

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

- Groundwater Advisory Committee •

Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 **Time:** 4:00 P.M.

Location: **via remote access ONLY.*

**Event link below can be used to connect to meeting and interact (by the chair) from computer or through the WebEx Meeting smartphone app.*

Join WebEx Meeting: <https://eauclairecounty.webex.com>,

Meeting ID: 2594 333 3021, Password: pyX4Z2RQXP3

**Meeting audio can be listened to using this Audio conference dial in information.*

Audio conference: 1-415-655-0001, Access Code: 2594 333 3021

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Greg Leonard at Greg.Leonard@co.eau-claire.wi.us at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. You will be called on during the public session to make your comments.

AGENDA

1. Call to order by Chair
2. Roll call of members present
3. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law
4. Public Comment Period
5. Review/approval of June 16, 2021 meeting minutes – Discussion/Action **Pages 2-3**
6. 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
7. State of the Groundwater report tasks – Discussion/Action **Pages 4-5**
8. PFAS detections in local groundwater – Discussion/Action
9. Groundwater monitoring wells on County Forest lands – Discussion/Action **Pages 6-8**
10. Members, Staff and Agency Updates – Discussion/Action
 - a. Committee Members
 - b. Regional Planning Commission
 - c. Planning and Development
 - d. Land Conservation
 - e. Health Department
11. Set next meeting date
12. Adjourn

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

MEETING MINUTES – June 16, 2021, 4:00 pm, Remote meeting via WebEx

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Dunning, Nancy Coffey, Anna Mares, Sarah Vitale, Sham Anderson, Glory Adams, Mark Kaeding

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nathan Anderson, Mary Kenosian

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Leonard and Liz Fagen (Eau Claire County Land Conservation); Matt Steinbach and Audrey Boerner (Eau Claire City/County Health Department), Jared Grande and Regan Watts (Planning & Development)

OTHERS PRESENT: none

1. Call to order by Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunning at 4:03 pm.

2. Roll call of members present

A roll call was taken. Present included Dunning, Coffey, Mares, Vitale, S. Anderson, Kaeding and Adams. Absent was N. Anderson and Kenosian. 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 Board of Health member

Mark Kaeding was appointed to a 3-year term as a Board of Health member. Everyone welcomed Mark.

6. Review/approval of May 12, 2021 meeting minutes – Discussion/Action

ACTION: Motion by Coffey/S. Anderson to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021 meetings as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 7-0-0.

7. 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

Grande provided an update. David Bontrager submitted a letter request more time to get information together. No action was taken.

8. Rain to Rivers and Salt Wise programs updates – Discussion

Fagen provided information on Wisconsin Salt Wise, which provides general community education, and the Rain to Rivers organization and the County's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit.

9. Members, Staff and Agency Updates-Discussion/Action

- a. **Committee Members** – no report.
- b. **Regional Planning Commission** – no report.
- c. **Planning and Development**– Grande reported on the update to Title 18 of the County Code.

- d. **Land Conservation**– Leonard reported that the Land and Water Resource Management Plan for the Land Conservation office is a 10-year plan and will be updated by December 2022. The process to update is approximately 1 year. Leonard will share a link to the existing plan. Farm Technology Days are July 20-22 and Land Conservation will highlight the no-till drill in their booth.
- e. **Health Department** – The augmented reality sandbox will also be at Farm Technology Days.

10. Set next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting date was tentatively set for September 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

11. Adjourn

Dunning adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Leonard
Land Conservation Manager

Summary: State of Groundwater in Eau Claire County – 2018

The *State of Groundwater in Eau Claire County - 2018* report was drafted by the Eau Claire County Groundwater Advisory Committee with assistance from staff and advisors to the committee. The Groundwater Advisory Committee includes members of the County Board, Board of Health, the Towns Association, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and citizen members including a member with expertise in hydrogeology.

This report is a summary of existing groundwater information and gaps where more information is needed. Topics include general groundwater information, land use trends potentially influencing groundwater, groundwater quality and quantity, and the potential influence of climate change. The report scope is limited to locally known groundwater issues and contaminants. It should be understood this report is not inclusive of all that is known, or unknown, about our groundwater resource.

Priority Recommendations are divided into 3 sections as follows:

A. Groundwater Quantity Goals

- To better understand groundwater quantity, create a comprehensive county-wide groundwater flow model by December 2020. The flow model will include groundwater depth and recharge to better understand sustainability and susceptibility to land use and climatic impacts. Identify and pursue potential grants for updating the model by April 2019.
- To better protect groundwater quantity, review existing ordinances and regulations by December 2019. If existing groundwater quantity protection regulations are found to be inadequate, explore county regulation options, especially in relation to subdivisions and high capacity wells, by June 2021.

B. Groundwater Quality Goals

- To better understand groundwater quality on a county wide scale, systematically continue well testing, on a section by section grid basis, for nitrate, bacteria, and possibly other emerging contaminants, with completion of the entire county by December 2020.
- To better understand groundwater quality, define and map Groundwater Environmentally Sensitive Areas (GESAs) in relation to all land uses (residential, industrial, agricultural) by December 2020. Included will be a study to determine the risk for groundwater contamination from process water from sand mines and other industries.
- To better protect groundwater quality, review existing ordinances and regulations by December 2019. If existing groundwater quality protection regulations are found to be inadequate, explore county regulation options, especially in relation to subdivisions, industry, and agriculture, by June 2021.
 - Specifically, for agriculture, update the existing Animal Waste Storage Ordinance and incorporate the existing Wisconsin Agriculture Performance Standards and Prohibitions (contained within Wisconsin Administrative Code NR-151) by June 2019.

C. Groundwater Education Goals

- Complete the Eau Claire County groundwater website with theory and principles of groundwater by June 2019.
- Provide home buyers, builders, and realtors with private well owners fact sheets and checklists to assist homeowners in groundwater protection by June 2019.
- Develop a format to publicly share local water testing results and increase awareness of other existing publicly available groundwater test results by December 2019.
- Increase partnership with towns, villages, and other municipalities to educate the public on how to keep water safe and the importance of well testing by December 2019.
- Develop fact sheets to assist the public to understand who has what regulatory responsibility for groundwater protection by June 2019.

Groundwater Priority Recommendations



From: [Smith, Jason J](#)
To: [Josh Pedersen](#); [Tim Sullivan](#)
Cc: [Sue McDonald](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: USGS monitoring well - Eau Claire County
Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 3:25:55 PM
Attachments: [possible.well.locations.PNG](#)
[location1.map.PNG](#)
[location2.map.PNG](#)
[location3.map.PNG](#)
[well.agreement.pdf](#)

WARNING!! This email originated outside Eau Claire County. Do not click any links or attachments unless you know the sender.

Hi Josh. It was nice to talk to you on the phone.

As I mentioned this well would be part of the US Geological Survey Climate Response Network (CRN). The National CRN covers the entire nation, but here in WI we only have 12 existing CRN wells. You can click [here](#) to view the WI CRN. The goal is to track groundwater levels in various aquifers around the state and determine how/if climate affects long term groundwater levels.

I have 3 possible locations picked out. Only one well would be installed at one of the locations. Based on surrounding drillers logs depth to groundwater is only 5-10 ft. below the surface. The 6 inch well would only have to be about 30 ft.

I am attaching a few documents.

- possible.well.locations.PNG shows 3 possible well locations.
- location1.map.PNG shows location 1 in more detail on an aerial map with lat/long of the location. Red X's are existing well in the area.
- location2.map.PNG shows location 2 in more detail on an aerial map with lat/long of the location. Red X's are existing well in the area.
- location3.map.PNG shows location 3 in more detail on an aerial map with lat/long of the location. Red X's are existing well in the area
- well.agreement.pdf is an existing land use agreement that we have established at another well.

I know you mentioned that an easement will not be possible, but maybe we can establish a land use agreement such as the attached well agreement.

Thanks again for your consideration.

Jason

From: Josh Pedersen <Josh.Pedersen@co.eau-claire.wi.us>

Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:08 PM

To: Tim Sullivan <Tim.Sullivan@co.eau-claire.wi.us>; Smith, Jason J <jasons@usgs.gov>

Cc: Sue McDonald <Sue.McDonald@co.eau-claire.wi.us>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: USGS monitoring well - Eau Claire County

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Jason,

As Tim indicated, there will need to be some additional information given on this request prior to any decision being made. Please send additional details to me when it is convenient. Or give a call when you can and we can go over a few things on the phone.

Thanks,

Josh Pedersen

715-839-4783

From: Tim Sullivan <Tim.Sullivan@co.eau-claire.wi.us>

Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 1:23 PM

To: jasons@usgs.gov

Cc: Josh Pedersen <Josh.Pedersen@co.eau-claire.wi.us>; Sue McDonald <Sue.McDonald@co.eau-claire.wi.us>

Subject: USGS monitoring well - Eau Claire County

TO: Jason Smith

Mr. Smith I am writing to inform you that we sent your email where you requested the ability to install a monitoring well on behalf of the US Geological Survey, to the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department. The locations you indicated are in the County forest, and your request will need to be considered by the County Parks and Forest Committee.

Further there may be implications with the state of Wisconsin as we typically need permission to alter the use of forest that is enrolled in the county forest program.

As such It may be a period of time that we have an answer for you. However, in the mean time I am sure that Josh Pedersen Director of Parks and Forest would appreciate any information you are willing to give to him about the exact location, the dimensions, and the impact the well will have on the forest.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

