



**GROUNDWATER NITRATE WORK GROUP
MONDAY JANUARY 13, 2020 @ 8:00 AM
LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
JANESVILLE WI**

MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Sweeney called the meeting to order at 8:09 am.

Members Present: Andrew Baker for Colin Byrnes, Nick Baker, Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Pat Mullooly, Chris Murphy, Lou Peer, Dave Rebut, Al Sweeney, Tom Sweeney and Rick Wietersen.

Members Excused: Rick Richard

Others Present: Erin Conway; UWEX
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Wes Davis moved the agenda as presented, seconded by Rich Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes from the November 11, 2019 meeting:** Rick Wietersen moved the minutes for the November 11, 2019 meeting as presented, seconded by Pat Mullooly. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Communications and Announcements:** Rich Bostwick noted that Tom Sweeney and Rick Wietersen will be providing an update of the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup activities to County Board of Supervisors on Thursday January 9, 2020. Tom Sweeney distributed a Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference flyer to the workgroup members and noted the Land Conservation Committee will discuss approval for attendance of members whom wish to attend the conference.
5. **UWEX-Youth Program Proposed Spending Authorization:** Erin Conway, UWEX provided an update on the proposal for costs associated with well testing activities. Erin Conway noted that 30 well test samples at the reduced rate of \$15.00 per test for a total request of \$450.00. Erin noted the 30 tests requested are based on an estimate and request an additional 5-10% above the \$450. For additional tests if needed, for a grand total of \$475.00. Tom Sweeney noted the Land Conservation Committee will have to approve this request, since they are the Committee with budgetary authority.

6. **Project Area Producer – Summary of Activates on County Farm.** Scott Fleming introduced himself to the workgroup members as the leasee of the County Farm. Scott Fleming began his presentation regarding the fertilization program that was utilized in 2019. Fleming also stated he utilized the adapt-n program which includes soil nitrate testing, plant tissue analysis and additional factors. He also utilized the Nitrogen Use Efficiency developed by UWEX Discovery Farms. After the presentation a discussion ensued as to the value of the efforts from an agricultural perspective.
7. **Monitoring Well Sampling Updates/County Wide Trends.** Rick Wietersen presented updated graphs for the monitoring wells sampling being conducted at the County Farm and the non-community wells in the study area. Rick Wietersen noted the groundwater level in the observation wells continues to rise. In regards to the Non-Community wells, nitrates have receded in about 50% of those tested, 25% remain at the same level as past test indicate and 25% have shown increases in Nitrates. Rick Wietersen also noted the groundwater gradient has increased which means more water is flowing through the system and will eventually lead to a decrease in groundwater elevations if precipitation returns to normal.
8. **Producer Led Watershed Group Development - Update:** Nick Baker stated he has contacted a Producer led watershed group from Lafayette County and they have agreed to participate in the next meeting of the Producer Led initiative for Rock County. The next meeting date has not been set but February will be the month. Further information will be made available soon. Nick Baker noted the deadline for the DATCP grant cycle is July 2020.
9. **LCD – NEW Position Update:** Tom Sweeney provided an update on the staff grant application. Chris Newberry has begun work for the County this morning, however he is in orientation and is not available today. Chris will begin attending the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup meetings as soon as possible.
10. **Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location.** The next meeting was set for 8:00 am, Monday, February 17, 2020 and will be held at the Harmony Town Hall, Rock County Ag Service Center Building.
11. **Adjourn:** Pay Mullooly moved to adjourn the January 13, 2020 meeting of the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup at 8:58 am, seconded by Rich Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup