

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

- Groundwater Advisory Committee •

Date: Thursday, August 4, 2022

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Location: Eau Claire County Court House, Room 302

721 Oxford Avenue Eau Claire, WI 54703

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Chad Berge at chad.berge@eauclairecounty.gov at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law
4. Public Comment Period (15 minute maximum)
5. Welcome new Land Conservation Manager & Committee Clerk, Chad Berge
6. Review/Approval of May 5, 2022, meeting minutes (Discussion/Action) **Pages 2-4**
7. Formally invite and acknowledge existing staff advisors to the Groundwater Advisory Committee (Discussion/Action)
8. Consideration to formally invite and acknowledge additional advisors to the Groundwater Advisory Committee (Discussion/Action)
9. Consideration to amend County Code to expand the Groundwater Advisory Committee membership. (Discussion/Action) **Page 5**
10. Update regarding PFAS in city wells – Tyler Fadness (Discussion)
11. Update regarding ARPA grant proposal – Dr. Sarah Vitale/Matt Steinbach (Discussion)
12. Future Issues: Effect of Development on Local Water Aquifers (Discussion)
13. Report of WI Counties Association “Addressing Groundwater Issues at the County Level: The Kewaunee County Experience” July 18, 2022, in Stevens Point – Nancy Coffey (Discussion)
14. Member, Staff and Agency Updates
 - a. Committee Members
 - b. Regional Planning Commission
 - c. Planning and Development
 - d. Land Conservation
 - e. Health Department
15. Set next meeting date
16. Future agenda Items:
 - a. Area Groundwater Basics Presentation – Dr. Sarah Vitale
 - b. Review of Groundwater Advisory committee workplan
 - c. Submittal of an annual report to the Planning & Development Committee
 - d. City of Altoona potential new municipal well and well head discussion
17. Adjourn

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

MEETING MINUTES – May 05, 2022, 4:00 pm, Rm G302, 721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Dunning, Nancy Coffey, Jodi Lepsch (via telephone), Sham Anderson, Glory Adams, Sarah Vitale (arrived at 4:10 pm), Mary Kenosian (via telephone)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Kaeding, Anna Mares

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Leonard (Land Conservation Division); Rod Eslinger, Regan Watts, and Ben Bublitz (Planning & Development Department); Matt Steinbach (via telephone) and Audrey Boerner (Eau Claire City/County Health Department)

OTHERS PRESENT: (none)

1. Call to order by Chair pro-tempore

The meeting was called to order by Chair pro-tempore Dunning at 4:00 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

None.

5. Introductions

New and existing members and staff introduced themselves.

6. Notice of County Supervisors appointed to Groundwater Advisory Committee: James Dunning (Chair pro tempore), Nancy Coffey, Jodi Lepsch

The listed County Board members were appointed to the Groundwater Advisory Committee.

7. Election of Committee Chair

Dunning opened the meeting to nominations for the Committee Chair. Dunning nominated Nancy Coffey. Dunning called for other nominations three more times. Hearing none, Dunning closed the nominations.

ACTION: Motion by Dunning to close nominations and to cast a unanimous vote and to elect Nancy Coffey as Chair. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 6-0-0. Coffey assumed the Chair and thanked everyone.

8. Election of Committee Vice Chair

Coffey opened the meeting to nominations for the Committee Vice Chair. Coffey nominated James Dunning. Coffey called for other nominations three more times. Hearing none, Coffey closed the nominations.

ACTION: Motion by Coffey to close nominations and to cast a unanimous vote and to elect James Dunning as Vice Chair. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 6-0-0. Dunning thanked everyone.

9. Appointment of Committee Clerk

ACTION: Motion by Dunning to appoint the Land Conservation Manager as Committee Clerk. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 6-0-0.

10. Review/approval of March 17, 2022, meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion by Adams/Anderson to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2022, meeting as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 6-0-0.

11. Update on Groundwater Resolution approved by voters

(Vitale arrived)

The election results of the Groundwater Resolution on the spring ballot were discussed. No action taken.

12. PFAS / Testing update

Boerner reported that the City of Eau Claire continues to test for PFAS, and the City would be better able to address questions. Coffey will reach out to the city.

13. Groundwater and Septic

Lepsch explained septic system can have cumulative effects for nitrates in groundwater, and both density and septage spreading can contribute. Steinbach explained Private Onsite Waste Treatment Systems (POWTS) are not designed to remove nitrates. Community systems can help by encouraging strategic placement of systems. Eslinger offered the original 1990's Groundwater Plan should be revisited to see if it needs to be revised as it was crafted for wellhead protection.

14. Groundwater Quality and Quantity studies/ARPA funding opportunities

Vitale has drafted a proposal for water quality testing requesting ARPA funding. The proposal does not address water quantity topics. Vitale solicited ideas to complete the proposal. Groundwater flow modeling is desirable, but it will be put on hold as the group lacks the capacity to address it at this time.

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

- a. **Committee Members** – no further report.
- b. **Regional Planning Commission** – no report.
- c. **Planning and Development**– Ben Bublitz has taken over as the Land Use Manager.
- d. **Land Conservation**– Greg Leonard reported that the recruitment has begun for his replacement.
- e. **Health Department** – The Health Department is submitting an ARPA funding proposal to improve their water testing.

16. Set next Meeting Date

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

17. Adjourn

Dunning adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Berge". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chad Berge, Land Conservation Manager
Groundwater Advisory Clerk

Draft

2.05.640 Groundwater advisory committee.

A. There is established a groundwater advisory committee which shall be attached to the department on planning & development for administrative purposes.

B. The committee shall consist of nine persons knowledgeable and interested in groundwater quality and protection, appointed by the chair of the county board, subject to approval of the county board, for staggered 3-year terms commencing on the 3rd Tuesday of April and in the following manner:

1. Annual vacancies shall be noticed publicly.
2. Three members shall be county board members.
3. One member shall be from the board of health.
4. One member shall be from the Department of Natural Resources, Water Quality Division.
5. One member shall be the president of the Eau Claire County Town's Association or designee.
6. Three members shall be citizens at large with one having expertise in a groundwater related field.
7. All members shall be citizens of the county at the time of appointment and for the duration of their terms.
8. Should any member no longer meet the qualifications for appointment, his or her seat shall be declared vacant.
9. Mid-term vacancies may be filled from a list of citizens who have applied for annual vacancies but have not been selected, or through a separate public notice, or by using both.

C. The county board chair shall appoint a chair pro tem to chair the first meeting. At the first meeting the membership shall elect a chair and a vice-chair. The committee chair shall appoint a committee member or a department staff member as secretary.

D. The committee shall coordinate information on groundwater concerns within Eau Claire County and as part of that process shall:

1. Monitor state and federal regulation of groundwater.
2. Oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive, county-wide groundwater management plan.
3. Perform such other tasks as directed by the planning & development committee.

E. The committee shall report to the planning & development committee at its request, but no less than annually.

F. The director of planning & development shall assign staff assistance to the committee who shall act as liaison with the planning & development committee, reporting regularly to both bodies. In addition, extension & health department staff shall be assigned as needed.

G. The committee shall meet at least four times per year. (Ord. 158-009, Sec. 1, 2014; Ord. 146-14, Sec. 7, 2002; Ord.143-91 Sec.14, 2000; Ord.137-100, 1994; Ord.133-29, 1989).