



## *City of Afton*

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

**Agenda  
Tuesday, December 5, 2017  
5:00 PM**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. Meeting Minutes from the November 6, 2017 NRGC meeting**
- 5. Business**
  - A. Update on CC & PC Business – Council Member Palmquist**
  - B. Well Testing Update**
  - C. Review and Comment on the Resiliency-Related Materials Provided by Annie Perkins**
  - D. Upgrade the NRGC Manual**
  - E. Natural Resources and Groundwater Management Organizations Update**
- 6. Adjourn**

## Deb Meade

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**From:** Ron Moorse  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 4:25 PM  
**To:** Deb Meade; Julie Yoho (City Clerk)  
**Subject:** FW: December 5 NRG meeting  
**Attachments:** 12-5-17 NRG.docx; NRG Nov 6 2017meeting minutes.docx

FYI.

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**From:** Ron Moorse  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 4:24 PM  
**To:** 'keithandjudy@centurylink.net' <keithandjudy@centurylink.net>; 'jack.kollmer@klmengineering.com' <jack.kollmer@klmengineering.com>; 'bkingegg@gmail.com' <bkingegg@gmail.com>; 'markhave@q.com' <markhave@q.com>; 'Susanwinsor@mac.com' <Susanwinsor@mac.com>; 'st.croixannie@gmail.com' <st.croixannie@gmail.com>; 'bbafton@gmail.com' <bbafton@gmail.com>; ward1 <ward1@ci.afton.mn.us>  
**Subject:** December 5 NRG meeting

Attached are the agenda for the December 5 NRG meeting and the minutes from the November 6 NRG meeting. **One note regarding the December 5 meeting:** The City Council Chambers have been double booked the evening of December 5, due to scheduling a City Council work session and special meeting that evening in addition to the NRG meeting. The solution to the double booking is to hold the NRG meeting in the City Administrator's office. Please plan to meet in the City Administrator's office.

Thanks,  
Ron

NRGC meeting minutes  
November 6, 2017

1. **Call to order** at 5:06 by Annie Perkins, vice chair.

2. **Roll call:** Present were Bake Baker, Perry Eggers, Keith Hoffman, Annie Perkins, Susan Winsor Jack Kollmer and Mark Have were absent.

3. **Agenda approval**

Perry added an item regarding the Carlson property sale transaction documents obtained from the County. Keith approved agenda; Bake seconded it.

4. **Minutes approved** for Oct. 2017 with these changes:

Change Mark Hoffman's name to Keith Hoffman on first page under well testing update.  
Change date of November meeting from Oct. 30 to Nov. 6, 2017.  
Keith moved to approve amended minutes and Bake seconded the motion.

5. **Business**

5A. **Update on CC Business – Council Member Palmquist:**

- **City Council sent Carlson PLCD application** back to the Planning Commission for review on 4 items.
- **Wastewater treatment system:** In some cases, might not be fully hooked up till spring due to cold temperatures already. It is the most efficient system in the state. The 25-acre site might be suited for public park/amenity once the pollinator seedlings, etc., are established, he says.
- **Bill shared a landowner Best Practices Zoning checklist** for river property owners that might be helpful from the Lower St Croix River Riverway partnership meeting presentation. It is a tool for landowners, developers, realtors, and local governments to collaborate and communicate early on development projects for zoning applications in the Riverway. It will be helpful to merge with existing NRGC PLCD review checklist, a "living document."

5B. **Well Testing Update**

Keith Hoffman reported that he expects 64 water nitrate samples to be submitted for free testing in November through the Afton free nitrate testing program. In June residents had 52, for a total of 116 in 2017 who took advantage of it.

5C. **NRGC Work Plan for 2017**

\*NRGC has submitted PLCD checklist to City Council.

\*Comprehensive plan:

\*Resiliency: Annie Perkins handed out some resiliency-related materials for the committee to read and comment on at the next NRGC meeting. Some she obtained from the Sustainability alliance. They connected her with Afton residents already working on this: Rick and Joan Meierotto, Bonnie Power, Don Schueld and Louise Watson. She will be sure there is no duplication of effort. Given that resiliency includes event-driven concerns and long-term sustainability, perhaps the various parties can divide and conquer?  
CC member Stan Ross is concerned also about resiliency. The City is digitizing records for backup in event of an emergency.

\*The NRGC has submitted solid waste portion of Comp Plan to City Council and Planning Commission.

**5D. Bill Palmquist provided the NRGC** with a report on Woodbury past water usage. He says that the Valley Creek trout population is an issue of potential future concern if the aquifer drawdown threatens trout populations, as has occurred in the past. The DNR is in charge of monitoring this. Given the White Bear Lake water level issue, tracking Woodbury water use appears to be wise, Keith said.

#### **5E. Natural Resources and Groundwater Management Organizations Update**

- \*Middle St. Croix Watershed District: Annie Perkins - no report.
- \*Valley Branch Watershed District: no report
- \*Washington partnership: no report
- \*Water Consortium did not meet.
- \*Washington County Soil and Water District: Susan reported there is grant money for the
- \*County to attack five invasive species (Grecian Foxglove, Oriental Bittersweet, Garlic Mustard, Buckthorn and Japanese Knotweed; there was a related item in Afton city newsletter.

**5F. Discussion of the Carlson PLCD and future Afton land use/intentions:** Perry raised several concerns relating to how the Carlson proposed PLCD and future Afton land use/character: He obtained the Schuster purchase agreement (to Will Carlson) at the County; it states that the parcel was to "remain in an agricultural state," he reported. The NRGW Committee agreed that this is a legal matter best handled by the Afton City Attorney. Bill Palmquist added that perpetual easements are the only related issue that pertain to the city of Afton-- otherwise a purchase contract is between two parties only. He will bring the matter to the City Attorney's attention.

Perry also objects to the Comprehensive Plan not being in the ordinances; also with lack of notification to neighbors of future 60th St. PLCD. NRGC Vice Chair Annie Perkins said that is not a matter that the NRGC can address.

Perry contacted the Met Council and reported what its development intentions for Afton are. He reports it says that by 2040 Afton can add a maximum of 200 additional houses, that Afton is to remain as an ag community.

Bill Palmquist clarified that the Met Council classifies Afton as rural diversified, not agricultural, so as to preserve the MC's ability to install sewers at some future point, and to preserve the option of having 3-acre lot sizes at some point. He says the MC is focused on population density, not land use.

**5F. NRGC term expirations:** A number of NRGC members' 3-year terms expire December 31, and NRGC members have the option of serving a second 3-year term, the bylaws say. They cannot serve more than two consecutive 3-year terms. Bill will make sure the City newsletter publicizes related possible committee openings.

**5G. Suggested December NRGC agenda items:** Review and comment on Annie's resilience research, upgrade the NRGC manual, Keith suggests.

#### **6. Adjourned at 6:40 pm**

Perry moved to adjourn, Mark seconded.