



**Groundwater Quality Initiative  
Workgroup Meeting  
Monday August 14, 2017 @ 10:30 am  
Public Health Department Conference Room  
3328 US Hwy 51 North  
Janesville WI**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Nick Baker, Rich Bostwick, Colin Byrnes, Wes Davis, Pat Mullooly, Chris Murphy, Dave Rebout, Rick Richard, Al Sweeney, Tom Sweeney, and Rick Wietersen.

**Members Excused:** Sandy Kraft.

**Others Present:** Dave Gundlach, USDA-NRCS and Adam Elmer, Public Health Department.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Sweeney @ 10:31 am.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Wes Davis moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Rich Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approve Minutes from the July 12, 2017 Meeting.** Rick Richard moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Wes Davis. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Review/Approve Workgroup Mission Statement and Goals:** Rick Wietersen distributed an amended Mission Statement and goals. Wietersen reviewed the proposed changes from the document forward in the agenda packet. Wes Davis moved to approve the Mission Statement as amended and goals of the workgroup, seconded by Pat Mullooly. **Motion Carried.** The Mission Statement is as follows: The Rock County Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup will analyze existing groundwater nitrate data, evaluate known best management practices to reduce nitrate leaching, provide practical recommendations on short term and long term methods to improve groundwater nitrate quality.
5. **Nitrate Well Water Mapping Data.** Rick Wietersen reviewed the well sampling database for Rock County as it relates to nitrate concentrations. At this time Al Sweeney noted that the County will be in receipt of ATC Environmental Impact Fees in 2018 which may be used for assisting with some of the projects in the future, Rick Richard agreed.

6. **Nitrate Risk Tool Developed by the Health Department.** Rick Wietersen and Adam Elmer presented a power point presentation regarding the Nitrate Risk Tool. The purpose of the project was to identify and evaluate the main potential sources and pathways of nitrates in groundwater and utilize Geographic Information Systems to identify areas with higher potential for nitrate leaching throughout Rock County. Wietersen reviewed Land Cover Classification, Septic System Density Analysis, Soil Classification specifically the Hydrologic Soil Groups, and Irrigation Classifications. This information was then used to develop the final map of the county showing Nitrate leaching potentials. The system will be used and related back to the data set of well samples.
7. **Nitrate BMP Subgroup Update:** Nick Baker stated he intends to work with the Local Farm Bureau President Doug Rebut to develop a farmer led group to start addressing the Groundwater Nitrate issue. Baker's goal was to commence the conversations in September 2017. Baker continued with observations of potential funding sources to address the Nitrate research and trials. Potential funding sources identified thus far are: Discovery Farms, The aforementioned ATC Environmental Impact Funds, and USDA-NRCS special project funding. Also as part of the workgroup discussions, Chris Murphy discussed the development of a corn growers contest for yields by limiting nitrate inputs and the development of Insurance program to assure Growers for adoption of Nitrogen management tools. Tom Sweeney stated that DATCP had offered this type of Program in the past to assure Growers of the impacts from the adoption of their first Nutrient Management Plans. Dave Gundlach stated that Soil Nitrogen testing and tissue sampling is an integral component of the Nitrogen Management tool. Rick Wietersen stated we must identify areas that are in receipt of Bio-solids in the county.
8. **Non-Community Well Locations for Potential Future Study Area.** Rick Wietersen noted that data has been collected on approximately 150 Non-Community wells throughout the County. Rick showed a power point slide of the well locations and areas that may be considered for a future pilot project based on wells in exceedance of 10 ppm Nitrate. Chris Murphy stated he has been in contact with DNR and they are interested in working together on such a project. Murphy will explore this issue more in the future. Dave Rebut noted that the group should also review BMPs used in areas that are showing less than 5 ppm in wells, which may yield some positive data.
9. **Communications:** None
10. **Next meeting date, time, and location:** The next meeting was set for September 18, 2017 at 10:30 am at the Public Health Department Conference Room.

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11. **Adjourn.** Al Sweeney moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 am, seconded by Rick Richard.  
**Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Sweeney

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

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