

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

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Kenosian, Sarah Vitale

STAFF PRESENT: Chad Berge and Christina Rauh (Land Conservation Division); Rod Eslinger (Planning & Development Department); Matt Steinbach (Eau Claire City/County Health Department), Sharon McIlquham (Corporation Council)

OTHERS PRESENT: Ty Fadness and Cole Cloutier (City of Eau Claire), Maddie Loeffler (Wisconsin Conservation Voters)

1. Call to order by Chair.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Coffey at 4:01 pm.

2. Roll call of members present

A roll call was taken. 7 members. A quorum was present.

3. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Coffey confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

4. Public Comment Period

None

5. Welcome new Land Conservation Manager & Committee Clerk, Chad Berge

Coffey introduced Chad Berge as the new Land Conservation Manager and Committee Clerk. Christina Rauh was introduced, Land Conservation Division Environmental Engineer.

6. Review/Approval of May 5, 2022, meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion by Lepsch/Second by Anderson to approve the May 5, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 7-0-0

7. Formally invite and acknowledge existing staff advisors to the Groundwater Advisory Committee

Coffey opened the discussion by providing a background of the Groundwater Advisory Committee and reviewed County Code 2.05.640. Coffey explained LCD staff, P&D staff, Health Department staff and West Central Regional Planning Commission have consistently attended meetings and provided technical knowledge. Eslinger suggested to add municipalities and educational partners to the members, staff, and agency updates section. Fadness stated he would like to see more collaboration and didn't think changing code was necessary. Coffey suggested to name these individuals as "Technical Staff" with no voting rights.

ACTION: Motion by Lepsch/Second by Dunning to include "Technical Staff" without formally changing County Code to include municipal and educational partners. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 7-0-0

8. Consideration to formally invite and acknowledge additional advisors to the Groundwater Advisory Committee.

ACTION: None

9. Consideration to amend County Code to expand the Groundwater Advisory Committee membership.

McIlquham described the legal process of altering the committee membership and reminded the committee that as more voting members are added, the number of people needed for a quorum increase.

ACTION: None

10. Update regarding PFAS in city wells.

Fadness and Cloutier gave a presentation regarding the PFAS issues the City is experiencing.

11. Update regarding ARPA grant proposal.

Coffey and Eslinger provided an update regarding ARPA funding with a decision being made in August. Anderson shared that he received a letter from the WI DNR and UW-Stevens Point stating he was selected to voluntarily have his private well tested for various contaminants.

12. Future Issues: Effect of Development on Local Water Aquifers

Coffey opened the discussion and requested feedback as to how members felt large water users such as bottling companies and large developments might impact groundwater? Eslinger stated the Planning & Development Committee could request an applicant for further testing/monitoring if there are concerns a development has the potential to negatively impact groundwater.

13. Report of WI Counties Association “Addressing Groundwater Issues at the County Level: The Kewaunee County Experience” July 18, 2022, in Stevens Point

Coffey and Steinbach provided a background of the presentation and shared with the committee what they learned.

14. Members, Staff and Agency Updates

- a. **Committee Members** – Nothing to add.
- b. **Regional Planning Commission** – None
- c. **Planning and Development**– Eslinger – Building activity similar to 2019 with a slowdown in new building activity. The Climate Action Plan was recently adopted by the County Board.
- d. **Land Conservation** – Berge stated the LCD will be fully staffed as of September 29, 2022. Staff are working on the rewrite of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan.
- e. **Health Department** – Steinbach shared that the Health Department was recently awarded a water sampling grant.

15. Set next Meeting Date

The next two regular meeting dates were set for November 3, 2022, and February 2, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in room G302.

16. Future Agenda Items:

- a. **Area Groundwater Basics Presentation** – Dr. Sarah Vitale
- b. **Review of Groundwater Advisory Committee work plan & State of the Groundwater Report**
- 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

Coffey adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chad Berge, Land Conservation Manager
Groundwater Advisory Clerk