

## **AGENDA**

Eau Claire County

- Groundwater Advisory Committee •

**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2022

**Time:** 4:00 P.M.

**Location:** *Eau Claire County Court House, Room 1277  
721 Oxford Avenue Eau Claire, WI 54703*

### **AGENDA**

The Committee will discuss and may act on any of the following items:

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 December 16, 2021 meeting minutes – **Pages 2-3**
6. Staff updates
7. PFAS update
8. Groundwater Quality and Quantity studies – **Pages 4-5**
9. Members, Staff and Agency Updates
  - a. Committee Members
  - b. Regional Planning Commission
  - c. Planning and Development
  - d. Land Conservation
  - e. Health Department
10. Set next meeting date
11. Adjourn

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

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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nathan Anderson, Mary Kenosian

**STAFF PRESENT:** Matt Steinbach and Audrey Boerner (Eau Claire City/County Health Department), Regan Watts (Planning & Development)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jane Mohler (community member), Stacy Harbaugh (River Alliance of Wisconsin), Johnson Bridgwater (River Alliance of Wisconsin)

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**1. Call to order by Chair**

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

**2. Roll call of members present**

A roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

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

Dunning confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

**4. Public Comment Period**

Jane Mohler discussed her interest in contributing to items of concern in the area as a new resident with epidemiology and public health.

**5. Review/approval of September 22, 2021 meeting minutes – Discussion/Action**

**ACTION:** Motion by Coffey/S. Anderson to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2021 meetings as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 7-0-0.

**6. Presentation by Johnson Bridgwater (River Alliance of Wisconsin)**

Bridgwater provided information on the opportunity to have a referendum placed on the April ballot and/or a county resolution asking the question “Should the State of Wisconsin establish a right to clean water to protect human health, the environment, and the diverse cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin?”

**7. Resolution to Planning and Development, and the County Board, to place a Referendum on the April ballot for the “Right to Clean Water” – Discussion/Action**

**ACTION:** Motion by Coffey/Vitale to forward a resolution to place a referendum on the April ballot for the “Right to Clean Water”. Members discussed what kind of data or planning for implementation/possible solutions would be required in bringing this to the board. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 7-0-0.

**8. Community septic systems policy - Discussion**

Health Department staff shared basic background on community septic systems. Coffey shared information about concerns that have been raised about community septic systems regarding longevity, maintenance, assurance in the

case of failure. One community system is in place in the Trilogy development in Eau Claire County. Example policies for community systems exist from La Crosse and Waukesha.

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

- a. **Committee Members** – no report.
- b. **Regional Planning Commission** – no report.
- c. **Planning and Development**– no report.
- d. **Land Conservation**– no report.
- e. **Health Department** – Reported that Title 8 updates will be going forward to county board related to beekeeping, poultry, holding tanks for season occupancy structures, and changes to the well program delegation from the WDNR.

**10. Set next Meeting Date**

The next regular meeting date was set for March 17, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

**11. Adjourn**

Dunning adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Audrey Boerner  
Public Health Specialist

Draft

## 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

