

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES – January 18, 2024, 4:00 pm,
Eau Claire County Courthouse, Rm 0302
721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703**

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Dunning, Jodi Lepsch, Jane Mohler, Sham Anderson, Darryll Farmer, Anna Mares, Mary Kenosian

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nick Smiar, 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), Jane Mueller (Town of Washington)

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Coffey (Eau Claire County Board), Karla Sparks, Peter Allen (US Army Corps of Engineers), Sarah Vitale (UW-Eau Claire)

1. Call to order by Chair.

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

2. Roll call of members present

Roll call was taken. A quorum was present with 7 members in attendance.

3. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Dunning confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

4. Public Comment Period

Vitale provided a Well Water Testing Program update.

5. Election of committee officers

DISCUSSION: Jodi Lepsch was nominated for the committee chair. No other nominations were brought forward.

ACTION: Motion by Dunning/second by Farmer to nominate Lepsch as the Groundwater Advisory Committee Chair. Motion carried 7-0-0.

6. Review/Approval of July 20, 2023, meeting minutes

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Motion by Anderson to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0-0

7. Groundwater Flow Model Project Update.

DISCUSSION: Sparks provided an update summarizing that Eau Claire County did not receive funding under the Environmental Justice Waiver for full funding. Sparks discussed 5 potential paths the committee could follow:

1. Submit the same proposal under the Floodplain Management Services Program as a special study which allows for 100% federal funding.
 2. Resubmit a Public Assistance to States proposal that would require 50% matching funds.
 3. Resubmit the Public Assistance to States proposal and reduce the scope to include phase 1 only.
 4. Submit a proposal as a Comprehensive Study.
 5. Not move forward with the US Army Corps of Engineers.
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ACTION: Motion by Mares/Second by Anderson to resubmit the proposal under the Floodplain Management Services program offering 100% funding and requested P&D to add the Groundwater Study funding back into the County Budget for 2025. Motion carried. 7-0-0

8. Review of the WI DNR Water Use Report

DISCUSSION: The committee had a short discussion regarding the report and suggested keeping this report in mind for future planning.

9. Members, Staff and Agency Updates

- a. **Committee Members** – Coffey – Safe Water meeting moved to February 1, 2024.
- b. **Regional Planning Commission** – Not present
- c. **Planning and Development** – Eslinger provided a department update.
- d. **Land Conservation** – Berge provided a division update.
- e. **Health Department** – Steinback shared the department’s well water sampling program was very successful with 10,066 tests conducted on 3,400 samples.
- f. **County Municipalities** – City of Altoona is installing two new municipal wells.

10. Set next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting date is May 2, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in room 0302.

11. Future Agenda Items:

12. Adjourn

Lepsch adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chad Berge, Land Conservation Manager
Groundwater Advisory Clerk