

**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) Meeting  
Tuesday, December 3, 2024  
5:00 PM**

**Note: The December 3, 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/85456497380?pwd=urJqjRLkQE41csAcREdR8nFyiskbda.1>

- Meeting ID: (854 5649 7380)  
Passcode: 443754
- Dial-in Number (to call in to the meeting)  
+1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 854 5649 7380

### **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 December 3, 2024 meeting and additional agenda items proposed by members.
4. Approval of Minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting.
5. Old Business
  - i) Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)/Greenway Corridors - Sven
  - ii) PFAS Update and FAQ's – Ron Moore
  - iii) Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms
    - 1) Possible PFAS or other testing in future years
    - 2) Possible forum/educational meeting
  - iv) NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter
    - 1) Dark sky initiative – Petra for winter
    - 2) Invasive species, resources, inspectors -- future
    - 3) Buckthorn removal and post removal re-vegetation for spring
    - 4) Grants for planting – for spring
    - 5) Prescribed burns – future

- v) Invasive Species Topic – group
  - 1) Invasive plant database
  - 2) Noxious weed inspector => future article
  
- vi) 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

vii) Update on CC and PC Business

viii) Additional agenda items proposed by members

6. Next Meeting Date: January 7, 2024 at 5:00 PM

7. Adjourn

## DRAFT MINUTES

November 12, 2024 at 5:00PM

- 1) Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Dave at 5:17PM.
- 2) Roll call: David Husebye (present), Susan Loomis (absent), Kim Meyers (excused absence), Elissa Thompson (excused absence), Cody Kaye (present), Petra Brokken (present), Scott Hafner (present) and Sven Risom (present)
- 3) Approval of Agenda for November 12, 2024 meeting and additional items proposed by members. Added 6 ii) after discussion. Motion to approve by Scott, seconded by Sven. Vote 5-0, the motion passes.
- 4) Approval of Minutes October 1, 2024. Motion to approve by Scott, seconded by Petra. Vote 5-0, the motion passes.
- 5) Old Business
  - i) Well testing for Nitrates and coliforms
    - (1) Possible PFAS or other testing in future years. Extensive discussion as reports of positive PFAS tests from much further south at 2XXX Stagecoach were reviewed. A review of the recent presentation at Afton Museum by Kris Hanson took place. Possible repeat presentation with coordination with 2025 well water testing for Nitrates and Coliforms as before, and adding perhaps PFAS testing by a private lab (paid for by individual City residents and for their personal information) was discussed.  
**MOTION:** A motion was made by Sven: The NRGC would like to invite City Administrator Ron Moorse to the December 3, 2024 NRGC meeting to discuss and begin preparations for a possible presentation / forum sponsored by the CC and NRGC on PFAS in well water, and review if the NRGC might be able to facilitate individuals with having their well water tested for PFAS. Seconded by Cody. Vote 5-0,  
**THE MOTION PASSES.**
  - ii) NRGC items for Afton's monthly newsletter
    - (1) Well Testing for 2024—Final report for 2024 completed in November and can be found on the Afton website.
    - (2) Dark sky initiative—Petra for winter
    - (3) Invasive species, resources, inspectors--future
    - (4) Buckthorn removal and post removal re-vegetation—for spring
    - (5) Grants for planting—for spring
    - (6) Prescribed burns--future
  - iii) Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) –Sven reports no new updates.
  - iv) Invasive Species Topic—group
    - (1) Invasive plant database
    - (2) Noxious weed inspector => future article
  - v) NRGC Management Organization update
    - (1) Washington Conservation District—no report
    - (2) South Washington County Watershed District—no report
    - (3) Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization—no report
    - (4) Valley Branch Watershed District—Scott reported chlorides in surface water as an upcoming issue that will be reviewed going forward
    - (5) Washington County Water Consortium—Dave noted 2 presentations from November 6, 2024.
    - (6) Belwin—Sven has set up a meeting with Katie Bloom (executive director of Belwin)

- vi) Update on CC and PC Business—Councilmember Ross reviewed recent CC Business, and talked about Short Term rentals (<30 days) and the cannabis retail establishment resolution.

6) New business

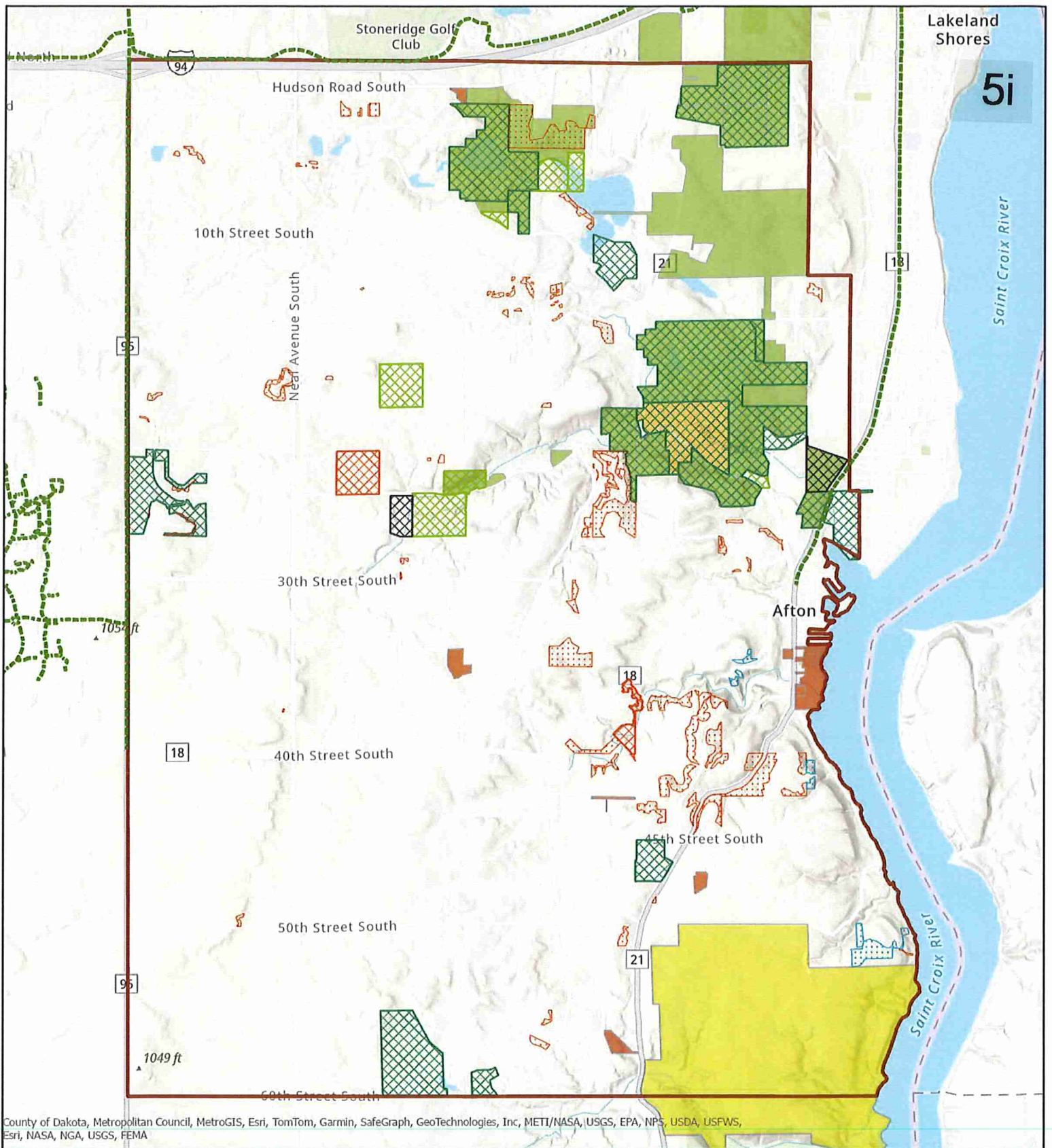
- i) Gardening Opportunities. The issue of maintaining perennials and shrubs in the center medians along St. Croix Trail and in front of City Hall was presented. Two members indicated they could help, but not coordinate the program.
- ii) Traffic issues with wildlife in the downtown area. It has been noted that wild life has been killed due to excessive speed along the downtown roads. Excessive noise and speed as having negative impacts for wildlife was noted. Information had been gathered indicating there are some temporary speed bump / hump devices that might be of benefit for a variety of reasons.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Petra: The NRGC requested that Council Member Ross bring to the Public Works Committee the suggestion to explore if **temporary** speed bumps / humps that are available, could be used for a traffic calming purpose and might benefit wildlife by reducing speeds and noise.

Seconded by Scott. Vote 5-0, **THE MOTION PASSES.**

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

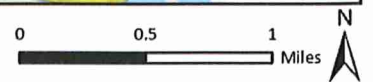
8) Adjourn. Motion by Petra to adjourn, seconded by Scott. Vote 5-0, motion passes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM.



County of Dakota, Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

## City of Afton Public and Conserved Lands

- |                                |   |                                     |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Afton City Parks               | City of Afton Conservation Easements        | City of Afton Scenic Easements      |
| Belwin Conservancy             | Belwin Conservancy Conservation Easements   | State of Minnesota Scenic Easements |
| Afton Land Limited Partnership | Minnesota Land Trust Conservation Easements | Trails                              |
| Afton State Park               | Washington County Conservation Easements    | City of Afton Boundary              |



Prepared for  
  
 Prepared by

Date Exported: 7/24/2024



## PFAS FAQs

- A map showing the locations and results of well sampling in the east metro area, including Afton, can be found here:  
<https://mpca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=4ab8c82e20c24182b56f6b608d42a602&extent=-93.1182,44.8076,-92.7378,44.9861>
- If you would like your well water sampled and tested free of charge, go to:  
<https://webapp.pca.state.mn.us/gw-sampling-req/request-form>
- After completing the well water sampling request form, your request will be sent to West Central Environmental Consulting. They will contact you within 10 business days to schedule a sample. You may need to be home if they are unable to sample from an outside spigot. After the sample is collected, obtaining the lab results can take 3-8 weeks. You will be contacted with the results and advised of any next steps.
- MPCA will only test for the six PFAS compounds.
- When PFAS contamination exceeds the level determined to be a health risk, your well water is unsafe to drink. You will immediately be offered free bottled water and the MPCA will work with you to provide long-term safe drinking water. A whole-house granulated activated carbon filter will be installed by a professional plumber free of charge.

## November 19, 2024 City Council Meeting Highlights

### *The Council:*

- Approved a variance application to increase the height of a portion of the roof line at 16530 Swede Hill Drive S.
- Approved a variance application for an attached garage at 1050 Neal Ave S.
- Reviewed the draft Cannabis Regulation Ordinance.
- Approved 2025 liquor license renewals for Afton House and Lumberyard Pub.
- Approved the Lower St Croix Valley Fire Relief Association request for a pension benefit increase.