



# *City of Afton*

## **Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)**

### **Agenda**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

**6:00 PM**

**(Please Note Later Start Time)**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. Meeting Minutes from the August 1, 2017 NRGC meeting**
  - B. Meeting Minutes from the September 5, 2017 NRGC meeting**
- 5. Business**
  - A. Update on CC & PC Business – Council Member Palmquist**
  - B. Well Testing Update**
  - C. Work Plan for 2017**
  - D. Natural Resources and Groundwater Management Organizations Update**
- 6. Adjourn**

**City of Afton**

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)

Wednesday, 2017 *meeting minutes*

1. **Call to Order** – 5:11 Jack calling to order
2. **Roll Call**

Susan Winsor	x			Mark Have	x
Jack Kollmer	x	Annie Perkins	x	Keith Hoffmann	x
Bill Palmquist	x	Bake Bakker		Perry Eggers	x

3. **Approval of Agenda** – Jack interject a new 5a – election of Chair and others if needed. Perry wants to add a proposal item. Jack added as new item “H”. Susan makes motion to approve amended agenda, AP seconded. All voted in favor for new agenda.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. Meeting minutes from May 2, 2017. Mark motions to approve minutes; Perry approved. All in favor.
5. **Business:**
  - a. May Bend resign. Perry nominated Jack as Chair. Susan seconded. Jack not opposed. Jack accepts and all voted yes. Need vice Chair. Mark nominated Annie Perkins, Perry seconded. All voted in favor.
    - i. Need to vote in a new Secretary. Susan suggested all members rotate shifts taking notes. She also suggested recording the discussion. Jack volunteers to research that possibility with the City. Susan makes a motion to record. Jack seconds the motion. All voted yes to rotate Secretary duties.
    - ii. Jack has a lead for a new member. He spoke with the Mayor and Ron M.; candidate will go through process of applying. That way we’ll have 8 members and 5 is a quorum. Currently, we have 7 members with 4 as a quorum.
  - b. Development of template for future PLCD review. Mark H:
    - i. Mark passed out a template and explained its origination. Mark pitched first draft; Bake made revisions/improvements. Document describes the reason for worksheet; goes through all aspects of land (“Land Use”); developer needs to address each, utilizing the left side of table; NRGC makes comments to the right column. Annie suggested a formatting edit to page 3 – to align with other pages, place the description outside of text box, leaving the box open for developers’ response. Also, suggestion made (AP) to add clarity stating “Developers response”. Susan suggested add rate of flow assumptions to page 6, #2. Also, page 2, top item, add 12% to the blank “over\_\_%”; also, on page 1, 4<sup>th</sup> bullet – “unit locations”, what is a unit? We think it’s referencing the ANRI items. The

Conservation District Overlay map be actually plotted out over the proposed development map so all can see the true overlap. Keith commented – last item on page 10 should be omitted as the NRGC is not the proper forum for their comments. Adjacent landowners already have the opportunity during all subsequent public meetings. Susan – page 10, top, include specific HOA covenants and the means for enforcement.

- ii. Jack suggests Mark and Bake make recommended edits and bring next iteration to our next NRGC Sept. meeting.
- c. Well Testing update – Keith, total of the two event samplings Oct and June were 100.
  - i. There were 39 samples submitted out of 61 issued. Keith will submit a notification in the newsletter for folks to return the unused sample kits.
  - ii. Discussion to offer another sampling in the fall. It could be predicted how it might shake out, based on previous sampling results.
- d. Comprehensive Plan Update –
  - i. Ron referenced October notes. Mayor, Susan and Annie were to meet on Resilience. Per meeting minutes from Susan: the Mayor felt strongly that the residents feel strong about connecting to nature...and want self-resiliency. (see those notes from meeting minutes). Committee discussed resiliency and sustainability and how we may want to insert language to be considered for the updated Comp. Plan.
  - ii. Jack suggested a mandatory well testing program
  - iii. Annie suggested reviewing our aspects of the Comp. Plan and identify gaps specific to water and natural resources.
  - iv. Identify goals that should be included in the Comp. Plan – pertinent to our group (water and natural resources).
  - v. Bill suggested door to door for involvement for water quality issues/well testing.
  - vi. Jack suggests we all read NRGC sections and come back to next meeting with recommendations.
- e. Jack makes a motion to table other agenda items due to time constraints; Perry and Annie second it. Keith suggests one item per meeting. Annie and Keith suggest placing time slots on agenda.
  - i. Keith presented some articles. Meeting time had expired.
- f. Susan will finish notes. Annie needs to leave.
- g. Jack adjourns. Susan suggests everyone read all info prior to meeting.

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Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)

Wednesday, 2017 *meeting minutes*

1. **Call to Order** – 5:00 Jack calling to order
2. **Roll Call**

Susan Winsor	x			Mark Have	x
Jack Kollmer	x	Annie Perkins	x	Keith Hoffmann	x
Bill Palmquist	x	Bake Bakker	x	Perry Eggers	x

3. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion by Susan to approve agenda, seconded by Perry. Approved by all.
4. **Approval of August Meeting Minutes**
  - a. Deferred until next meeting due to lack of minutes being sent prior to meeting.
5. **Business:**
  - a. Perry – biggest role of our committee is to protect our water (surface and ground). Says developers only care about the bottom line (dollar). Says development in the pristine area as proposed critically threatens the pristine trout brook creek, all springs and the aquafer, which in turn negatively affects water quality.
    - i. Says development should be 1,000 feet from the stream.
    - ii. Groundwater recharge zone
    - iii. Jack says the land is unsuitable for septic. Says perk test likely won't pass. So an alternative mound system would likely need to be implemented. Rain events will negatively affect mound systems, resulting in system leaching into stream, and ultimately having detrimental to the St. Croix.
  - b. Council Member Palmquist update –
    - i. Safe Harbor Color List being updated (Lower St. Croix Mgt Committee – Nat'l Park, DNR)
    - ii. Vehicle noise did not pass
    - iii. Septic system in the level will be up and working shortly
    - iv. Comp Plan – moving ahead. Barb to give us further update
  - c. Submittal to NRGWC for vote: Template for Review of Future Subdivisions & PLCD's – intent of document is for NRGWC to house all comments, and recommendations, of said proposal.
    - i. Susan reminded us of her request to address rain flow amounts.
    - ii. Bake asked if we're still planning to develop a checklist for future proposed developments; intent to minimize amount of times a proposed developer addresses NRGWC. The document is mainly for our internal use.

- iii. Keith – recommends we send our document to the Planning Committee and Council to proof if we’re working within our scope and/or not duplicating work already addressed by another committee, and not missing any key components.
- iv. Summary of edits following:

I am forwarding the worksheet that Mark Have, Keith Hoffmann and Bake Baker have developed for the review of PLCD-type major subdivisions. A summary of suggestions/questions from the August NRGC meeting and Mark’s respective changes are listed below. These will be discussed at the September 5 NRGC meeting.

Page 1. Some wondered what a landscape unit is. I didn’t define it on the worksheet, but it’s a spatial term that encompasses a homogenous ecological area. I deleted the sentence that begins, " \*The city’s conservation....." It seems that this is a reminder to the council to amend the city’s conservancy overlay ordinance, and doesn’t really belong on the worksheet.

Page 1. Plot conservancy overlays. I think the last item on page 1 implies that conservancy areas will be shown (plotted) on the site-plan map.

Page 2. Use 12% when talking slope protection. 12% on the first line is inserted.

Page 3. The headings, "Land Use and NRGC Comments", shouldn’t be in boxes. They are no longer in boxes, which makes it consistent with other headings.

Page 6. For stormwater control, describe how finite storm events affect site. I changed text accordingly.

Page 10. Developer should submit covenants and explain enforcement. I changed heading accordingly.

Page 10. Delete “Adjacent Property Owner Input”. It’s deleted.

Keith made motion to pass; Mark seconded. Bake clarified that we pass along to Planning Committee for input/feedback. Document passed with above edits.

- d. Well Testing Update – Shooting for November for repeat test samples. Should be a Tuesday in the middle of Nov. Keith – MN Dept of Health well testing newsletter – 11% of all wells in MN exceed acceptable levels of arsenic. Scandia has high levels of lead. This report supports current and increased well testing in Afton. We’re currently only testing for nitrates. Bake asked if we have a scatter gram to help identify trends. Keith said we are working on such a map. Mark states every section and ward is represented. 50 new people (data points) participated in our recent testing. Mark said another option

is to have the MN Ag folks come in and test in City Hall as they have done in the past for us. This would test Nitrates. This would be free. If we went that route, we may be able to free up money and use those funds to test for other contaminants. Barb Ronning suggests we reach out to the county to seek add'l data points from them for all newly drilled wells.

- e. Comprehensive Plan Review Status – Jack reminded us that we formed a sub-committee, but failed to make progress. Now, Jack has asked us to review the com plan and bring feedback regarding what to add.
  - i. Keith – increase resource recovery recycling. Jack states page 53 includes waste plan. Interested in mandating recycling.
  - ii. Barb – update re: com plan in planning committee. They assigned a chapter to each member to review. Revision drafts should be in their packet by this Monday. Some revisions re: environment and energy. Bonnie Power, members of Climate Change Lobby. She will be explaining how energy should be included in the com plan. The Planning Committee would welcome feedback and input from NRGWC regarding this revision. Working on an environmental scorecard (goal), to put this in the com plan – the intent to work on this. Also, leading up to 2008 revisions, we had a lot of public inputs. This revision is not as major, therefor not as many public meetings. The 2010 is the current com plan. Most recent revisions should be posted on the website later this week. Bake asking if there are any external pressures from the Met Council. Barbara said there isn't.
  - iii. Jack assigning resiliency language to be written – Annie – Reference notes from August minutes re: the Mayor's notes.
  - iv. Jack addressing septic topic and addressing fire department's suggestions on road development related to comp plan. Roadways. Susan asks where the teeth behind our goals are.
  - v. Mark – in order to understand our hydrology better – that we stay engaged with the DNR and South Washington County Conservation District and Valley Creek Conservation District, and others. Likely there are resources available for us to benefit from.
  - vi. Susan – big on soils. We have many great resources but would be very beneficial to have them combined all into one GIS file so we can easily see all resources, city natural assets, all together. Would make it easier to review future proposed developments. Jack suggests Susan discuss with Ron M. and Mayor.
  - vii. Jack – **ALL RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RON MOORSE BY SEPT. 26.** Jack to alert Ron to also forward submitted comments to the Planning Committee.
- f. Jack – due to time constraints, table rest of agenda until next meeting. Seconded by Perry. Passed.
- g. Proposed to adjourn; passed.