



# City of Afton

## Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting Tuesday, November 12, 2024 5:00 PM

**Note: The November 12, 2024 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/82439755829?pwd=ZhpsxIHqNzOpjJWx5Ycn2PgUrZmhqt.1>

- Meeting ID: (824 3975 5829)  
Passcode: 623766
- Dial-in Number (to call in to the meeting)  
+1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 824 3975 5829

## Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Roll call: David Husebye, Susan Loomis, Kim Myhers, Elissa Thompson, Cody Kaye, Petra Brokken, Scott Hafner and Sven Risom
3. Approval of Agenda for November 12, 2024 meeting and additional agenda items proposed by members.
4. Approval of Minutes of the October 1, 2024 meeting.
5. Old Business
  - i) Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms
    - 1) Possible PFAS or other testing in future years
  - ii) NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter
    - 1) Well Testing for 2024 – Final report for 2024 in September, maps to follow in November
    - 2) Dark sky initiative – Petra for winter
    - 3) Invasive species, resources, inspectors
    - 4) Buckthorn removal and post removal re-vegetation
    - 5) Grants for planting – for spring
    - 6) Prescribed burns

iii) Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) – Sven

iv) Invasive Species Topic – group

- 1) Invasive plant database
- 2) Noxious weed inspector => future article

v) NRGCC Management Organization update

- 1) Washington Conservation District – Elissa
- 2) South Washington County Watershed District – Kim
- 3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization – Susan
- 4) Valley Branch Watershed District – Scott
- 5) Washington County Water Consortium – Dave
- 6) Belwin - Sven

vi) Update on CC and PC Business

vii) Additional agenda items proposed by members

6. New Business

- i) Gardening Opportunities

7. Next Meeting Date: December 3, 2024 at 5:00 PM

8. Adjourn

## DRAFT MINUTES

October 1, 2024 at 5:00PM

- 1) Call to order at 5:03 by David
- 2) Roll call: David Husebye (present), Susan Loomis(present), Kim Meyers(present), Elissa Thompson(excused), Cody Kaye(present), Petra Brokken(present), Scott Hafner(present) and Sven Risom(present)
- 3) Approval of Agenda for October 1, 2024 meeting and additional items proposed by members. Motion to approve by Sven, second by Scott. Vote 7-0; motion passes.
- 4) Approval of Minutes September 3, 2024. Motion to approve by Scott, second by Kim. Vote 7-0; motion passes.
- 5) Old Business
  - i) Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms
    - (1) Final report on 2024 data—Dave
    - (2) 2024 graphic data presentation issue was reviewed.
    - (3) Possible PFAS or other testing in future years. Scott reviewed possible options that he is exploring looking at testing other compounds (PFCs and other volatile compounds).
  - ii) NRGC items for Afton’s monthly newsletter
    - (1) Well Testing for 2024—Final report for 2024 in September, maps to follow in November
    - (2) Dark sky initiative—Petra for winter
    - (3) Invasive species, resources, inspectors
    - (4) Buckthorn removal and post removal re-vegetation
    - (5) Grants for planting—for spring
    - (6) Prescribed burns
  - iii) Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) –Sven reports no new information
  - iv) Invasive Species Topic—group
    - (1) Invasive plant database
    - (2) Noxious weed inspector => future article
  - v) Met Council Metro Area Water Supply and Water Policy for Public Comment and Feedback. Topic was briefly reviewed and discussed. No comments were to be forwarded.
  - vi) NRGC Management Organization update
    - (1) Washington Conservation District—Elissa no update
    - (2) South Washington County Watershed District—Kim noted Trout Brook Celebration upcoming.
    - (3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization—Susan reported.
    - (4) Valley Branch Watershed District—Scott reported.
    - (5) Washington County Water Consortium—Dave reported no meeting for October.
    - (6) Belwin—after discussion on adding this to our list, Sven agreed to follow Belwin.
  - vii) Update on CC and PC Business—Councilmember Ross discussed speeding and noise issues, short term rental and moratorium, future road renovations for 2025, perhaps 2026.
  - viii) Additional agenda items proposed by members
- 6) Next Meeting Date: November 12, 2024 at 5:00 PM
- 7) Adjourn. Motion by Scott, second by Sven. Vote 7-0; motion passes, meeting adjourned at 6:20.

**From:** Elissa Thompson <EThompson@mnwcd.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2024 8:19 AM  
**To:** Ron Moorse <rmoorse@ci.afton.mn.us>  
**Subject:** NRGWC items to share

Ron,

Can you please share these items with the NRGWC for the Nov agenda.

I wanted to share that our well, at 2421 Stagecoach trail, tested positive for PFAS and would encourage you all to get yours tested (and to encourage your neighbors) if you have not or have not done so this year with the new PFAS level standards. It's important to know so you can take the appropriate steps to mitigate your personal water supply, but it's also important from a city-wide level so the PFAS plume can be tracked as it moves within the aquifer. We tested in 2021 as well and did not show PFAS above the limits. This year it took us 6 months to get results and we are starting the process of getting the Carbon filter from the settlement; this will take 4-5 months. Our bottled water service (also paid for by the settlement) has begun.

I attended the PFAS presentation given by Kris Hansen at Afton Museum and here are some of my key takeaways from the presentation.

1. The best filters (only filters) for removing PFAS are reverse osmosis and activated carbon filters. <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/water-filter-fact-sheet.pdf>
2. PFAS has a half-life of 4 years (the time required to decrease by half) and is cumulative in your body. 80 % of the world's population and 97% of Americans have tested positive for PFAS in their blood... it is everywhere!
3. Throw away all your microwave popcorn immediately! The lining of the bag is a main source of PFAS and when heated leaks into the popcorn... you are then just eating PFAS.
4. There is PFAS in many popular brand dental flosses – it's what makes the floss glide so well, but there are currently dental flosses on the market that don't contain PFAS. Here's an article about it: <https://www.consumerreports.org/toxic-chemicals-substances/dental-floss-without-pfas-and-other-harmful-chemicals-a9722832754/>
5. PFAS have been linked to chronic diseases, cancers, premature births, and other conditions. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html>
6. Largest exposure is from drinking water, the best way to protect yourself is to get your well tested. If you test positive the 3M settlement dollars will pay for drinking water until a filtration system is installed in your home, also through the settlement.
7. Amara's law goes into effect in 2025; <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news-and-stories/2023-pfas-legislative-action#:~:text=Amara's%20Law%2C%20PFAS%20non%2Dessential,reporting%20on%20PFAS%20in%20products>

Sign up for testing here: [Well sampling in the east metro area | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Testing data and affected wells can be found

here; <https://mpca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=4ab8c82e20c24182b56f6b608d42a602&extent=-93.1182,44.8076,-92.7378,44.9861>

The most recent dots are not showing up yet, mine is not on there, but hopefully it will be updated soon.

Please test your wells, it is FREE and will protect you, your families, and community!

## October 15, 2024 City Council Meeting Highlights

### *The Council:*

- Held a public hearing for renewal of the CenterPoint Energy Franchise agreement and approved ordinances renewing the agreement and updating the franchise fee schedule.
- Held a public hearing for a request to vacate a portion of the city right-of-way at 3411 St Croix Tr S.
- Approved a Minor Subdivision application to create 3 lots on a 40 acre parcel directly east of 12431 22nd St.
- Approved an amended Conditional Use Permit at the Rise property in the industrial zone.
- Discussed the Short Term Home Rental Ordinance
- Approved a resolution to allow a maximum of one cannabis retail establishment in the city, and a resolution to delegate the responsibility for registration and compliance of a cannabis retail establishment to Washington County.

## Gardening Opportunities

For about six years, an Afton resident couple has volunteered to maintain the perennials and shrubs in the center medians in St. Croix Trail in the northern end of the downtown Old Village area and to maintain the perennials in front of city hall. They recently indicated they would no longer be able to provide that maintenance. So, Afton is looking for volunteers or seasonal staff, or a combination of each to do this work listed below.

List of gardening opportunities starting in 2025

1. Maintain perennials and shrubs in the center medians on St. Croix Trail at the north end of town.
2. Maintain shrubs and perennials in front of City Hall.
3. Plant flower pots with annuals in spring and maintain through summer on 33rd street path to Windmill Marina.
4. Plant and maintain flower pots through summer in front of City Park restrooms.
5. Maintain new hedge along the front of Town Square Park as needed

I currently have 3 people that have expressed interest in being part of a group that would do this work. Are any NRG members interested? Or know someone that would be?

Thanks!