

**COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
"NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING"**

In Accordance with the provisions of Chapter 19, subchapter IV, Wisconsin Statutes, **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** of the following public meeting:

THE GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WILL MEET ON MONDAY MARCH 25, 2019 **TIME:** 4:00 P.M.
PLACE: EAU CLAIRE COUNTY COURT HOUSE Room 302
721 OXFORD AVENUE EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA

1. Call to order by Chair
2. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law
3. Public Comment Period
4. Review/Approval of February 25, 2019 meeting minutes.
5. Review of Final ThinkWater Training Session. --Discussion
6. Develop Action Items per State of Groundwater Document and ThinkWater --Discussion/Action
7. Set up Technical Sub-groups --Discussion/Action
8. Updates from the WI Land + Water Conference --Discussion/Action
9. Discussion of Items Specific to Temporary CAFO Moratorium --Discussion/Action
10. Staff and Agency Updates-Discussion--Action
 - a. Regional Planning Commission
 - b. Planning and Development
 - c. Land Conservation
 - d. Health Department
11. Additional Tasks for consideration by Groundwater Advisory Committee --Discussion/Action
12. Next Meeting Date (April? __, 2019)
13. Items for the Next AgendaAdjourn

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RECEIVED _____

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

**MEETING MINUTES – February 25, 2019
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Room 302
720 – 2ND AVENUE, EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701**

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Dunning, Nathan Anderson (arrived at 4:10), Nancy Coffey, Anna Mares, Glory Adams, Sham Anderson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Kenosian, Jennifer Eddy, Sarah Vitale

STAFF PRESENT: Matt Steinbach (Eau Claire City-County Health Dept.); Liz Fagen and Greg Leonard (Eau Claire County Land Conservation)

OTHERS PRESENT: (none)

1. Call to order by Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunning at 4:02 pm. A quorum was present.

2. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Dunning confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

3. Public Comment Period

None.

4. Review/Approval of January 14, 2019 minutes – Discussion/Action

ACTION: Motion by Adams/S. Anderson to approve the January 14, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried, 5-0-0.

5. ThinkWater School activities related to Groundwater Advisory Committee Tasks Report--Discussion

Fagen reviewed the systems thinking program map being utilized in the ThinkWater School and questioned the committee if there were any gaps in the perspectives or if the impacts/outcomes were in the right place. (Nathan Anderson arrived)

Steinbach and Fagen continued the review of the ThinkWater system, which has confirmed many of the goals of the State of the Groundwater report but brings them together in a different process. Programs were developed through the process, as well as discussion of other roles of the committee to take proactive steps to protect groundwater. Mares stated for the DNR, nitrates are the primary area of concern within the region. Discussion on possibility of a well maintenance program similar to the POWTS maintenance program. Well data disclosure is a concern for such a program. Dunning will send question on the role of the committee and the ThinkWater matrix out to members to see if there are perceived gaps.

(Mares was excused from the meeting, 5:10)

6. Develop Action Items per State of Groundwater Document and ThinkWater – Discussion/Action

This item was included in the discussion of Item #5.

7. Additional Tasks for Consideration by the Groundwater Advisory – Discussion/Action

This item was included in the discussion of Item #5.

8. Update of Ag Ordinance Review special Committee--Discussion/Action

Leonard provided an overview of the Large-Scale Livestock Moratorium and the Special Committee's process to date.

9. Staff and Agency Updates-Discussion /Action

- a. **Regional Planning Commission** – no report
- b. **Planning and Development** – Leonard provided update on the Title 18 update process.
- c. **Land Conservation** – no additional report was provided.
- d. **Health Department** – Steinbach reported on the staff involvement with the Ag Ordinance Review process, and upcoming Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) education

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was set for March 25, 2019 at 4:00 pm.

11. Items for the Next Agenda

ThinkWater actions and technical group set up will be on the next meeting agenda.

12. Adjourn

Dunning adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Greg Leonard
Land Conservation Manager

Identified Issues

- Threat of declining groundwater quality
- Lack of sufficient data/knowledge to inform decisions

Long-Term Impacts Sought by Programs/Activities

- All groundwater in Eau Claire County will be of quality that does not compromise human health and welfare
- Maintain current quality of high-quality water supplies (i.e. protect high quality water from further degradation)
- Groundwater quality considerations become effectively ingrained in land management practices, county planning efforts, and policy decision making processes
- Sufficient data will be compiled and maintained to better allow EC County to make informed decisions concerning topics with potential to affect groundwater
- EC County ordinances w/ groundwater implications align with the characteristics and needs of the county, considerations of the affected stakeholders, and meet groundwater protection and enhancement objectives

Anticipated Short-Term Outcomes of Programs/Activities

- Increased participation in local and regional efforts to collect, analyze, and share groundwater data and other related science (e.g. contributing factors, best management practices)
- Increased participation in collaborative local, regional, and statewide organizations, work groups and governments concerning groundwater science
- Increased internal and external governmental cooperation, collaboration, and advocacy (policies, planning and outreach)
- Increased Awareness/Education concerning Groundwater Contaminants, Sources, Impacts, and Protection/Enhancement Opportunities

Programs/Activities (many have more detailed sub-programs/activities and are subject to prioritization)

- *Establish a Groundwater Technical Working Group to prioritize and implement priority actions*
 - ❖ Identify data collection and storage needs and establish a sustainable process
 - ✓ Identify sources of publicly available groundwater data to supplement county data
 - ✓ Develop a consolidated database and processes for maintenance
 - Design and adapt database to contribute to regional and statewide efforts
 - ✓ Develop a county groundwater monitoring program and protocol to fill gaps in existing data and to inform future policy decisions
 - ✓ Adapt protocols and processes as needed to incorporate emerging contaminants of concern and other best available science
 - ❖ Increase application of GIS data and modeling
 - ✓ Evaluate and model existing groundwater quality concentrations in EC County
 - ✓ Research and pursue opportunities to model groundwater flow direction and susceptibility to contamination
 - ❖ Serve as technical resource for local boards, committees, and commissions
 - ✓ Provide updates on progress towards groundwater action goals at GAC meetings
 - ✓ Increase awareness of groundwater issues among local governing bodies through presentations and other outreach

- ✓ Inform and educate about emerging contaminants and source and other updates in groundwater-related science
- ❖ Represent the interests of EC County in regional and statewide collaborative efforts concerning groundwater to expand county understanding of external work and ensure opportunities for participation (monitoring, research, policy and planning)

- *Continue and expand upon the work of Groundwater Advisory Committee*
 - ❖ Regularly review and update the Eau Claire County Groundwater Management Plan to evaluate progress and incorporate new science and decisions
 - ❖ Provide groundwater updates and increase general awareness among connected government and non-governmental entities
 - ❖ Advocate for federal, state, and local regulations and policy to support groundwater protection and enhancement
 - ✓ Provide recommendations for applicable policy change
 - ✓ Advocate for state and local monetary support for increased data collection, capacity building and protection and enhancement activity incentives related to groundwater
 - ✓ Provide and solicit letters of support for public and private sector grant applications that would support the efforts of the committee
 - ❖ Invite and incorporate participation by the community directly affected by regulation (e.g. industry, agriculture) into committee discussions around groundwater

- *Policy and Planning*
 - ❖ Continue to administer existing ordinances and enhance enforcement capacity to ensure compliance
 - ❖ Review existing ordinances and regulations and recommend options for additional protection measures with considerations for affected parties
 - ❖ Further incorporate groundwater considerations in EC County planning efforts by facilitating direct participation by members of the Technical Working Group and consultation with the Groundwater Advisory Committee

- *Outreach and Education*
 - ❖ Continue and expand upon outreach efforts to Agriculture community
 - ✓ Expand outreach efforts concerning agricultural best management practices
 - ✓ Establish Amish & Mennonite liaison(s) to facilitate outreach for EC Co. Land Conservation and Public Health programs
 - ❖ Enable access to groundwater information for the public
 - ✓ Update groundwater advisory committee website to be a resource for the public
 - ✓ Provide rural home buyers, builders, and realtors with fact sheets and checklists to increase awareness of groundwater quality considerations and protection measures
 - ✓ Develop a method(s) to publicly share local water testing results and increase awareness of other existing publicly available groundwater test results
 - ❖ Develop fact sheets to assist the public to understand who has what regulatory responsibility for groundwater protection
 - ❖ Increase collaborations to facilitate education of residents about the importance of groundwater monitoring and protection