



Village of Nelsonville
Portage County, Wisconsin
Resolution # 2018-08-15-1

A resolution creating a standing committee called the "Groundwater Protection Committee."

WHEREAS, the Village of Nelsonville residents are experiencing contamination to their private wells as a result of nitrates and other contaminants, with some wells testing beyond the EPA standards for safe drinking water of 10 mg/L; and

WHEREAS, nitrate contamination in the groundwater provides a health hazard to certain groups of people, such as elderly, pregnant women, infants and nursing mothers, and has been more recently linked to some types of autoimmune diseases and cancers; and

WHEREAS, water levels in private wells, as well as nearby rivers, lakes, and streams, are negatively impacted by the use of high capacity wells for farming;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village Board of Nelsonville, Wisconsin, that the standing committee called the "Groundwater Protection Committee" be created as follows:

A. Membership:

The Groundwater Protection Committee shall consist of no fewer than five (5) members and no more than seven (7) members, keeping an odd number to satisfy majority voting rules. The committee will consist of one member of the village board with a term of one year and be eligible for reappointment annually, one citizen from the farming community, if practicable, one citizen from the GCAC (Groundwater Advisory Committee), if practicable, and two (2) to four (4) additional citizen members. Members shall be appointed by the Village President, subject to confirmation of the village board, at its annual organizational meeting to be held by the village board at their meeting after the first Tuesday in April. The initial appointments of the citizen members shall be for the following terms: one shall serve for one (1) year, two for two (2) years and two for three (3) years. Thereafter, the terms of the non-village board member shall be three years. Members shall, if practicable, be proportionally representative of persons in the village considering (but not limited to) the following: families with young children, residents planning to have children, new residents, longtime residents, residents impacted by high nitrate content in their drinking water, and residents impacted by groundwater level drawdown.

B. Administrative matters:

1. Annual meeting. The committee shall meet each year during the month of April for the purpose of organization, election of officers, and the consideration of any other business that may properly be brought before the committee.
 - a. The committee shall annually appoint by majority vote a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary from among the members.
 - b. Terms for the chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary shall continue until a successor is appointed and confirmed.
2. Agendas: The chairperson shall prepare the agenda for all meetings of the committee and shall, in coordination with the village clerk, ensure meetings are posted according to Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.
3. Meetings:
 - a. All meetings of the committee shall be held in compliance with the statutory provisions of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.
 - b. When the committee consists of seven (7) members, a quorum will be established when four (4) members are present. When the committee consists of five (5) members, a quorum will be established when three (3) members are present. Action may be taken by the committee upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at any meeting where a quorum is present.
 - c. No vacancy in the membership of the committee shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise powers and perform the functions of the committee.
 - d. The chairperson shall conduct the meeting in accordance with the parliamentary rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised unless otherwise provided by statute or by these rules.
4. Budget: The committee shall propose an annual work plan and budget to the village board for review and approval. Any approved budget may be amended from time to time at the sole discretion of the village board in accordance with s.65.90(5)(a), Wis Stats.
5. Amendments:
 - a. The committee may from time to time consider and by a majority vote recommend amendments to this resolution.
 - b. Any such amendment shall not be effective until consideration and approval by the Village of Nelsonville Board.

C. Scope:

The committee should take steps necessary to stop the degradation of Nelsonville's water supply in quality or quantity, to clean the water supply, to protect the recharge area and other natural resources that have an impact on the village's water supply, to explore grants and other outside financial and other resources to aid the committee in its effort to clean and protect the water supply.

The committee shall promote the health and general welfare of the residents of the village by preventing contamination and/or depletion of groundwater affecting village residents.

The committee shall promote education to village residents concerning nitrates, testing, environmental impacts, health impacts, immediate and long-term solutions including reverse osmosis systems, septic and farming sources of nitrates and potentially other contaminants, and other issues relevant to clean and plentiful groundwater in the village.

It shall explore financial assistance options for those seeking to remediate their high nitrate levels in individual homes.

The committee will act with civility and work to build trust between and among the members, the village board, and the community.

Adopted on this 15th day of August, 2018.

Signed: 
Robert Bailey, Village President

Signed: 
Lisa Anderson, Clerk/Treasurer