

**SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET**

**From:** "Sorensen, Jenifer (DNR)" <jenifer.sorensen@state.mn.us>  
**Date:** June 13, 2016 at 4:20:59 PM CDT  
**To:** mayor <mayor@ci.afton.mn.us>  
**Cc:** "Bonsignore, Regina (DNR)" <Regina.Bonsignore@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee

Mayor Bend –

I've spoken with Gina Bonsignore, our regional planner, and she has agreed to facilitate both a small working group meeting and a meeting with the City of Afton's Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC). We thought that a 2 hour meeting would be the minimum length and we could go up to 3 hours if you think that much time is needed.

Here is a list of possible dates/times that both Gina and I have available:

- Tuesday, June 28, 1 – 4 pm
- Wednesday, June 29, available all day
- Thursday, June 30, 1 – 4 pm
- Wednesday, July 6, 1 – 4 pm
- Wednesday, July 13, 9 am – 12 pm
- Friday, July 15, 9 am – 12 pm

To summarize what you and I have discussed as far as the purpose of these meetings and who would be attending:

- Afton's NRGC was set up last year. The Committee is figuring out their role within City government and could benefit from a focused discussion on how to prioritize key issues. There are conservation overlay districts in the City that need monitoring and enforcement – this may be one of their roles. There is also a need for the NRGC to get involved in long-term planning.
- One role the NRGC is engaged in now is that it is reviewing subdivision applications, and the City is receiving more subdivision applications as of late. Right now, property is dedicated to the City within subdivisions for park dedication, rather than for fee. The NRGC is interested in exploring fees rather than land dedication, for the development of wildlife corridors and for the protection of steep slopes. This has created some tension between the NRGC and the Parks Committee.
- For the first meeting (small working group), you plan to include four people:
  - Chair of the Planning Commission (the Planning Commission has primary responsibility for amendments to the City's comprehensive plan)
  - A person from the Parks Committee
  - Chair of the NRGC
  - Mayor Bend
- The purpose for first meeting (small working group) is to generate ideas for the facilitated meeting with the NRGC. At the first meeting, you suggested we discuss:
  - Ideas for topics for the NRGC to study further
  - Areas of focus for NRGC activities
  - Relationship of the NRGC to other City Committees

Please get back to Gina and me with a date/time that will work for the meeting and we'll start prepping for the meeting.

Thanks –

Jen

**Jenifer Sorensen**, PE, PhD – East Metro Area Hydrologist (Ramsey and Washington Counties)  
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**From:** mayor [<mailto:mayor@ci.afton.mn.us>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 04, 2016 12:52 PM  
**To:** Sorensen, Jenifer (DNR)  
**Subject:** RE: Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee

Jenifer,

Your suggestion of a DNR facilitated meeting with Afton's Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee is an excellent one. The committee meets at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of each month. The meeting on March 16th will be a joint meeting with the City Council to plan the NRGW's annual agenda, if sufficient members of the CC are available. Availability is currently being checked. If the DNR is interested in participating in this joint meeting, which may or may not be on the 16th, let me know. I will keep you posted on the scheduling of that meeting.

If that meeting is not of interest, any subsequent meeting, or the regular meeting on March 16th if it is not a joint meeting, would be possible.

Sorry to be late getting back you. Call me any time to discuss this or any other subject. 651-436-7684 or 612-865-0262 (cell)

Best,

Richard

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**From:** Sorensen, Jenifer (DNR) [[jenifer.sorensen@state.mn.us](mailto:jenifer.sorensen@state.mn.us)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2016 6:44 PM  
**To:** mayor; Ron Moore  
**Cc:** Stenquist, Brian C (DNR); Bonsignore, Regina (DNR)  
**Subject:** Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee

Mayor Bend –

I had a chance to sit down with City Administrator Ron Moore last fall and discuss the Afton Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee and ways to assist the Committee as they move forward. The City has looked at what the Natural Resources Commission did when it was active, but the NRGW Committee has really only just begun to think about its new role and what its priorities will be. For example, the City's Comprehensive Plan will be updated in the near future and figuring out the Committee's role during the update is important. When we met last summer, you expressed an interest in having DNR speak to the Committee.

As I've thought more about setting up a meeting between DNR and the Committee, I'd like to suggest that DNR facilitate a meeting of the Committee to discuss key natural resource issues in Afton and prioritize ways that the Committee can assist City Council with reviews, input, and technical understanding. I think the main natural resource discussed would be water resources (surface and groundwater), but we could touch on other concerns as well.

Is this something that you would be interested in for the Committee? I had a chance to visit with Committee member Mark Have today (he called to discuss sources of groundwater quality data) and discussed this idea briefly with him as well – he seemed receptive. Please let me know what you think and if you're interested, we can discuss further and start planning a meeting agenda.

Thanks –

Jen

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