



City of Afton

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)

**Agenda
Wednesday, April 20, 2016
6:30 PM**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of minutes from Feb. 17 and March 16**
- 5. Business**
 - A. NRGC work plan for 2016 (select and determine next steps)
 1. Well Testing
 2. Park Dedication
 3. Conservation Farming Practices
 - B. Natural Resources and Groundwater Management Organizations updates
 - C. General Resource and groundwater information sharing
- 6. Adjournment**

Present: Jill, Sondra, Jack, Richard, Mark and new member- Annie Perkins.

Introductions

Approval of agenda

Approval of minutes.

Review of well testing plan

2 documents sent out by Keith after his meeting with Washington County:

Comments on proposal- Should this program be expanded to areas outside of the old village?

Maybe a phase 2?

DNR program was mentioned.

The DNR does well testing to monitor areas around Afton, residential wells can volunteer to include their wells in the testing- toxicity testing as well as for aquifer drawdown.

Future project? Well database for the city of Afton.

Action Item for committee: accept well testing proposal, present to city council at the work plan meeting with the Council in March.

Mark: If we want to get the study going this spring, how will the construction in the village and the growing season affect our project? Is this too much of a task to take on for this spring?

Richard suggests: Small and meaningful study. Include a limited but regular number of testing sites.

Cost comes into question.

Action item: Mark will talk to Keith and have him clarify questions we have on the proposal and the meeting and see where the county is on an action with this proposal. He will reach out to Stephanie Souter if all questions are not answered.

Action item: Final draft of Keith's proposal. Annie and Susan are going to rewrite the well water testing proposal into a final draft.

Management Organization- updates.

Update on council actions from Richard

Subdivision/park dedication/higher quality land in Afton

Greenway trails.

Action item: educate ourselves on this process- so in the future we can make a recommendation to the council.

Motion to adjourn.

**City of Afton
Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee**

**First Year Summary
2015**

Committee Members: Mayor Richard Bend, Jill Chezik (Chair), Perry Eggers, Mark Have, Keith Hoffman, Jack Kollmer (Vice-Chair), Sondra Larson (Secretary), Susan Windsor

The Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) was established by Afton's City Council. The first meeting was held on April 22, 2015; monthly meetings were held thereafter. Being a new committee, time was needed for committee members to become familiar with the workings of the City of Afton as well as other resources and organizations that impact Afton.

So far, the NRGC has:

- Written and published two education articles in the City of Afton Newsletter. The first was how to control invasive plant species, published in the Nov., 2015 newsletter. The second was how the Large Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (LSTS) for the Old Village works; published in the Dec., 2015 newsletter.
- Assigned committee members to attend meetings of the following natural resources and groundwater management organizations:
 - Valley Branch Watershed District (Mark Have)
 - Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization (Sondra Larson)
 - South Washington Watershed District, Citizen Advisory Committee (Jill Chezik)
 - Washington County Water Consortium (Keith Hoffman and Perry Eggers)
 - Washington Conservation District (Susan Windsor)

Committee members attended meetings and workshops, reporting back to the NRGC pertinent information; especially as it relates to Afton.

Ideas for 2016

- Water quality well testing program - demonstrate the positive effect of the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) on the quality of the well water within the Old Village. Also, test individual well water throughout the entire city to insure the overall health and welfare of Afton residents.
- The committee could recommend that park dedication for large parcels be strategically aligned with wildlife corridors or other conservation goals as parcels become available. Park dedication fee could be taken as a percentage of land titled to Afton rather than taking cash, as is often done now.
- Recommend conservation farming practices, especially as related to erosion and chemical groundwater contamination for educational purposes.

Submitted by Jill Chezik

VBWD meeting notes:

Please forward to NR&GW committee members:

Tara Kline, Wash. Conserv. Dist., summarized projects. Two of the 45 projects were in the Kelles Creek watershed; these included rain-garden construction and eliminating buckthorn and restoring prairie. Buckthorn were eliminated by cutting and then killing the stumps with chemicals.

Barr Engineering's annual report, 2015 Water Quality Monitoring Results, shows Lake Edith improved in phosphorus, transparency, and chlorophyll; for the most recent 10-year period, statistically significant trends show improved water quality for transparency and total phosphorus.

Beavers, busy like they're supposed to be, have been damming Valley Creek. The exact location was unknown but it's somewhere between Trading Post and the mouth. TRAPPERS WELCOME!! [The City Office has the contact information for residents needing to have trappers remove beavers.]-ksl

mark