

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lisa Anderson. Present at the meeting were: Lisa Anderson, Tor Anderson, Bob Conachen, Katy Bailey. Citizens present: Trustee Mark Brueggeman, Gale and Ruth Gordon, Kim Krupka (sp?)

Minutes of the March 3rd, 2020 meeting were presented by Lisa Anderson. **M/S, Tor Anderson/Conachen**, move to approve the minutes, all in favor, motion carried.

New Committee Makeup: Village President Josh Stolzenburg is moving to the Plan Commission. Trustee Mark Brueggeman will be appointed to the Groundwater Protection committee at the May Village Board meeting.

Testing Update: Lisa Anderson coordinated with the lab at UWSP to do a contact-less water collection and nitrate testing for the second quarter. This will be done on Wednesday, May 6, 2020. Lisa Anderson will do the collection this time and has contacted residents who participate in the village baseline testing. Samples will be collected from outside water spigots.

County Board Committee Assignments: District 25 Supervisor Ray Reser was assigned to committees that aren't in his area of expertise. He has much experience and education concerning water and soil science. It could've been helpful to our efforts toward safe drinking water if he could've gotten on the Land and Water Conservation Committee. This committee has six members and therefore ends in tie votes when it comes to advancing water quality topics. A tie vote means the motion fails. There was much conflict over whether Reser and another supervisor could swap committee assignments. Another pair of supervisors was allowed to do this, but this vote failed on a 3-2 vote of the Exec Ops committee. Our goal to reduce nitrates is solely based on concern for consequences to the health of residents. We will continue to work to advance efforts that provide safe drinking water in private wells.

Wisconsin Rural Water Association Information: Andrew Asleson is working on some modeling of groundwater flow for the village, much like what Pete Arntsen provided in the Technical Memorandum from last September. We're hoping there will be additional data in his modeling. He developed the wellhead protection plans for the Village of Amherst and Junction City.

Activities to Reduce Nitrates: A document (attached) was reviewed by the committee which was shared by Steve Bradley (County Conservationist). They prepared this document for the former county executive to show what has contributed to increased nitrates in the county, what county staff has been doing to address it, and what county leadership can consider doing to address the problem. It shows that county farmers have changed the crop they're growing in the last decade substantially from hay to corn (which requires excess nitrogen) and in 2011, UW increased nitrogen recommendations on corn by 15-20 lbs per acre. High rates of nitrogen application is the root cause of nitrate contamination in the village wells. Considerable leaching to groundwater occurs with sandy soils as we have here.

County Recommendation to the DNR in 2018: We recently found a letter (attached) written by County Water Resource Specialist Jen McNelly and Public Health Manager Gary Garske to Adam Schuenemann of the DNR. They were asking the DNR to install monitoring wells around manure storage facilities as part of the Gordondale Farms waste disposal permit. Jen McNelly clarified that the DNR has had the authority to require monitoring wells as part of these permits to ensure that the structures are functioning properly. Another farm in the state took the DNR to court challenging their authority to require monitoring wells, and the case is still held up in courts. It's been almost two years since the permit renewal was supposed to occur and monitoring wells would have been installed.

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