

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Groundwater Nitrate  
Workgroup  
INITIATED BY



Thomas Sweeney  
DRAFTED BY

Board of Health and Land  
Conservation Committee  
SUBMITTED BY

October 11, 2017  
DATE DRAFTED

**Extending the Deadline for the Workgroup to Study the High Nitrates Levels  
in Rock County's Groundwater**

1 **WHEREAS**, the level of nitrates in Rock County's groundwater has increased over the past two decades  
2 in private and public wells, with over 30% of the county wells exceeding the drinking water nitrate health  
3 advisory of 10 mg/L; and,  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the County Board of Supervisors passed resolution 17-5A-282 during their May 11, 2017  
6 County Board meeting establishing a workgroup composed of the following representatives, Public  
7 Health, Land Conservation, Planning and Development, UW Extension, a representative from the  
8 Agricultural Service Sector, two at large County Board members and one Farmer currently working with  
9 a research project overseen by UW-Discovery Farms to commence research on nitrate reduction strategies  
10 that are available; and,  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, this workgroup was to complete its tasks of compiling existing well water nitrate data,  
13 evaluating nitrate sources, and researching groundwater nitrate reduction initiatives and strategies being  
14 conducted in other parts of Wisconsin and the United States by December 2017. After the tasks were  
15 completed, the Workgroup was to make recommendations to the County Board regarding the  
16 Groundwater Nitrate issues; and,  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, after numerous meetings regarding the aforesaid tasks, it was determined by the workgroup  
19 that a pilot project, conducted in Rock County, would offer the greatest insight to the County's Aquifers;  
20 and,  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the workgroup will not be able to meet the aforementioned deadline and requests the  
23 County Board extend the existing deadline to December 31, 2020; and,  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the new deadline will allow the workgroup to develop, implement, and monitor a small  
26 scale pilot project to reduce nitrates in the Groundwater through implementation of Best Management  
27 Practices.  
28


29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors in session this  
30 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017, approves the extension of the workgroup for the period of May  
31 2017 through December 2020 for the sole purpose of researching and developing recommendations to  
32 decrease or reduce the rate of increase of nitrates entering Rock County's Groundwater.

17-11D-412

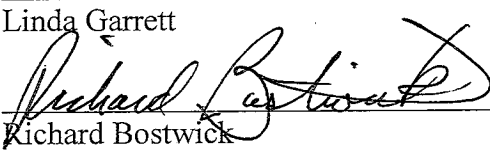
Extending the Deadline for the Workgroup to Study the High Nitrates Levels in Rock County's Groundwater.  
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Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF HEALTH

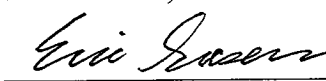
  
Sandra Kraft, Chair

  
Louis Peer, Vice Chair

Linda Garrett  
  
Richard Bostwick

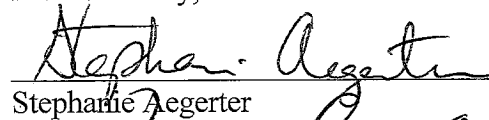
Dr. Keith Konkol, M.D.  
  
Dr. Kaitlin Meyers, DVM, MPH

Dr. Connie Winter, DDS

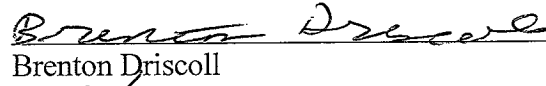
Judith Wade, WHNP  
  
Eric Gresens, R.Ph

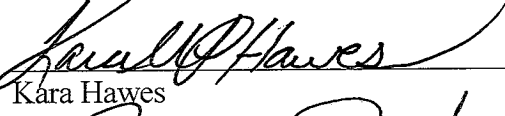
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

  
Richard Bostwick, Chair

Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair  
  
Stephanie Aegerter

  
Wes Davis

  
Brenton Driscoll


  
Kara Hawes

  
James Quade, USDA-FSA Representative

  
Jeremy Zajac

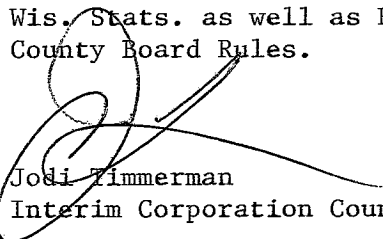
FISCAL NOTE:

Per County Board Rule IV-C, County Board Supervisors who are members of additional special, single purpose or ad hoc committees are eligible for per meeting allowances and mileage reimbursement. Citizen members of such committees shall be eligible for mileage reimbursement only.

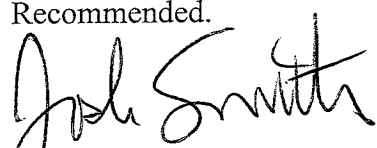
  
Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to sections 59.01 and 59.51, Wis. Stats. as well as Rule IV-C of the County Board Rules.

  
Jodi Timmerman  
Interim Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.  
  
Josh Smith  
County Administrator

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This resolution requests County Board approval to extend the deadline for the established Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup as per County Board Resolution 17-5A-282. The current deadline was set for December 31, 2017. The Board of Health along with the Committees represented on the Workgroup request the deadline be extended to December 31, 2020 to accommodate the implementation of a small scale pilot groundwater nitrate reduction project. Implementation of this type of project will allow the workgroup to refine its recommendations of Nitrate reduction in the County's Groundwater Aquifers.

It is anticipated that this workgroup will meet 2-4 times per year during the pilot project to review updates, evaluate progress, and determine ongoing actions needed.