

March 24, 2019



Portage County Planning & Zoning Committee
1462 Strongs Avenue
Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481

Dear Chairman Jacowski and fellow committee members,

It is my understanding that your committee will be conducting an initial discussion with possible action at your March 26 meeting on the updated version of Portage County Ordinance 7.2 regarding Wellhead Protection, as well as the updated maps for well recharge areas relative to the City of Stevens Point and the Villages of Amherst and Junction City. I am unable to attend this meeting due to my responsibilities here in the Village of Amherst, so I would ask that this letter be read into the public comment portion of your minutes.

Some time ago, when revising the Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Amherst, village officials became extremely concerned when discovering that there were no provisions in place at the county level for regulations or protections within the Zone C time of travel areas (10 years and beyond) outside the village boundaries for our 3 municipal wells. The importance of protecting these areas through revising the county ordinance and updating our maps became a priority for the Portage County Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee, and we have supported their efforts and worked with Planning and Zoning staff to achieve this. The Village of Amherst is very pleased with the results of these efforts that your committee is now reviewing.

I understand that the wells located within our various municipalities provide the majority of the county's population with safe, clean water. This would of course include the 1,058 residents of the Village of Amherst. But our county's municipal wells also provide safe, clean water for the vast majority of business and industries, schools and churches, medical facilities and government operations within Portage County. As the maps before you illustrate, the municipal water recharge zones like those for our village's wells extend well beyond our village boundaries, and are thus beyond our village's scope of protective regulation. The ordinance and map updates you are presently reviewing will provide clear administration and consistent standards for reviewing and regulating land uses and developments that may pose significant risks to the quality or quantity of water drawn by our municipal wells. Without the protection provided by Portage County through the updated ordinance and maps, Amherst's groundwater supply and the operations of our village water utility will be vulnerable to unforeseen perils and susceptible to preventable threats.

We believe that the text components and updated maps of this Wellhead Protection Ordinance provide a much stronger and a much more certain protection for the valuable municipal water resources in Portage County. Therefore, I hereby register the support of the Village of Amherst for the ordinance and maps before you, and ask that you endorse them and support their passage.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Juris
Village President

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**City of Stevens Point
Department of
Public Utilities &
Transportation**



**Joel C Lemke
Director
Phone: 715-345-5266
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March 26, 2019

MEMO

TO: Portage County Planning and Zoning Committee

RE: Wellhead Protection Ordinance Amendments (P&Z agenda item #5 on 3/26/19)

Portage County Planning and Zoning Committee:

It's been a pleasure working with P&Z staff during the development of proposed modifications to the wellhead protection ordinance language. In particular, we really appreciate the professionalism and team approach the staff takes when tackling projects like this one.

During the process of considering changes the P&Z staff recommended amending "Zone A" to include all of the parcels that are touched by the circle that was previously used to represent "Zone A." We fee this is a very good approach and are planning on recommending the same modification to City Ordinance upon adoption by the County.

One item that we may have overlooked related to the "Zone A" language is the fact that it is intended to represent the cone of depression where the water table is impacted, by pumping the well, at least 0.1 foot. Given all of the work done in the recent past around municipal well #11, we would propose that we provide information better describing that 0.1 foot drawdown area and present it to the P&Z committee so that the most recent and accurate information can be reviewed and considered. If the committee agrees, we will proceed with a small scope of services that involves delineating that line. I would imagine that a week or two is all that would be needed to deliver this product. If the County agrees to the modified "Zone A" based on the intended 0.1 foot criteria, the staff of the Water Department will take similar ordinance amendments to the City for consideration.

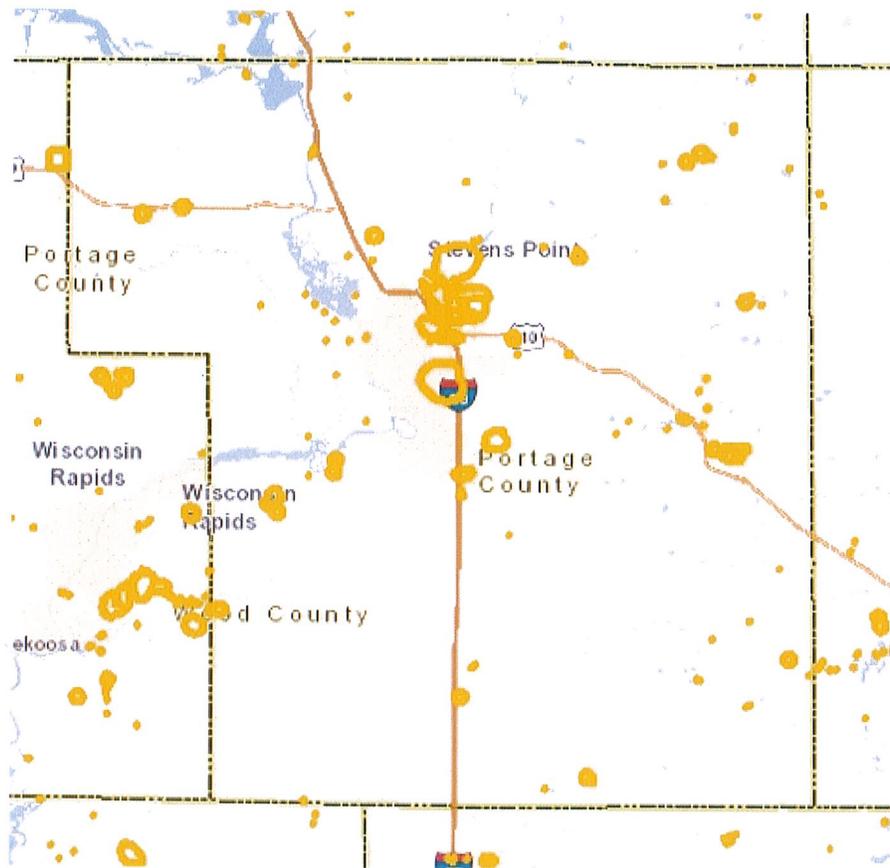
Utility staff will be present at tonight's meeting for further discussion if needed.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Lemke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joel Lemke
Director

Suggestion from the WDNR about Source Water Protection Areas



Each yellow dot on the map is a WDNR identified Source Water Protection Area
<https://dnrmaps.wi.gov/H5/?Viewer=SWDV>

These areas include:

- Municipal Systems (MS)
- Other Than Municipal Systems (OTM)
- Nontransient Noncommunity System (NTNC)
- Transient Noncommunity System (TNC)

Portage County's Wellhead Protection Ordinance (both current and proposed) protect only Municipal systems. Dave Johnson, WDNR Hydrogeologist, asked that we consider adding all public drinking water systems to the Ordinance including OTM's, NTNC's, and TN's. Wellhead Protection Ordinances can be used to protect any public drinking water system, which include those listed above.

To what extent these systems would be protected would have to be worked out. However, WDNR has identified the following areas as those that should have source water protection:

- A 200 ft radius for TNC's
- A 1200 ft radius for NTNC's
- A 1200 Ft radius for OTM's

The reason for this protection is that: "No reason for you not to include all public wells in your ordinance. It would really help with public health protection, in particular for OTMs and NNs as they lack any political muscle to do anything on their own. Helping them maintain setbacks and have some control over land use in those areas will go a long way to providing safe water to their customers." Dave Johnson

The same recommendation has been given to LaCrosse County for their consideration in their wellhead protection ordinance.

Schuler, Jeff

From: Wisconsin Counties Association <mail@wicounties.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 2:30 PM
To: Schuler, Jeff
Subject: WCA Educational Seminar: Environment and Land Use: How Counties Protect Land & Water

WCA Educational Seminars

W I S C O N S I N C O U N T I E S A S S O C I A T I O N

APRIL 2019

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE:

How Counties Protect Land & Water

For the April educational seminar, Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) is excited to host a panel of experts to explore a variety of environment and land use issues, including water quality, zoning, land use planning, and recycling. At a time when the state has identified clean drinking water as a top priority, it's important to hear how the landscape is changing from an environmental standpoint. Communities across Wisconsin are finding innovative approaches to environment and land use and Wisconsin's counties are at the forefront of this innovation.

This seminar will provide an overview of what counties are doing to provide citizens with smart planning, abundant natural resources, as well as interesting approaches to making the most out of those precious state resources.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

[AGENDA](#)

[DIRECTIONS](#)

DATE:

APRIL 22, 2019

LOCATION:

Holiday Inn Stevens Point -
Convention Center

TIME:

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

1001 Amber Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54482

Registration is **FREE** for all member counties. Non-member county/other registration rate is \$115.00/person (payable by check at registration the day of seminar).

SPEAKERS

REGISTER NOW

- Scott Godfrey, Director, Iowa County Planning & Development Department
- Rebecca Frisch, Director, Marathon County Conservation, Planning & Zoning Department
- Matt Krueger, Executive Director, Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association
- Shawn Pfaff, President, Pfaff Public Affairs
- John Welch, Director, Dane County Department of Waste & Renewables
- Meleesa Johnson, Director, Marathon County Solid Waste Department

CONNECT WITH US!



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