

**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 2022
5:00 PM**

Note: Due to the Covid-19 Virus the November 1, 2022 NRGC meeting will be held remotely using the Zoom video conference application. 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/86927855276?pwd=elRxajdTSVU2MGh6ZXhDcTlyYWROQT09>

- Meeting ID: (869 2785 5276)
Passcode: 485929
- Dial-in Number (to call in to the meeting)
+1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 869 2785 5276

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Roll call: Mark Have, David Husebye, Susan Loomis, Kim Myhers, Jack Kollmer and Elissa Thompson
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes of the August 2, 2022 Meeting
5. Welcome New Members
6. Old Business
 - A. Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms 2022
 - B. Planning Commission and NRGC Meeting on Groundwater Protection Efforts and Priorities (meeting date was 10/24/2022)
 - C. Perflourochemicals (PFC) update
 - D. List of reference items for NRGC
 - E. NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter
 - 1) Recycling update
 - 2) Well testing

F. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

G. NRGCC Management Organization update

- 1) Washington Conservation District
- 2) South Washington County Watershed District
- 3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization
- 4) Valley Branch Watershed District
- 5) Washington County Water Consortium

H. Citizen Monitoring

- 1) Valley Creek Water Clarity Monitoring
- 2) Algae Alert Network for St. Croix River Association

I. Update on CC and PC Business - Mayor Palmquist

J. Additional agenda items proposed by members

7. New Business

A. Community forest program at WCD (with Americorps member for year)

8. Next Meeting Date TBD: Tuesday, December 6 or ??

9. Adjourn

DRAFT

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

5:00 PM

- 1) Call to order: Chairperson David Husebye called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM
- 2) ROLL CALL: Mark Have, David Husebye, Kim Meyers. Jack Kollmer was an excused absence. A quorum was present. The meeting was held virtually via ZOOM. ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Palmquist.
- 3) Approval of Agenda. Motion / Second by Myhers / Have to approve the agenda for the August 2, 2022 NRGC Meeting. The motion passed 3-0.
- 4) Approval of Minutes. Motion / Second by Husebye / Meyers to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022 Meeting. The motion carried 3-0.
- 5) Old Business
 - i) Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms 2022. Dave and Mark reviewed the 2022 process. The newsletter for July included the announcement. Some 110 test kits were sent to residents, but there were more requests (some after the deadline). Results are to be sent directly to residents, some 14 had positive coliform results with the July 19 collection. Some 55 samples were returned on July 19, and some 27 were returned on July 26. It is possible more were returned directly to the County. Complete results have not been received yet. A flow sheet of the process for the testing program has been created with further corrections to be made, and is to be included with the minutes.
 - ii) Perfluorochemicals (PFC) update. Mayor Palmquist provided an update. He noted the acceptable threshold level has recently been lowered, and this is creating some issues. When dropping off water samples for well testing a number of residents had questions on the PFC issue. It was reviewed any requests for measuring PFC levels for homeowners is done thru the MDH.
 - iii) List of reference items for NRGC. Some additions to this list were discussed at different times in the meeting.
 - iv) Wastewater Tour for Community. Reviewed this was planned for 2020, but never took place. This might be possible for 2023, but will need to be considered and planned.
 - v) NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter. This process was reviewed, but no actions were taken.
 - (1) Recycling update, noted Highland Sanitation may be contributing to Afton's website on some of these issues.
 - (2) Water conservation
 - (3) Well testing now and into the future
 - vi) Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). No new update. Dave noted former NRGC member Bake Baker was involved in this. Dave will try to reach out to him.
 - vii) NRGC Management Organization update. It was noted people could go to meetings, but usually the Agendas and Minutes were reviewed.
 - (1) Washington Conservation District. Dave reported no new updates.
 - (2) South Washington County Watershed District. No new update, Kim noted a meeting will take place next week.

(3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization. Dave contacted Councilmember Perkins who reports no new updates.

(4) Valley Branch Watershed District. There are ongoing monitoring efforts on Valley Creek (3 sites), Kelle's Creek and other bodies of water. Currently Afton does not directly monitor this.

(5) Washington County Water Consortium. Mark reported no new update, and will continue to monitor.

viii) Citizen Monitoring

(1) Valley Creek Water Clarity Monitoring. Mark explained the process and reported he continues to do weekly monitoring. A yearly summary is published, and Mark will forward this reference to the NRGCC.

(2) Algae Alert Network for St. Croix River Association. Dave reported this will continue again this year on a more limited basis.

ix) Update on CC and PC Business. Mayor Palmquist provided an update. He noted the Ag Preservation Committee has been meeting.

x) Additional agenda items. No new items.

6) New business

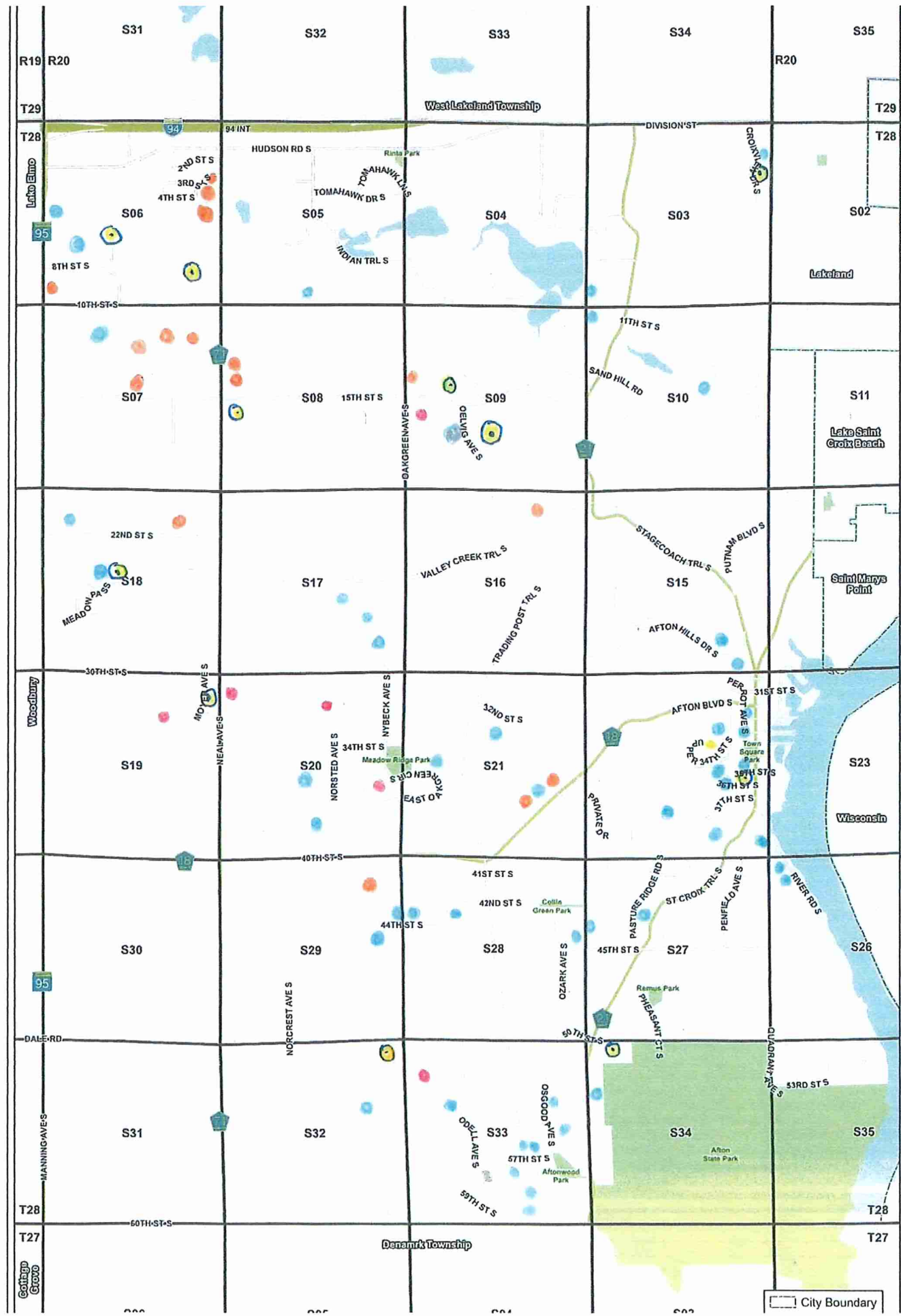
i) Citizen Concerns

Dave reported he had received a list of concerns from a resident of Afton that they wished would be reviewed at this meeting. Concerns about the use of Roundup and other chemicals including lawn chemicals by residents was expressed. It was noted that Afton uses limited amounts now, and at times it is necessary (as for example around guardrails on County roads). Some use is needed for control of invasive species. Concerns about excessive water use by Woodbury and Bailey nurseries was raised. There are monitoring wells in Afton and this is being followed by the DNR. The DNR is the permitting body for the request for a permit to use large amounts of ground water. There was concern raised by one resident that no monitoring was being done on the waterways of Afton. It was reviewed that routine monitoring is being done, especially for Valley Creek and Kelle's Creek. Mark noted a report comes out yearly, and referenced the most recent report: "2021 VBWD Water Quality Monitoring Results" which showed multiple tests on Valley Creek and Kelle's Creek. Concerns included PFCs, and was noted above.

7) Next Meeting Date: Tuesday October 4 at 5:00 PM

8) Adjourn. Motion / Second by Husebye / Husebye. The motion passed 3-0. The meeting ended at 6:07 PM.

Minutes submitted by David Husebye, acting as secretary.



Well nitrates 7/2022

Legend

- < 2.0
- $2.0 - 5.0$
- $5.0 - 10.0$
- ≥ 10.0

City Boundary