

PORTAGE COUNTY GROUNDWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE ROOM 5, COUNTY ANNEX
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019 - 7:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

GROUNDWATER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GCAC) MEMBERS LISTING:

MUNICIPALITY	MEMBERS NAME	Attendance	MUNICIPALITY	MEMBERS NAME	Attendance
TOWNS:			TOWNS:		
Alban	Joe Weisbrod	Absent	Pine Grove	Ben Sawyer	Absent
Almond	Edward Burns	Present	Pine Grove Alt	Jeanette Wilson	Absent
Amherst	Tommy Enright	Present	Plover	Joe Firkus	Absent
Amherst Alt	Peggy Farrell	-----	Sharon	Ron Hensler	Present
Belmont	Mike Warzynski	Present	Stockton	Curt Soik	Absent
Belmont Alternate	Rita Walkowicz	Present	VILLAGES:		
Buena Vista	Zack Mykisen	Present	Almond	Richard Burns	Absent
Buena Vista Alt	Roger Turzinski	Present	Amherst	Mike Hinrichs	Present
Carson	Fred Copes	Present	Amherst Junction	Deb Jakubek	Absent
Dewey	Dennis Meis	Present	Junction City	Peter Mallek	Present
Dewey Alt	Kathy Girolamo	-----	Nelsonville	Tarion O'Carroll	Present
Eau Pleine	David Hansen	Present	Park Ridge	Dan McFarlane	Excused
Grant	Cecile Stelzer-Johnson	Absent	Park Ridge Alt	Christine Neidlein	Excused
Grant Alt	Scott Provost	Absent	Plover	Matt Saloun	Present
Hull	Tim Zimmerman	Present	Rosholt	Jessie Anderson	Absent
Lanark	John Droske	Present	Whiting	Casey Jakubek	Present
Linwood	Garth Frost	Present	CITY:		
New Hope	Jenny Larsen	Present	Stevens Point	Eric Southworth	Present
New Hope Alt	Anne Abbott	Excused			

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Bowers, Jen McNelly, and Amy Heins, Planning and Zoning Department.

OTHERS PRESENT: Gerry Zastrow – Portage County District 24 Supervisor, Larry Raikowski – Portage County District 18, Barry Jacowski – Portage County District 23 Supervisor, Dale O'Brien – Portage County District 19 Supervisor, Charles Gussel – Portage County District 20 Supervisor, Michael Juris, Pete Arntsen, Christina Hartley, and Alexis Pacala.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by E. Burns, Chair.

2. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 17, 2019:

Hensler moved to approve the minutes as presented. Larsen seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

3. CORRESPONDENCE: None

4. PUBLIC NOTICE: *Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their requests at this time with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.* None

5. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION – MAPPING AMENDMENTS TO THE PORTAGE COUNTY WELLHEAD PROTECTION ORDINANCE:

Village of Amherst Map – B. Jacowski questioned if we were the only county in Wisconsin to include the entire recharge area in Zone C. McNelly replied yes. B. Jacowski asked if anyone has mentioned to the Village of Amherst they may need to compensate landowners for the new restrictions on their properties. Juris stated the Village did not have the recharge protection that was needed outside the municipal boundaries, and wanted the same protection as other municipalities. Enright stated existing land uses would be grandfathered in. B. Jacowski replied existing yes, but what if they want to expand. Arntsen asked if the County took into consideration the losses and values due to these types of zoning changes. Bowers replied unless you are taking all rights from a property, there is little to no compensation.

Larsen questioned what is typically done around the State for recharge area. McNelly replied it depends on the municipality, some only regulate to their municipal boundaries as a lot of counties do not have wellhead protection that extend beyond that. Some go out to 10 or 20 years; the way the State Statute is written is "whatever is manageable for that entity". O'Brien asked what restrictions were apart of Zone C. Bowers replied 2 acre minimum lot size for residential uses. McNelly stated it also prohibits hazardous and toxic materials. Bowers stated also a number of commercial uses would need to go through the Board of Adjustment (BOA) for the special exception process.

Village of Junction City Map – B. Jacowski questioned a small triangular parcel that was not included off of County Road P. Bowers replied it was recommended by Andrew Aslesen at Wisconsin Rural Water Association.

Urban Area Map (Plover, Whiting, Stevens Point) – McNelly stated the groundwater recharge does not reach to the Portage/Marathon County line which is why it is proposed to be removed. Droske suggested keeping Zone C the way it currently is (up to Portage/Marathon County line), because the Little Plover River flows through there. Droske asked if this is an assumption that no surface water will become part of the groundwater; what if there was a major spill, it is hard to believe it would not have an impact. Hensler stated the contamination would more than likely float across the top, and the only way it would go deep enough into well 11 to contaminate would be if the spill was something very heavy. Hinrichs stated the biggest danger would be continuous draw down within the cone of depression area for surface water to interact with the well. Southworth stated all of the Stevens Point wells are not under the influence of surface water; DNR required 350ft from the high water mark, and well 11 is 100ft deep and around 2,000ft from the Little Plover River. The 76% of the water for well 11 is pulled from the east or west and northwest.

Droske stated the only other concern is with the Marathon mining near the Little Plover River watershed. B. Jacowski stated there were also protected zones that were annexed to the city and then allowed a gas station. Bowers stated he believes the city understands that which is why we want very similar regulations. Bowers clarified that in Zone C gas stations are not prohibited, and that they draw boundaries by the groundwater flow, not surface water. B. Jacowski asked if gas stations in Zone C would require BOA approval. Bowers replied yes.

Committee discussion – Mapping clarifications per visual.

Droske moved to keep the northeast section (to the county line) of Zone C included on the map due to the proximity of the Little Plover River to the wells. Enright amended the motion “to include the full recharge area as proposed for the west and southeast sections”. Droske agreed. O’Carroll seconded the motion. E. Burns questioned the justification to individuals that question this as other waterways are not included. Droske replied it is grandfathered, and it does not impact anyone any differently as it was previously included. B. Jacowski stated we need to stay consistent with other wells; if you are following scientific data, you need to stand by that throughout the County. Bowers stated if we get challenged we need to be able to justify it. Bowers suggested looking into the creation of a new district based on surface water to protect the watershed. B. Jacowski stated it is frustrating and puzzling the lack of data for well 11 especially since it could potentially supply all of Stevens Point with water. Southworth replied well 11 is legally restricted to 2,000 gallons per minute. There being no further discussion, E. Burns called for a vote. Motion denied by voice vote.

Enright moved to approve the map amendments as presented. Motion seconded by Copes, which passed by voice vote.

McNelly stated the Wellhead Protection Ordinance Text and Map Amendments will go to the Planning and Zoning Committee for review in March, followed by a public hearing, and final approval at County Board thereafter. Juris thanked staff and committee for all their efforts.

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- McNelly provided an update handout (handout on file).
- Enright stated he drafted a resolution for local control for livestock siting that he will be bringing to GCAC soon.
- McNelly stated the Village of Nelsonville water sampling project to wrap up soon; results at April meeting.
- Zastrow stated he is trying to put together an invasive species discussion in Amherst, and will get information out as soon as he has it available.
- McNelly stated she will be conducting a nitrate screening at the Village of Amherst on March 30 from 9am-12pm. She is also working on setting a date for the Town of Stockton as well.
- Arntsen asked that GCAC members be notified when the Wellhead Protection Ordinance Text and Map Amendments go to the Planning and Zoning Committee so that there is additional support present.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., location to be determined.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Enright moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Larsen. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Amy Heins, Recording Secretary

Ed Burns, Chair

April 18, 2019