

# CITIZENS (WOOD COUNTY) GROUNDWATER GROUP MEETING

DATE: Monday, December 16, 2019  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Wood County Riverblock Building, Conference Room 206

**Present:** Rhonda Carrell, Bill Clendenning, Bruce Dimick, Nancy Eggleston, John Endrizzi, Gordon Gottbeheit, Shari Grass-Redfox, Adam Groshek, Mark Holbrook, Kim Keech, Gloria Kubisiak, Bill Leichtnam, Logan Manthe, Dan Matthews, Rick Potter, Robert Sorenson, Jay Townley, Rachael Whitehair, Shane Wucherpfennig and Chris Zindorf.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Bill Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Introductions were made by those in attendance.
2. **Public Comment:** Chris Zindorf thanked Bill Leichtnam and Citizens Groundwater Group for inviting Juneau County to the meeting. Bill Clendenning encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming election as several town board officers are up for election.
3. **Correspondence/Updates:** None
4. **Panel Discussion: "Groundwater Contamination in Central Wisconsin: Science/Solutions" (Sub-committee report)**  
Bill Leichtnam mentioned that the Panel Discussion evolved from the Citizens Groundwater Group to correlate with the recommendation for Senator Vos's Groundwater Task Force. The Panel Discussion is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2020 at Nekoosa High School Auditorium from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Bill Leichtnam introduced Gloria Kubisiak of the League of Women Voters. League of Women Voters will be hosting the Panel Discussion with Gloria Kubisiak as emcee of the event. The sponsoring organizations are the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative, Wisconsin Conservation Voters, Wood County Citizens Groundwater Group, League of Women Voters and Clean Green Action. Invited panelists are Mark Borchardt (USDA), Yi Wang (UW-Madison, Horticulturist), Nancy Eggleston (Environmental Health Officer), Andy Diercks (Coloma Farms), State Senator Patrick Testin, State Representative Katrina Shankland and State Representative Scott Krug. Shane Wucherpfennig will invite John Eron as an added panelist. Sarah Yang, Toxicologist of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services was mentioned as a panelist substitute.

## Jobs/Work List:

<u>A. Planning</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
• Reconnect with Sponsors	Bill Leichtnam
• Reconnect with Panelists	Bill Leichtnam
• Reconnect with Nekoosa High School	Bill Leichtnam
• Reconnect with League of Women Voters (No rent)	Bill Leichtnam
• Connect with IT person @ Nekoosa High School	Bill Leichtnam
• Police Presence (City of Nekoosa & Wood County)	Bill Leichtnam
• Emcee/Timer/Screener/Greeters/Ushers	League of Women Voters
• Decision to Postpone (Cancel if news say don't travel)	Bill Leichtnam & Bruce Dimick
• Stage Crew – check microphones (Set-up: 5:30 p.m.)	Bill Leichtnam, Bill Clendenning, Rhonda Carrell & Rick Potter
• Videotaping/Live Streaming (River City Community Access)	Bill Clendenning
• Name Tents	Bruce Dimick

Bill Leichtnam shared the panel format: opening statement (by emcee, Gloria Kubisiak), free flowing statement by panelists, closing statements and written questions to panelists. Physical audience is the target for questions. Discussion of the panel format was discussed in length.

B. Promotion	<u>Responsibility</u>
• Press Release (draft form, released week of 12/16/19)	Rhonda Carrell
• Mass Media (Print, Radio, TV, Electronic, etc.)	Rhonda Carrell
• Mass Media (Statewide)	Rhonda Carrell & Chris Zindorf
• Special Interest Groups/Environmental Groups	Bruce Dimick & All
• Reps from 6 County Collaborative	Bill Leichtnam
• Word-of-Mouth	All
• Posters (electronically, websites, Facebook, Instagram)	All
• Newsletters	All
• Written Invitations (state senators/state representatives)	Bruce Dimick/Chris Zindorf

C. Moderator Directions, Comments and Questions

i. Scientists/Researchers

- How extensive is the problem of rural well contamination?
- How bad is the problem?
- What happens if we do nothing?
- What happens if all pollution/contamination ends today? (How long would it take rural wells to clear? Is there clean water deeper or closer to the surface?)
- Are municipal wells in danger?
- How can the problem be fixed? How much will it cost?
- Nitrates
- Central Sands?
- How can soil type affect water contamination?
- Phosphorus

ii. Legislatures

- What is the short, medium and long-term solutions?
- Who has to act? When?
- Who are the players?
- If this is a question of “multiple causation/multiple solutions” how do we get the players to the table? What if they won’t come?
- How do you deal with the procrastinators/violators?
- Do you see this as a “human health issue”?
- Governor Evers made “2019 the year of clean water” in Wisconsin; do you see this as a campaign issue in 2020?
- How can we use longitudinal and current data to find the solution today?
- Who owns the solution to the problem?
- What regulations are you going implement to prevent additional contamination?
- Will there be enforcement?

Bill Leichtnam thanked everyone for coming and giving feedback for the Panel Discussion on January 6th. Please spread the word about the event. If you want to help with promoting, please contact Rhonda Carrell or Bill Leichtnam.

5. **Speaker Vos’s Task Force on Groundwater Quality-recommendations & legislation (release dates)**  
Bill Leichtnam shared that legislation release is tentatively scheduled for mid-January.
6. **DATCP/DNR Hearings on “Livestock siting” revisions AND possible NR151 Extension to areas with sensitive soils (December statewide meetings-4 year review)**  
Bill Leichtnam shared that Representative Katrina Shankland official statement from DATCP seemed like it was “a pause”.

7. **CGG “Action Items”** Bill Leichtnam commented that he is proud of the group because of the January 6<sup>th</sup> Panel Discussion.
8. **Update on Wood/Juneau County MOU w/AGC**  
Teleconference calls are scheduled quarterly. Nancy Eggelston shared that the third round of water testing has taken place in the Town of Armenia and Town of Port Edwards. There were 94 water samples and of those sampled 27% tested higher than the 10 ppm nitrates.
9. **“Outreach Activities” (Planning for Pittsville “Water” meeting in evening in the fall, possible water testing on site, coordination with UW-Extension “Natural Resources Educator” and Wood County Land & Water Conservation)-begin planning**  
Natural Resources Educator Rachael Whitehair updated the group as to two possible outreach educational opportunities:
  - A. Field Day “Building Farm Resilience” in financial world and soil. Feeding your family. Supporting your business. Let’s solve your problems of financial fears. This event would replace Friends of Mill Creek “Healthy Soil Healthy Water” workshop.  
Location: John Eron Farm  
Date: Mid to late March
  - B. Pittsville “Water” meeting/water testing
10. **Future Speakers-Green Fire? N Wood County legislators? Others?**  
**New nitrogen in drinking water videos-Wisconsin’s Green Fire**  
<https://wigreenfire.org/nitrate-waters-and-health-videos/>  
Bill Leichtnam encouraged everyone to think of future speakers.
11. **Roundtable**
  - A. Bill Clendenning – MOU and other concerns.
  - B. Rick Potter – Shared that the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association is running an ad during the Green Bay Packer games.
  - C. Rhonda Carrell – Encouraged Citizens Groundwater Group to sponsor a workshop to government entities on community water testing similar to what took place in the Town of Saratoga. Bruce Dimick volunteered to help with a workshop.
12. **Announcements of members / visitors (upcoming parallel events / meetings)**  
Rick Potter mentioned that on January 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a Clean Water Lobby Day held at The Madison Concourse Hotel and the State Capital from 12:30-5:30 p.m. More information and to register can be found at the following link: <https://conservationvoters.org/events/clean-water-lobby-day>  
  
Rick Potter shared that the Conservation Voters released a Water Quality checklist:
  - Draft legislation, or support rulemaking, to incorporate a water quality standard for nitrate pollution in targeted performance standards for manure.
  - Provide adequate and ongoing funding for county conservationists, water quality data collection, and staff at the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct water quality mapping.
  - Draft legislation to increase CAFO fees to cover the cost of staff necessary to oversee the CAFO permitting program.
  - Draft legislation to increase cost-share to farmers, with a priority in sensitive areas.
  - Adopt AB21 to modernize income requirements and make wells that human beings – not just farm animals – use eligible for replacement.
  - Adopt the CLEAR Act (SB302/AB321), which will require the DNR to establish standards for emerging toxins like PFAS in our drinking water, surface water, groundwater, soil and air.
  - Adopt SB371/AB399 which will provide \$40 million in bonding authority for communities to replace lead pipes.
  - Adopt the SCHOOLS bills to require testing for lead in schools SB423) and in daycares and summer camps (SB424) and remediate when necessary,

The film "Right to Harm" is tentatively scheduled in January at the Rogers Cinema for free.

13. **Next Meeting**

Monday, January 20, 2020. 2:00-4:00 p.m. @ Wood Co Riverblock Building, Room 206  
Bill Leichtnam shared that an agenda item for January will be Citizens Groundwater Group Bylaws.

14. **Adjourn Groundwater Group Meeting** Bill Leichtnam declared the meeting adjourned @ 4:14 p.m.

Notes by Kim Keech, Planning & Zoning Office