



**GROUNDWATER NITRATE WORK GROUP
MONDAY FEBRUARY 17, 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 8:01 am.

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

Members Excused: Rick Richard

Others Present: Scott Fleming and Erin Conway; UWEX

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Rich Bostwick moved the agenda as presented, seconded by Wes Davis. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes from the January 13, 2020 meeting:** Wes Davis moved the minutes for the January 13, 2020 meeting as presented, seconded by Lou Peer. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Communications and Announcements:** Tom Sweeney stated he has been appointed to the NR 151 Technical Advisory Committee to update the administrative code for Groundwater Nitrate Performance Standards and Identify Priority Areas in the State.
5. **Staff Introduction – Chris Newberry:** Chris introduced himself to the Workgroup membership and provided a short biography of his past work situations.
6. **Turtle Creek Watershed:**
 - a. **USDA-NRCS Pilot Source Water Project Area designation:** David Gundlach, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist updated the group on the designation of Turtle Creek Watershed. David Gundlach noted the 2018 Farm Bill was the driver for this designation. The watershed will have a designated funding through EQIP.
 - b. **Request Use of ATC Funds to Conduct Well Sampling in Potential Target Areas.** Chair Sweeney noted all expenditures must be routed through the Land Conservation Committee. Tom Sweeney stated he would place this item on the LCC agenda if all members agreed. No opposition was noted.

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7. **UWEX-Youth Program – Update.** Erin Conway updated the workgroup on the status of the youth program in Chilton. Erin Conway noted a parent of a student became upset that a well sample was procured without their permission and immediately went to the school principal and filed a complaint regarding the project. As a result, the well samples results will only be released if a parent requests them. Erin Conway stated parental permission slips were not distributed with the well sample kits. The final cost will be less than \$475.
8. **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. 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.
9. **Producer Led Watershed Group Development - Update:** Nick Baker stated he has contacted Jim Winn from the Producer led watershed group LASA and they have agreed to participate in the next meeting of the Producer Led initiative for Rock County. Also Nick Baker has contacted Rachel Rushmann from DATCP. Further information will be made available soon. Nick Baker noted the deadline for the DATCP grant cycle is July 2020.
10. **Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location.** The next meeting was set for 8:00 am, Monday, March 16, 2020 and will be held at the Harmony Town Hall, Rock County Ag Service Center Building.
11. **Adjourn:** Rich Bostwick moved to adjourn the February 17, 2020 meeting of the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup at 9:07 am, seconded by Pat Mullooly. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup

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