



**Groundwater Quality Initiative
Workgroup Meeting
Wednesday July 12, 2017 @ 10:30 am
N-1 Conference Room, Courthouse**

MINUTES

Members Present: Pat Mullooly, Wes Davis, Colin Byrnes, Sandy Kraft, Al Sweeney, Nick Baker, Tom Sweeney, and Rick Wietersen.

Members Excused: Rick Richard, Dave Rebout, Rich Bostwick, and Chris Murphy.

Others Present: Dave Gundlach, USDA-NRCS and Russ Podzilni, County Board Chair.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Kraft @ 10:35 am.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Wes Davis moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Al Sweeney. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approve Minutes from the April 4, 2017 Meeting.** Wes Davis moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Pat Mullooly. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Discuss Work Group Mission Statement/Purpose:** Colin Byrnes started the conversation regarding background data sets and the need to have a research based data set developed. Byrnes continued regarding the identification of management tools that are available via the County, State and Federal Governments. Al Sweeney stated that goals for this group need to be identified. Chair Kraft stated her vision of the group's mission statement. We must identify the problem, we must identify the resources available to help reduce the groundwater impact from nitrates, and we need to identify or develop defensible projects for available funding. Tom Sweeney stated we need to include the mapping efforts completed by Environmental Health and UW Whitewater. At this point, Chair Kraft asked for comments, hearing none, Kraft asked that a Draft Mission Statement be developed by Al Sweeney, Tom Sweeney, and Herself. Tom Sweeney stated he would develop draft and forward for comments.
5. **Discussion – Establish Goals/Focus of Work Group:** Al Sweeney started the conversation regarding the establishment of goals. Sweeney stated that the top two goals should include the identification of the Nitrate problem and its scope in Rock County and identify research that has been conducted in other parts of Wisconsin and the immediate mid-western states regarding this issue. Also, the development of an informational website for the maps developed in conjunction with UW-Whitewater. All present agreed with Sweeney regarding this issue.

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6. **Discuss Role/interactions with other groups (Discovery Farms/Farm Bureau):** Nick Baker provided an update regarding contacts with the two groups. Discovery Farms water quality testing is tied to the USGS or United States Geologic Survey. Baker stated he will continue to explore possible assistance being made available from the Discovery Farms group. Baker continued with his discussion regarding contacts with the local Farm Bureau Group. Baker stated they may be the best point for information distribution. Baker stated he will contact Doug Rebut regarding this issue.

Rick Wietersen arrived at this time.

7. **Role of Staff/Subgroups between Work Group Meetings:** Wes Davis stated that an Ad Hoc Committee should be developed to get buy in from the community. Chair Kraft took time to update Rick Wietersen on Mission Statement and Goals. Al Sweeney stated staff should meet as often as needed to reach one of the goals discussed earlier in the meeting regarding, that being research other projects in Wisconsin and immediate Midwestern states.
8. **Other Business.** Chair Kraft stated she would like to change this agenda heading to Communications. At this point Chair Kraft stated she would like Rick Wietersen to review the GIS Mapping project at the next meeting. Also, review and adopt a Mission Statement. Rick Wietersen stated a staff subgroup should be developed to work on BMPs. Wes Davis will report back on the Discovery Farms Annual Meeting and other discussions. Rick Wietersen, Pat Mullooly, Nick Baker, Dave Gundlach, Chris Murphy will staff the BMP group. Pat Mullooly noted that discussion today centered on the rural area of the county and we must remember to incorporate the urban areas.
9. **Next meeting date, time, and location:** The next meeting was set for August 14, 2017 at 10:30 am at the Public Health Department Conference Room.
10. **Adjourn.** Al Sweeney moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 am, seconded by Pat Mullooly.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Sweeney

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Groundwater Quality Initiative Workgroup