

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Rick Richard
INITIATED BY

Land Conservation Committee
SUBMITTED BY



Corporation Counsel Richard
Greenlee
DRAFTED BY

February 3, 2021
DATE DRAFTED

**DIRECTING ROCK COUNTY STAFF TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF
CREATING PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS NITRATE MITIGATION IN
ROCK COUNTY'S GROUND WATER**

1 **WHEREAS**, the level of nitrates in Rock County's groundwater has increased over the past two decades
2 in private wells, with over an estimated 3,000 Rock County homeowner wells exceeding the drinking
3 water nitrate health advisory level of 10 mg/L; and,
4

5 **WHEREAS**, it's estimated that fewer than 5% Rock County private wells are tested annually, at a cost of
6 \$25 per test.
7

8 **WHEREAS**, ;in order to address the continued threat to public health of nitrates in Rock County's ground
9 water, the Rock County Board of Supervisors created the Rock County Nitrate Workgroup by Resolution
10 17-5A-282 which was tasked with, among other things, evaluating nitrate sources and researching
11 groundwater nitrate reduction initiatives being conducted in other parts of Wisconsin; and,
12

13 **WHEREAS**, other communities across Wisconsin have also confronted the problems of excess nitrates in
14 groundwater and similarly formed working groups of community leaders and stakeholders to address
15 excess and unsafe nitrates in Wisconsin's groundwater; and,
16

17 **WHEREAS**, developing programs to remediate or mitigate nitrate concentrates in groundwater is essential
18 for protecting human health.
19

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
21 this 8th day of July, 2021 directs that staff from the Rock County Planning
22 Department, Rock County Public Health Department, County Administrator's Office, Land Conservation
23 and Corporation Counsel to explore the feasibility of creating and administrating programs to address
24 excess nitrate levels in Rock County Groundwater including, but not limited to, implementation of a
25 program to subsidize the cost of nitrate testing for ground water well users in Rock County, and a program
26 to subsidize the cost of installation of reverse osmosis, or similar, water treatment systems that filter out
27 groundwater nitrates to levels lower than federal maximums.
28

29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any such program evaluated and considered use Sales Tax collected
30 in Rock County or the American Rescue Plan Act funds as a funding source.
31

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the group of staff shall report on their findings to the Rock County
33 Nitrate Working Group by December 1, 2021.

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Respectfully submitted,

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

/s/Richard Bostwick
Richard Bostwick, Chair

/s/Alan Sweeney
Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

/s/Stephanie Aegerter
Stephanie Aegerter

/s/Wes Davis
Wes Davis

Vacant
Vacant

/s/Mike Mulligan
Mike Mulligan

/s/James Quade
James Quade

Vacant
Vacant

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Louis Peer, Chair

/s/Dr. Connie Winter
Dr. Connie Winter, DDS, Vice Chair

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/s/Shirley Williams
Supervisor Shirley Williams

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/s/Dr. Kaitlyn Meyers
Dr. Kaitlyn Meyers, DVM, MPH

/s/Danette Rynes
Supervisor Danette Rynes

/s/Dr. Vijaya Somaraju
Dr. Vijaya Somaraju, MD, MPH, FACP

/s/Debra Kolste
Debra Kolste

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/s/Alan Sweeney
Alan Sweeney, Chair

/s/Wayne Gustina
Wayne Gustina, Vice-Chair

/s/J. Russell Podzilni
J. Russell Podzilni

/s/Wes Davis
Wes Davis

/s/Robert Potter
Robert Potter

FISCAL NOTE:

Minimal fiscal impact in and by itself.

/s/Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

The County Board has previously determined that nitrates in groundwater is a priority issue for Rock County. This resolution would further clarify how the County Board wants staff to support the work of the Nitrate Working Group, focusing on which approaches, and on what timeline.

/s/Josh Smith

Josh Smith
County Administrator