



City of Afton

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)

Agenda

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

6:30 PM

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of minutes from Jan. 20**
 - A. Well Testing Plan**
 - Review draft of plan as written by Keith
 - Review Keith's notes from Feb. 5th meeting with Washington County Environmental group
 - D. Natural Resources and Groundwater Management Organizations updates**
 - E. General Resource and groundwater information sharing**
- 6. Adjournment**

Meeting with Washington County
Department of Public Health & Environment
2/5/16

Attendees: Stephanie Souter, Girard Goder, Pete Ganzel, Keith Hoffmann

Reviewed the first draft of the proposed Water Quality Testing Program for the city of Afton. The consensus was that the proposal is possible and achievable as written.

Reviewed the purpose and scope of the Afton NRCG as a chartered Afton committee. There was extensive discussion on how to go about researching existing water quality data for the Village of Afton along with the mechanics of sampling and testing.

In the past, the County has participated with Afton in water testing programs and expressed interest in once again partnering with the new proposal. There was agreement that the County would be willing to pass through some of the testing costs there by reducing the overall charges to Afton.

The County has offered to search any available data bases in regard to well testing results and will forward other references that the Department of Health might have relative to Afton. The County also indicated that the Department of Health would definitely be interested in the outcome from the study.

The first action item is for the County to forward a summary of the proposed partnering arrangement with Afton along with any water quality data held either by the county or Department of Health. The County will also make available any expertise needed to identify potential test locations and well depth information.

A suggestion was made that the DNR has several monitoring wells in Afton that may be available for testing water quality along with level changes.

WATER QUALITY WELL TESTING PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF AFTON MN

Draft 1

1/26/16

1. Introduction (Why)

Issues involving groundwater sources continue to arise, not only on supply but quality as well, it is the opinion of the Afton NRGC to suggest that the opportunity exists to demonstrate the positive effect of the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) on the quality of the well water within the Old Village. It is also of opinion to test individual well water throughout the entire city to insure the overall health and welfare of Afton residents.

2. Method (How and Where)

The proposed plan is to gather existing well water data on water quality within the old Village as to quality and well depths. Where data does not exist, identify areas of non-complying septic systems or shallow wells near such septic systems that have the potential of affecting quality concerns. This collected data will then be used as a baseline to compare new data collected after the SSTS is up and running.

3. Timeline (When and Who)

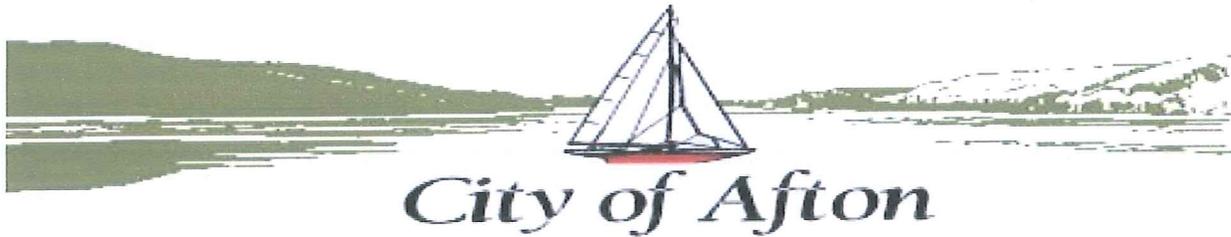
Usually well testing takes place in the early spring when contaminated water seeps into well casings and into groundwater sources.

After a determined time of operation of the SSTS system, follow up sampling and testing will be initiated to generate new water quality data. Once the data has been developed and reviewed, a report will be written showing the overall results.

The second phase of the testing program to include all Afton residents will initiated in the spring following the evaluation of the SSTS effect on water quality of the Village groundwater supplies. The overall testing program will be voluntary with non-regulatory involvement. Residents will have the opportunity to receive feedback as to what procedures are available in the event that wells have been compromised.

4. Costs

Testing and sampling costs will be determined by the number of wells tested and the test parameters that will used for the water quality monitoring. It is anticipated that most of the sampling will be done by individual home owners with the testing completed through Washington County sources. Normal well water quality consists of Total Coliform Bacteria (Coliform) and Nitrate Nitrogen (Nitrates).



**Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)
meeting minutes, January 20, 2016**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Present were Jill, Perry, Keith, Susan, Mayor Bend

3. Agenda Approval

Susan moved and Keith seconded the motion to approve the agenda

4. Approval of minutes from Dec. 16

Minutes were amended to include that Susan was present at Dec. 16 meeting. (She came after roll call.)

5. Business

A. Election of 2016 committee NRGC officers per committee bylaws

After discussion, Perry moved to keep present officers for 2016, Keith seconded. Committee 2016 officers are Jill Chezik, chair; Jack Kollmer, vice chair; Sondra Larson, secretary.

B. We need a summary of our goals for the year ahead. Past committee achievements: Two newsletter articles and the committee's water testing program. Our charter already lists our purpose and duties. Goal ideas included:

- Perry: We could generate farming standards for Afton. The Right to Farm Act limits our enforcement, but committee could recommend for example that the city educate farmers on certain conservation farming practices
- Perry: Residential lawn watering regimens could be incorporated into ordinances
- Richard: Committee could recommend that park dedication for large parcels be strategically aligned so as to comprise wildlife corridors or other conservation goals, as parcels become subdivided. Known as Fee Title, park dedication could be taken as percentage of land titled to Afton instead of taken as commensurate value as cash, as is often done now. Afton has 53 acres of parks formed in this way from past park dedications, but they are not strategically designed toward a larger good. Belwin has strategically identified various adjacent parcels that may be considered for purchase when they are sold, in ways that would support Belwin goals. This kind of thinking/planning could characterize our committee's thinking, the mayor suggested. Winsor asked if a consultant might bring value to this process (park fee alignment/planning).

Brainstorming process suggestion from Richard: The mayor suggested we collect every committee member's contributions, rank them, and then fill in the details of key choices, to use time efficiently.

C. Perry raised concerns about erosion and chemical groundwater contamination during massive spring rains. Our group should be involved with what's applied to the soil and how it affects the surface and groundwater, wasteful lawn watering, and other water-use abuses, he says. He hopes that our committee will tap other Minnesota agencies such as the DNR, SWC districts.

6. Natural Resources and Groundwater Management Organizations updates.

General resource and groundwater information sharing:

- Mark scheduled meeting with Stephanie and Valley Branch Watershed district.
- Susan said the Washington County Soil & Water Committee had nothing of interest worth mentioning.

7. Mayor city council report: The city manager will schedule a NRGCC committee work session with the City Council for March.

8. Adjournment

Perry moved to adjourn, Keith seconded it.