointe Drive](https://www.barr.com) | [Bloomington, MN 55435](https://www.barr.com)

office: 952.832.2622 | cell: 612.590.1785

JHanson@barr.com | www.barr.com | www.vbwd.org

resourceful. naturally.

