



**Groundwater Nitrate Work Group
Monday January 21, 2019 @ 8:00 am
UWEX Conference Room
Janesville WI**

MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Sweeney called the meeting to order at 8:04 pm.

Members Present: Nick Baker, Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Pat Mullooly, Lou Peer, Dave Rebout, Rick Richard, Al Sweeney, Tom Sweeney and Rick Wietersen.

Members Excused: Chris Murphy and Colin Byrnes

Others Present: none
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Wes Davis moved the agenda as presented, seconded by Rick Richard. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes from the January 21, 2019 meeting:** Rich Bostwick moved the minutes for the January 21, 2019 meeting as presented, seconded by Lou Peer. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Communications:** None.
5. **Monitoring Well Sampling Update.** Rick Wietersen distributed documents which identified the monitoring wells nitrate trends and the public wells, in the immediate area, nitrate trends. Rick Wietersen noted that the Groundwater Elevation continues to increase in the monitoring wells. An issue has developed with the sampling equipment due to weather conditions. The test hoses for the well pump have been freezing when the water leaves the well casing. Rick also stated he would like to install lysimeters in the field to assist with the testing for nitrates. He will contact the DNR for assistance.
6. **DNR Proposed Project.** Rick Wietersen informed the Work Group that DNR's has interest with establishing a Ground Water project for Rock County. Rick Wietersen stated he was a bit confused because the DNR shifted interest from groundwater to surface water quality during the discussion. Tom Sweeney also noted the shift in interest and came away from the phone conversation a bit confused. Rick Wietersen will try to clarify the goals of the proposed project with DNR.

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7. **Discussion on Long Term strategies regarding the GW Nitrate issues.** Nick Baker led a discussion on the long term strategies. Nick Baker noted that a producer led group in the southeast area of the county should be explored. Nick Baker continued to express that Farmer led groups are showing great promise in regards to locally defined issues throughout the State of Wisconsin. Nick also noted that numerous producers have expressed interest in the topic. Staff will meet in the near future to discuss and plan for a land owner meeting. Rick Richard asked if there would be a cost to implement the farmer led group. Nick will research. Nick also stated that installing lysimeters on the county farm is needed to help with the research.
8. **Cover Crop Conference – Registration.** Rich Bostwick, Al Sweeney, Wes Davis, Tom Sweeney and Nick Baker confirmed they will be going to the conference. Tom Sweeney will make arrangements for a van with the County Public Works. Tom Sweeney will do the registrations for each attendee.
9. **Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location.** The next meeting date was set for 8:00 am, Monday, March 18, 2019 and will be held at the UWEX Office Conference Room.
10. **Adjourn:** Rick Richard moved to adjourn the January 21, 2019 meeting of the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup at 9:07 am, seconded by Rich Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup