

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lisa Anderson. Present at the meeting were: Lisa Anderson, Tor Anderson, Bob Conachen, Tarion O'Carroll, Katy Bailey, Mark Brueggeman. Citizens present: James Walker.

Minutes of the June 2, 2020 meeting were presented by Lisa Anderson. **M/S, Brueggeman/ Conachen**, move to approve the minutes, all in favor, motion carried.

New Committee Makeup: James Walker has agreed to join the committee as Maud is stepping down.

Testing Update: Water samples were collected by Lisa Anderson on Monday, July 6, 2020. The village-sponsored testing in this round is for 20 nitrate tests, 10 herbicide metabolite tests, and 10 DACT tests. A few residents all had samples collected and are self-funding those tests. Testing spreadsheet is attached to these minutes.

Midwest Environmental Advocates Contact - Tarion: Tarion has spoken with an intern with this group about our situation. He shared a document entitled "Being Heard: A Citizen's Guide to DNR Hearings."

https://midwestadvocates.org/assets/resources/Being_Heard_Guide_to_DNR_Hearings.pdf

UW Madison contact: Lisa shared a summary of her zoom meeting with UW Madison Ag staff regarding a task force which is looking at nitrogen recommendations, etc., for the ag industry. They are looking at setting up a website as a resource for all interested parties which brings information and resources to one place. They're still in early stages of forming any task forces and what the goals of those groups will be.

Land and Water Conservation Committee update: Tor and Tarion gave a summary of their presentations to the county committee on Tuesday, July 7, 2020. Lisa attended in the audience via the webex app. Lisa shared notes with the committee addressing some of the assertions that were made about the committee and or village residents. Notes are attached.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. Respectfully submitted by Lisa Anderson

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GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Via Zoom Tuesday, July 8, 2020, 5:30 pm

self-funding metabolite and DACT			\$125+33	158			
self-funding nitrate			\$18				
Recommended for herbicidal metabolite and quarterly nitrate testing:				Date	Date		
1	BAILEY, BOBBY & KATY	3151 Oak Street	north side of house by fence		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
	post RO test		inside house	\$		7/7/2020	18
2	KRAMER, PAULA	9522 CR-SS	back under balcony by stairs		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
3	MILANOWSKI, JESSE	9548 CR-SS	side & back of house		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
4	OSTERBRINK, DAVE	3099 High Street	back of house		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
5	WALLER, DAVID	9517 CR-SS	inside only		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
6	COLLIGAN, PATRICK	3141 Oak Street	back of house		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
7	DUNN, JERY	2980 Oak Street	back of house		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
		9515 Jerome Street					
8	MANGIN, DAVE & MAUD	Street	side on Oak St		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
9	O'CARROLL, TARION & STACY	3111 Oak Street	by Les P. house		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
10	KLIEFORTH, MIKE & CHRISTY	3431 Welton	on deck right side near door		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
<u>Recommended for quarterly nitrate testing:</u>							
11	WALKER, JIM & MARIANNE	9699 CTY SS	by ramp	@	5/6/2020	7/6/2020	\$158
12	MEDOW, MARK & SARAH	9689 CTY SS	front or back		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
13	BRUEGGEMAN, MARK & LOIS	9568 CTY SS	north wall of east classroom		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
		3021					
14	ESTEP, NANCY	OAK	left side of house - 1/2 way		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
15	CONACHEN, BOB	3467 WELTON DR	right side of house		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
16	STOLZENBURG, JOSH	3453 WELTON DR	right of front door	@	5/6/2020	7/6/2020	\$158
17	ANDERSON, DAVE & SANDY	2920 HWY Q	by front porch		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
18	PRIDEAUX, JENNY	3064 HWY Q	just past driveway, back of house		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
	BRILLOWSKI, JORDAN &						
19	CAITLIN	9418 1ST ST	back of house near door		5/6/2020	7/6/2020	
20	JOSE, DAVE	9527 CTY SS	back of house	@	5/6/2020	7/6/2020	\$158
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	ANDERSON, TOR & LISA	9523 CTY SS	side by garage	@/\$	5/6/2020	7/6/2020	\$176
	GREEN, BECKY	3450 WELTON		\$		7/6/2020	18
	TRZEBIATOWSKI	3041 Oak Street	by gas meter & fence	@/\$	5/6/2020	7/6/2020	\$176

Residents payments

\$

862

Village payment

\$

1,940

Metabolites (10) @ \$125

\$

1,250

DACT (10) @ \$33

\$

330

Nitrates (20) @ \$18

\$

360

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Notes from Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting on 7/7/20.

From: Lisa Anderson [<mailto:nelsonvilleusa@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 1:16 PM
To: Borchardt, Mark <Mark.Borchardt@ARS.USDA.GOV>
Subject: Re: Well test results

Thank you, Mark. This is disappointing... I was hoping this testing would be the silver bullet.

I have a few questions. Does our soil composition explain why this manure testing isn't as effective here as opposed to a place like Keewaunee County?

As I've mentioned previously, we are having source testing done on wells that are over the EPA limit but those tests are limited by the specific chemicals they are testing for. We are also having DACT testing just to show a pattern if possible of chemical treatments from farming making their way into our groundwater. Are you aware of other testing that we aren't aware of that could point to the source? The source testing we're having done does test for septic sources.

The farmer by us told us he didn't spread manure on those fields this fall. Would that impact the results of your testing? What is the timing between spreading and the detection generally?

Lisa

The "silver bullet" was an expression related to nailing down and demonstrating the exact cause of high nitrates. We knew then, and we know now, that agricultural land management is causing our high nitrate levels in the village's groundwater. The farm knows this also as Kyle presented at the meeting, "The problems with nitrates are regional and generational." We've known this not from our own conjecture but from a well-accepted and widely-used statistical analysis in the state that 90% of nitrate comes from ag, 9% from septic, 1% from lawn fertilizer. We have been told this statistical analysis is being generous to ag. The Portage County Groundwater Management Plan of 2004 states that 99% of nitrate in some parts of the county's groundwater is likely from ag.

Kyle suggested I couldn't be trusted to collect water samples because I made this comment in an email. I'm a person of integrity; additionally, if a person was inclined to cheat in some way, that would be exposed through inconsistencies in prior and future sampling.

Additionally, from minutes from 1/7/20: Lisa Anderson shared emails with Steve Bradley that followed the meeting (attached). Hydrologist George Kraft had supplied more in-depth information about nitrogen load in the county (only corn, doesn't include potatoes: 2,392,000 lbs, septic: 120,000 lbs) with his final analysis being septic may contribute 3-4% of nitrate in the county.

Kyle stated that people have been attacking him and the farm: a truck was keyed, they've been flipped off, people have held their nose by him, someone yelled "boo" at the farm, and someone approached him with a picture of a baby that died from high nitrates.

We've stated repeatedly in groundwater meetings that nobody on this committee condones that behavior or has participated in it. The implication seemed to be that Nelsonville residents can't be trusted because we have this animosity toward the farm. The only incident I've heard of that can be attributed to an actual person was a child yelling "boo" at the farm as they passed in a car, and the child was reprimanded. The child also wasn't a

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resident of the village. We don't know or haven't heard about any of the other transgressions. Some of these may have been experienced years ago. Some surely were not done by Nelsonville residents.

We should be clear that members of the committee have felt attacked. We have certain neighbors that won't talk to us because of our efforts to solve this problem. We've been accused of "trying to end Kyle." We've been accused of having some alternative agenda. We even had Gale on a recording saying he should hop in his truck and come down and throw a rock through Lisa's window.

We will continue to promote kindness and civility.

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Kyle listed off a lot of efforts he and the farm have made to minimize the environmental impact of his operations. We take him at his word that he has done that. And yet, the problem persists.
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Kyle suggested, as Gale did at the January 2020 Groundwater Protection Committee meeting, that the lab we use for water sampling might not produce reliable results. The assertion was that on two occasions they submitted the same samples to three labs and got three drastically different results. When this has come up before, we asked Gale to please share the data and he declined. The committee is very transparent with the testing we do and we post results as soon as we get them. We continue to ask Gordondale Farm to share any results they have available that help with data analysis. We ask for sharing of test results on lab letterhead to ensure consistency in data reporting.
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Kyle stated that not all village water test results have been available and/or shared with the water committee, and that IF those are all factored in, the average in the village is actually under 10 ppm. He said that the village actually has good quality water.

We can only evaluate the scientific data we have. We have lab results on state certified lab letterhead. We aren't using any results not from state certified labs with the exception of the Jensen Center March of 2018 tests that the county collected and tested. Those tests have been substantiated by state-certified lab testing. There are 36 wells in the village that we know of that are currently or have been over the 10 ppm limit, and an additional 5 wells that are between 8 and 10 ppm (nearing the limit). 8 wells in the village are replacement wells. All of those had nitrates at an unsafe level prior to replacement. We have results for 58 wells shared with us, and there are 77 wells in the village (not counting irrigation or high capacity wells). Residents need to be aware of the facts and the scientific data beneath those facts.

We have no agenda except to address the needs of village residents and the public health risks they face with unsafe drinking water.