



## *City of Afton*

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

#### **Agenda**

**Wednesday, May 18, 2016**

**6:30 PM**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of minutes from April 20th**
- 5. Business**
  - A. Well Testing Update
  - B. Meeting with Jennifer Sorenson (DNR)?
  - C. Natural Resources and Groundwater Management Organizations updates
  - D. General Resource and groundwater information sharing
- 6. Adjournment**

**Afton Natural Resource and Groundwater Committee  
March 16, 2016 meeting minutes**

1. Call to order

2. Approval of agenda and minutes

3. Introduction of City Council and NRGC committee members. Present were Mayor Bend, Bill Palmquist (Ward 1 City Council), Stan Ross (Ward 3 City Council), Jill Chezik, NRGC Chair, NRGC committee members Perry Eggers, Mark Have, Annie Perkins and Susan Winsor. Absent were Randy Nelson (Ward 4 City Council), Sondra Larson (NRGC Secretary), Keith Hoffman and Jack Kollmer, NRGC vice chair.

4. Jill Chezik reviewed the NRGC's accomplishments for the year it's existed: two Afton City newsletter articles (on invasive species control and Afton Septic system details); proposed new Afton well-testing program, possible strategic configuration of future of park-dedication parcels so as to comprise wildlife corridors, and conservation farming measures that would reduce Afton erosion and groundwater contamination.

5. NRGC committee member Mark Have reviewed proposed Afton well-testing program: Afton citizens would be eligible for free nitrate well testing. He shared MN Dept of Health Afton well-testing result summaries: nitrate levels, well locations, well depths, aquifers tapped. He said that groundwater water *quality* is more pressing at this time than well water *quantity*. NRGC member Annie Perkins questioned that assumption based on her experience as Andersen Windows Sustainability director. Have explained that in the East Metro, quantity has not yet become an issue as it has in the more-developed West Metro.

The Mayor added that on the topic of well drawdown, the DNR is the permitting body.

6. The concept of aligning future park-dedication parcels as a potential NRGC project was summarized (Susan Winsor). Council member Palmquist, as Park Committee liaison, mentioned that many of the existing park dedication parcels are of questionable value, often scrubby or steep parcels, but that the concept could be reconsidered.

7. NRGC committee member Perry Eggers expressed the need for more conservation-mined farming practices that reduce soil erosion, pollinator harm and groundwater contamination. He suggested regulating Afton farming practices, for example. The Mayor suggested tapping existing demonstration projects or related farmer-led watershed conservation groups.

8. The Mayor asked whether anyone's interested in attending Middle St. Croix River meetings; it's a valuable organization worth supporting. Annie Perkins might consider doing so.

9. The City Council members present supported these NRGC priorities and recommended that they continue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10.

--NRGC committee member Susan Winsor with notes from Annie Perkins.

**Minutes for the April 20 NRG meeting** were not available when the packet had to be sent out on Thursday, May 12, 2016.

If Ron receives the minutes on Friday, May 13 or Monday, May 16, he will forward them by email for your review. Otherwise the minutes, if available at the meeting, will need to be read into the record during the meeting, amended if needed, and voted on at that time.

You, residents, are all volunteers and we, staff, understand that your personal lives take precedence. We appreciate the extra time and effort that you put into serving on these city committees.

Thanks for your understanding.

**VBWD meeting notes:**

Please forward to NR&GW committee members:

Tara Kline, Wash. Conserv. Dist., summarized projects. Two of the 45 projects were in the Kelles Creek watershed; these included rain-garden construction and eliminating buckthorn and restoring prairie. Buckthorn were eliminated by cutting and then killing the stumps with chemicals.

Barr Engineering's annual report, 2015 Water Quality Monitoring Results, shows Lake Edith improved in phosphorus, transparency, and chlorophyll; for the most recent 10-year period, statistically significant trends show improved water quality for transparency and total phosphorus.

Beavers, busy like they're supposed to be, have been damming Valley Creek. The exact location was unknown but it's somewhere between Trading Post and the mouth. TRAPPERS WELCOME!! *[The City Office has the contact information for residents needing to have trappers remove beavers.]*-ksl

mark