

**COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE  
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN  
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES – May 12, 2021, 4:00 pm, Remote meeting via WebEx**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** James Dunning, Nancy Coffey, Anna Mares, Mary Kenosian, Sarah Vitale, Sham Anderson, Nathan Anderson, Glory Adams

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** (Mark Kaeding; awaiting confirmation to fill vacant Board of Health appointed position)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Greg Leonard and Liz Fagen (Eau Claire County Land Conservation); Matt Steinbach (Eau Claire City/County Health Department)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** David Bontrager, and Cynthia Anderegg (City of Augusta Clerk)

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**1. Call to order by Chair**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunning at 4:05 pm.

**2. Roll call of members present**

A roll call was taken. Present included Dunning, Coffey, Mares, Kenosian, Vitale, S. Anderson, N. Anderson and Adams. Absent was Kaeding, who is yet to be confirmed. A quorum was present.

**3. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law**

Dunning confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

**4. Public Comment Period**

None.

**5. Notice of Appointment of Citizen at Large to Committee for 3-year terms**

Mary Kenosian was appointed to a 3-year term to succeed herself.

**6. Notice of Recommendation of Board of Health member**

Mark Kaeding was recommended from the Board of Health as an appointment. The formal appointment is expected from the County Board at a later date.

**7. Review/approval of May 13, 2020 and July 8, 2020 meeting minutes – Discussion/Action**

**ACTION:** Motion by Coffey/S. Anderson to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2020 and July 8, 2020 meetings as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 8-0-0.

**8. David Bontrager request for consideration of land use within the City of Augusta wellhead protection district as allowed in Chapter 18.55.070.A Discussion/Action**

Leonard provided a quick review of the Wellhead Protection Zones contained within the County Code. These areas protect municipal wells which may or may not be within the respective city or village. The code includes prohibited land uses within these zones.

David Bontrager explained he had purchased his ag land but was not aware this farm was within the wellhead protection district. He explained he would like to have raise 200-240 calves from newly born to about 2-months of age. The calves would be within the barn. Manure would be spread on the property or given to another farm, and would be in-field stacked if not spread immediately. Leonard replied he would like to see the formal plans

submitted in writing. Steinbach questioned if any previous requests such as this have ever been granted. Leonard replied no such request had been received in the past.

**ACTION:** Motion by Coffey/Vitale to request a formal plan submission from Mr. Bontrager, request staff recommendations from both Public Health and Land Conservation, and to share this information with the City of Augusta for their comment prior to bringing this back before the committee. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 8-0-0.

#### 9. Update on Aquafer Mapping

Vitale has had 2 students working with the Health Department and the GIS division within Planning & Development on the initial stages of the project. This is ensuring that wells are properly located and well construction reports are tied to the data for elevations. There is support for student salary to continue the work for the next year through the university.

#### 10. Groundwater Advisory Goals – Discussion/Action

- a. **Capital Improvement Project funding** – Requests were due to the County’s Finance office yesterday. A request for funding for groundwater mapping was made for 2023
- b. **PFAS and Forever Chemicals** – Kenosian led discussion on concerns near La Crosse on French Island over PFAS. Steinbach reported in Eau Claire the municipal wells have tested below the detection limits for these chemicals, and reminded everyone there are no standards established yet.

#### 11. Members, Staff and Agency Updates-Discussion/Action

- a. **Committee Members** – Dunning reported he received landfill information but has not yet reviewed it.
- b. **Regional Planning Commission** – no report.
- c. **Planning and Development**– no report.
- d. **Land Conservation**– some of the Water Quality Task Force items were included in the Governor’s budget proposal. The no-till drill (planter) is a huge success.
- e. **Health Department** – with high numbers of new home construction is higher numbers of well and septic installations. The lab has seen some staff turnover with a recent retirement.


#### 12. Set next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting date was set for June 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

#### 13. Adjourn

Dunning adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Greg Leonard  
Land Conservation Manager