



AGENDA

GROUND AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY STUDY GROUP

May 23, 2017 2:30 PM

County Board Room

1101 Carmichael Road, Hudson, Wisconsin

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Tuesday, May 09, 2017

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Facilitated Group Discussion
2. Process and Experience with the use of study groups to make recommendations on the protection of groundwater to a county board - Pat Malone, Trempealeau County
3. Livestock siting and operations regulatory authority, well siting and other groundwater related legal issues for Counties - Scott Cox, Corporation Counsel
4. Facilitated Wrap-up Group Discussion

ADJOURN

A quorum of the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors (County Board) may be present at this meeting. Therefore, this notice also serves as notice of a meeting of the County Board for the purpose of obtaining information relating to subjects listed above for use at future County Board Meetings.



**MEETING MINUTES
GROUND AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY STUDY
GROUP**

May 9, 2017 2:30 PM

*County Board Room-Government Center
County Board Room - 1101 Carmichael Road, Hudson, Wisconsin*

CALL TO ORDER

Study Group Chair Eric Biltonen called this May 9, 2017 meeting of the Ground and Surface Water Quality Study Group to order at approximately 2:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Agnes Ring	St. Croix County	Supervisor	Present	
Roy Sjoberg	St. Croix County	Supervisor	Present	
Bob Long	St. Croix County	Supervisor	Present	
Charlotte Croes	St. Croix County	Citizen Member	Present	
Carol Johnson	St. Croix County	Citizen Member	Present	
Jody Lenz	St. Croix County	Citizen Member	Present	
Barb Nelson	St. Croix County	Citizen Member	Present	
Leslie Svacina	St. Croix County	Citizen Member	Present	
Tom Zwald	St. Croix County	Citizen Member	Present	
Daniel Hansen	St. Croix County	Alternate	Excused	
Jill Ann Berke	St. Croix County	Alternate	Excused	
Judy Achterhof	St. Croix County	Alternate	Excused	

Others in Attendance: County Administrator Pat Thompson, Corporation Counsel Scott Cox, Study Group Chair Eric Biltonen, Community Development Department (CDD) Director Ellen Denzer, Public Health Environmentalist Ed Thurman, other staff and community members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Ground and Surface Water Quality Study Group – Study Group – April 25, 2017 2:30 PM

Study Group Chair Eric Biltonen asked if after review of the April 25, 2017 minutes if any editing was needed. With no changes noted the minutes were accepted by Chair Biltonen.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of May 9, 2017 2:30 PM (APPROVAL OF MINUTES)

RESULT: ACCEPTED**BUSINESS ITEMS**1. Group Discussion

The group spent some time discussing previous meetings and how to move forward. The consensus by the group was that the break out groups and review was very helpful. The group also feels the need for tools or resources in coming to some final conclusions. They also agree that there are some gaps that they would still like to address prior to presenting suggestions to the County Board.

*** Gaps in information or understanding:**

1) Department of Natural Resources (DNR): What are they already doing and what information do they already have regarding high capacity wells, permitting for Concentrated Area Feeding Operations (CAFO's), rules for irrigation and septic haulers.

2) Legal aspects: What is being done, what can and can't be changed and how or who do we need at the table regarding this.

3) What are best practices in order to protect the water in St. Croix County

4) How do we move forward and come to our final recommendations

Chair Biltonen informed the group that he has contacted Pat Malone another Extension worker from Trempealeau County as she has been through this process. Her suggestions are after the learning phase to begin to identify topic areas or areas of concern, then look into best practices of each and compare to what is being done. Then an evaluation process, like ICE- Information, Cost and Contracting, Enforcement, to determine the feasibility. Finally the group needs to determine its objective. Pat Malone is scheduled to present at a later meeting.

Discussion around best practices and how do we do address in the time frame we have? Further discussion had on the need to come to a decision on what the purpose of this group is and what the group hopes to accomplish.

*** Suggestions:**

1) Support and Education of all farmers big and small

2) Sustain water quality -Long term effects of what we are doing now, and looking into the future to keep our water quality from getting any worse.

3) Safe water no matter where you live in St. Croix County.

RESULT: DISCUSSED2. Follow-up information regarding presentation summary notes, mapping, data, and ongoing analysis - Community Development Dept. Staff

Community Development Department (CDD) Director Ellen Denzer informed the study group that she and her staff continue to work on reviewing each presentation, the study group feedback, and all the questions asked and answered. They met as a group several times last week and have come up with their point of view and some staff recommendations for this group to consider at an upcoming meeting.

One area they found that needed further education and clarification for this study group is the need for more data and mapping. The CDD staff will present information today on what CDD already has and does in house, as well as areas that they could improve upon which would come with additional costs.

CDD Director Denzer introduced Brett Budrow, CDD Planning and Land Information Administrator, he and his staff reviewed a power point with the study group providing an overview of CDD's mapping capabilities, what they already have and where they think they would be going in the future. Joe Ayers, CDD Geographic Information System (GIS) Analyst, reviewed with the study group the mapping and data that is currently available on the county website for public viewing. David Sandberg, GIS Technician, informed the study group of the work he is doing on tracking and gathering data regarding the ground water issues, including the nutrient management plan mapping and best management practices. This is a very time consuming and tedious process. Grant Shirts, GIS Technician, shared information of well and well data CDD currently has, from well construction logs to well testing data. This information can be mapped but only by sections, not exact location. Also, the data isn't complete as some wells are permitted privately not through the CDD and it does not include the type, depth and condition of the wells. Much of this information is available from the DNR website.

Discussion and questions from the group regarding this mapping and what information can be gathered from it and how that could be done. Also discussion on areas that would be out of the CDD's area of capabilities and expertise.

Group discussed the need to inform land owners of the availability of this mapping on the county website and DNR website, though the CDD does promote it extensively. Also discussed, is the need to determine the greatest areas of vulnerability and prioritize where we can do the most good. The group feels the need for CDD's recommendations, more knowledge of what they are working on, their timeline, and how it will play into this groups final recommendations. A suggested priority by CDD may be some work with legislators to make data more accessible. Also, additional resources to improve and add to what we already have and to do baseline water testing. All of this is time consuming and requires staff time, training and resources.

RESULT: DISCUSSED3. Facilitated Wrap-Up Group Discussion

The study group discussed what they see as priority points yet to tackle, and who they still need to hear from to be better informed.

Priorities:

- * **Legal Concerns/What Authority do we have:** Corporation Counsel Scott Cox will present on legal aspects at the next meeting.
- * **Process as we move forward to make recommendations:** Pat Malone will discuss the process Trempealeau County went through with their study group at next meeting.
- * **Mapping**
- * **Testing, monitoring and enforcement**
- * **Communication/Education**
- * **DNR questions:** What are they doing and not doing and how can we support them?

The group then discussed and listed presenters that could be reached out to in order to provide information and educate the group on these priority areas.

Areas of concern/consideration:

- * Well permitting process and monitoring wells, should the county take this over. (Corporation Counsel Scott Cox can report next meeting on what it would take for the county to take this over). Possibility of testing water samples in house.
- * Environmentally sensitive areas
- * Property permissions to access properties done via town chairs--marketing/educate
- * What wells are polluted, the monitoring of good wells and being able to alarm them and others--how to do this, what would it cost, what resources do we have or need? How do we appeal to everyone to be willing to participate? Once monitoring is in place then a plan to determine why a well has reached a bad level.
- * Well testing done along with septic pumping every so many years.
- * Public Health Environmentalist Ed Thurman--has a cost analysis done of setting up water testing lab in house.

CDD will present their recommendations to this study group when better prepared, then this study group can determine which of these recommendations they would like to move forward with.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

ADJOURN

Chair Biltonen called this meeting adjourned at approximately 4:25 PM.