

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

- Groundwater Advisory Committee •

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Location: Eau Claire County Court House, Room 0302

721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Join WebEx Meeting:

<https://eau Claire County.webex.com/eau Claire County/j.php?MTID=m92c1e39189d305c6ff584031b0950fa7>

Meeting number: 2531 609 1612 Password: i2TYDmWUFU33

**Meeting audio can be listened to using this Audio conference dial in information.*

Audio conference: 1-415-655-0001, Access Code: 25316091612##

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

A majority of the county board may be in attendance at this meeting, however, only members of the committee may take action on an agenda item.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law
4. Public Comment Period (15 minute maximum)
5. Election of committee officers (Discussion/Action)
6. Review/Approval of the July 20, 2023, meeting minutes (Discussion/Action) **Pages 2-3**
7. Groundwater Flow Model Project update (Discussion/Action) **Pages 4-5**
8. Review of the WI DNR Water Use Report (Discussion) **Pages 6-7**
 - a. [2022 Water Withdrawal Report \(wisconsin.gov\)](http://wisconsin.gov)
 - b. [A Decade of Wisconsin Water Withdrawals \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)
9. Member, Staff and Agency Updates
 - a. Committee Members
 - b. Regional Planning Commission
 - c. Planning and Development
 - d. Land Conservation
 - e. Health Department
 - f. County Municipalities
10. Set next meeting date
11. Future agenda Items
12. Adjourn

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES – July 20, 2023, 4:00 pm,
Eau Claire County Courthouse, Rm 3312
721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Coffey, James Dunning, Jodi Lepsch, Jane Mohler, Sham Anderson, Darryll Farmer, Anna Mares (arrived at 4:03p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Kenosian, Mark Kaeding

STAFF PRESENT: Chad Berge, Christina Rauh (Land Conservation Division); Rod Eslinger (Planning & Development); Matt Steinbach, Audrey Boerner (Eau Claire City/County Health Department), Nick Smiar (Eau Claire County Board)

OTHERS PRESENT: Karla Sparks (US Army Corps of Engineers), Sarah Vitale (UW-Eau Claire)

1. Call to order by Chair.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Coffey at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll call of members present

Roll call was taken. A quorum was present with 6 members in attendance.

3. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Coffey confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

4. Public Comment Period

None

5. Review/Approval of July 7, 2023, meeting minutes

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Motion by Anderson/Second by Lepsch to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with no one in opposition, 6-0-0

6. Review of the Groundwater Study Scope of Work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

DISCUSSION: Mares arrived at 4:03 p.m.

Berge and Eslinger reviewed the revised numerical model map. Sparks provided a review of the two phased project scope. The group discussed the need for a county primary contact and Audrey Boerner with the Health Department will be the primary contact moving forward.

ACTION: Motion by Mares/Second by Lepsch to move forward with the proposed project scope as prepared by the USACE and refer the project to the Planning & Development Committee. Motion carried on a voice vote with no one in opposition, 7-0-0

7. Review of the UW Eau Claire ARPA Proposal.

DISCUSSION: Vitale provided a project update to the committee. She is seeing a 25% - 30% participation success rate and has taken 25 private well samples to date.

8. Members, Staff and Agency Updates

- a. **Committee Members** – Mohler – City of Eau Claire passed a water rate plan.
- b. **Regional Planning Commission** – Chris Straight left a message stating he will no longer be participating in the committee as his workload has transitioned.
- c. **Planning and Development** – Eslinger provided a department update.
- d. **Land Conservation** – Berge attended the County Conservationist Meeting in Stevens Point.
- e. **Health Department** – Boerner shared the new testing equipment is being utilized and gave an overview of the homeowners testing bundle.
- f. **County Municipalities** – Not present.

9. Set next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting date is November 16, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in room 0302.

10. Future Agenda Items:

11. Adjourn

Coffey adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chad Berge, Land Conservation Manager
Groundwater Advisory Clerk

From: [Sparks, Karla K CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#)
To: [Rod Eslinger](#); [Chad Berge](#); [Audrey Boerner](#); [Matt Steinbach](#); [Allen, Peter J CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#)
Subject: Eau Claire County Groundwater Path Forward Meeting Minutes and Follow Up
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:59:53 AM
Attachments: [PAS LakeOsakis Scope FAT final USACE 5May23 clean.docx](#)

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All,

Thanks for this discussion today. Let me know if you have additional questions on the potential paths forward. Below I captured a few notes for each option. Attached is the Lake Osakis Comprehensive Agreement. This is an example of how Work In Kind (WIK) and a broader scope could be used to buy down the cash contribution.

Purpose of this meeting is to have an initial discussion about potential path forward for development of an Eau Claire County Groundwater Model

Potential paths include:

- Option 1. Submittal under Floodplain Management Services Program (FPMS) program- This is another USACE program and would be submitted under a special study (255) allowing for 100% federal cost, however it is competitive and not guaranteed. A SOW would be prepackaged for submitted in the new year. Determinations on approved packages generally occur in Jul/Aug timeframe. Funds would not be available to start, assuming selected, until after October 2024.
 - Deadline for application submission is March 31st 2024
 - Application is evaluated and ranked by division and HQ find out in July/Aug which applications are funded
 - Each year more applications are submitted then there is funding for, therefore this is a competitive application process.
 - Current SOW could be repackaged for this application process with minimal effort by USACE.
 - 100% federal cost, no cash by County

- Option 2. Resubmit a PAS under 50/50 cost share for current proposal. The total project cost estimate is \$372,184.20. This would break down to \$186,092.1 Federal / \$186,092.1 Nonfederal. The PAS is currently accepting proposals throughout the year. This option could move forward once funds are secured by the county. Based on prior conversations this may be in the late fall 2024.
 - County fiscal year is Jan 1 - Dec 31 typical budget year; Capital funds- last year was in March and April- Can ARPA dollars, (other federal; covid funds from American Rescue) be utilized for the nonfederal cost share? The funds administrator from the other federal program should be able to answer, this is program dependent. If the other federal entity is willing to provide a letter saying these funds can be matched then yes, Rod will follow up with local finance officer.

- No hard application deadline, applications submitted on a rolling basis.
 - SOW has 18 month to 2 year project deadline, date started after application is approved and funds are received from Feds and nonfederal entities.
- Option 3. Resubmit a PAS under 50/50 cost share with reduced scope for phase 1 conceptual model \$171,000. This would break down to \$85,500 Federal / \$85,500 Nonfederal. This option would make sense if the county has funds sufficient to cover phase 1 available now and would like the work to begin. A second study request would need to be submitted for phase 2 next FY.
 - No hard application deadline, applications submitted on a rolling basis.
 - SOW has would need to be refined for schedule and account for resubmittal time of approximately 6 months in middle of phases.
 - This option has more schedule risks due to multi-phased application process.
- Option 4. Comprehensive Study- To be discussed during meeting
 - Use existing SOW and add additional planning tasks., for example see attached Lake Osakis of comprehensive plan SOW. Work in Kind (WIK) including labor efforts for any future activities necessary for completion of the project, can be captured to reduce the non-federal contribution.
 - Other groundwater efforts in state of WI: Juneau (PAS) and Wood County (FPMS) Groundwater Model. Both efforts are being supported by a cross district team with Philadelphia groundwater center of expertise.
 - No hard application deadline, applications submitted on a rolling basis.

I have put in a placeholder on my calendar for January 18th at 4:00 pm to attend the groundwater committee meeting to address any questions on these options. If you could forward to Peter Allen and myself that would be helpful.

Please reach out with any questions,
Karla

Karla Sparks, PMP
Program Manager

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Cell: 651-366-7359
karla.k.sparks@usace.army.mil

From: lcd-staff@wisconsinlandwater.org on behalf of [Freihoefer, Adam T - DNR](#)
To: lcd-staff@wisconsinlandwater.org
Cc: [Dougherty, William D - DNR](#)
Subject: 2022 Wisconsin Water Use Report
Date: Friday, December 15, 2023 9:12:28 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

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Good morning,

The Wisconsin DNR recently released the [2022 Water Use Report](#). This report outlines withdrawals that occurred in 2022 and does not include analysis of the drought and associated water use that occurred this past summer. This report is prepared annually, and it describes the surface water and groundwater withdrawals reported to the department for the previous year in reference to precipitation trends and statewide trends in water use. The 2023 Water Use Report will include analysis of the drought that occurred the summer of 2023 and that report will be released December 2024.

During 2022, groundwater levels statewide returned to normal ranges after a multi-year period of groundwater highs. Throughout the year, water users withdrew 1.8 trillion gallons of water from groundwater and surface water resources. Most of the water was used for power production, which accounts for 73% of the total volume of water withdrawn in 2022. The next largest water use sector was public supply at 10% of the total withdrawal volume. In general, 2022 was a continuation of trends seen in 2021. Of the 1.8 trillion gallons withdrawn in 2022, 12% or 0.22 trillion gallons were sourced from groundwater, with the rest being surface water withdrawals. In general, surface water is typically discharged near where it is withdrawn and has a lower water loss than groundwater withdrawals.

Earlier this year, the Water Use Section released an [ArcGIS StoryMap](#) detailing the history of water withdrawals between 2011 and 2021. This StoryMap goes into more detail about the trends we have seen in the last decade and the history of Wisconsin water withdrawals. More detailed information about water withdrawals can be accessed through this query tool: <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/waterusepub/Source>.

DNR is developing a tool to generate county level annual reports and potentially watershed level annual reports. This tool will not replace the annual water withdrawals report and is in development.

Water use reports for previous years can be found on [this webpage](#). For more information, please reach out to Will Dougherty, William.dougherty@wisconsin.gov.

Regards,
Adam Freihoefer

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Adam Freihofer

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
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