

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

MEETING MINUTES – May 5, 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,



Greg Leonard, Land Conservation Manager
Groundwater Advisory Clerk