

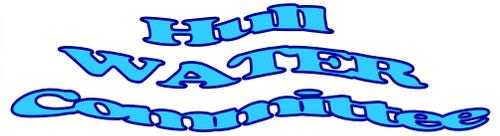
MINUTES –

Hull WATER COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

TOWN OF HULL MUNICIPAL BUILDING

4550 Wojcik Memorial DR., Stevens Point, WI 54482



1) **Call meeting to order:** The meeting of the **Hull Water Committee** was called to order on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson John Holdridge at the Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: Chair: John Holdridge, Committee Members: Dave Pederson, Bill DeVita, Ken Ramage, Madge Bishop, Matt Johnson, Ben Kollock, Committee Secretary: Patty Amman, Bill Omernick – Advisor.

Excused: Mike Bohlman, Karen Hannon

Others: Jen McNelly – Water Resource Specialist for Portage County

2) **Approval of June 19, 2018 Hull Water Committee meeting minutes.** *A motion was made by Dave Pederson to approve the 6/19/18 Hull Water Committee meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Ken Ramage. Motion approved.*

3) **Citizens wishing to address the Committee on NON-AGENDA items may do so at this time. Citizens wishing to address agenda items can do so when the agenda item is under discussion.** *None.*

4) **Comments, questions, opinions, suggestions – chairperson and committee members.**

- JH reminded the committee about comments from the last meeting Mike Bohlman made about possibly using election days as a time to do a short survey of Hull citizens to find out how they prefer information to be sent to them, whether via social media or other means. JH discussed this idea with the Town Clerk as an election is coming up August 14, 2018.

- At the last meeting Karen Hannon suggested influencing politicians regarding water issues. Since that time, JH has called Senator Testin's office working on arranging a meeting date in August where the Senator would come to Hull to discuss with a smaller group (Water Committee members, Plan Commission members, etc.) local issues of interest but primarily water issues. The Senator is very local living within a mile or two of the Hull Municipal Building. JH will inform the members once this meeting is set up. Madge B. asked what the purpose of the meeting would be. JH said we need to find out what legislation is on the horizon pertaining to water. Kristina Shankland had mentioned a water bill at last night's WTA meeting. That might be one of the topics. Karen H. had mentioned a Right-to-Farm bill. Trying to find out about pending legislation. JH said it is important to get the attention of legislators. JH would also like to have Nancy VanderMeer come and visit. We want to have some dialog with these people.

- Another issue that came up at the last meeting was what realtors and loan officers do about water and septic issues at the time of property sales. JH spoke with a realtor and also with a loan

officer and found there is nothing in the Offer to Purchase that pertains to water. But there is an addendum and the person that writes the offer wants to protect the buyer. The way they protect them is to write in a clause about safe water and having the septic system inspected. That is pretty standard in any offer. The loan officer indicated if they are getting a VA or FHA loan, that is usually part of the offer. If you are getting private financing, some banks require it, some don't. JH will do more checking then write something up on this topic.

- JH talked about two wells discovered on the Kyle Kluck property near Sunny Crest. JH has spoken with Pete Kaminski about it. One has multiple ports in it. JH talked with Kyle K. today and mentioned that Hull may want to use those wells and Kyle was agreeable to that. There may need to be an easement agreement between Hull and Kyle for use of those wells by Hull. Bill D. indicated those old monitoring wells were part of a project/study Pete Arntsen had done back in the late 1980's or early 1990's. Requirements for wells were different back then than they are now.

- Jen McNelly had provided a list to Hull of around 25 certified well professionals that work in the Portage County area. JH asked Jen which ones were used more in our area and she mentioned Soik, Bertram & Junemann, Haupt.

- JH mentioned there are additional issues and developments surrounding the proposed Kluck subdivision that may need additional citizen input and support.

- An updated listing of the water-sampling project in Emerald Forest/Stroik subdivision was shared. The June sampling results were now listed on the spreadsheet. Next sampling will be in September (third round for this year). Nitrate is showing as generally low in the area with normal fluctuations. Bill D. indicated the other elements looked to be normal or standard for that area. Nothing jumping out as abnormal at this time. Bill Omernick will test the Hull monitoring wells in August.

- Matt J. discussed how Karen H. at the previous meeting said once we have the ways of communication nailed down, it would be good to get some action on the ground for areas of high risk such as what she did informing her neighbors of what happened to her property. Her water issues being high nitrate with water coming from the east where a farm and animals are located. Karen H. has been doing monthly nitrate checking with the University as well as working with them on source tracking. The University is in the process of developing other tools to help identify the source of contaminants. It would be good to get the legislative representatives to come and visit us here. Matt said his neighborhood was also a potential high-risk area. Those citizens should be made aware of the potential water issues.

- JH said the Town now has a Well Agreement with the City pertaining to Well 11.

- Madge B. asked Bill D. if the Hannon's nitrate fluctuates. Bill said it has been as high as in the 70's and low as 40's ppm. There is a lot of 'pulsing' of nitrate coming from the up gradient water source. Large amounts of rain can 'flush' contaminants into the groundwater and cause a 'slug' of nitrate to move through the groundwater system for a time.

- JH has told Hannon's that if they want the Town to get involved in their situation, the Town is willing to do that. So far, Hannon's are trying to deal with it themselves.

- Ken R. suggested use of a chemical marker called taggant that could be added to the 40 acres to the east and see if it would show up in the down gradient groundwater. This being used to track the source of where the water contaminants are coming from. One would need to know the current laws on what can be done and what laws might need to be created to help a downstream person to protect their water coming from an upstream offender or contaminant. Ken said if you could get permission from the land owner or get the legal right to use this kind of tracking system on their land, it would help answer a lot of questions. But you might need laws or new legislation to do this.

- Madge B. asked if there was a sense of how many people are similarly affected like the Hannon's, particularly other neighbors in the Hannon's area. The area west across Brilowski, although in the City, is on private wells and septic systems. JH has talked with some of them and there are some that are concerned about it. JH would like to see those people challenge the system.

- Matt J. said Hannon's don't get much attention to their story because there are so few that have been directly affected. Matt talked about areas such as Kewaunee and all the contaminants in their water and a month ago in Wood County around 40% of the people had problems too. JH said people out there by themselves need some organization to help them. JH said if someone had those issues and wanted the Town to be involved, he would try to get the Town Board behind them with support. It's difficult to handle these issues on one's own without attorneys or municipal support.

5) Welcome to new Hull Water Committee member, Ben Kollock, North Second Drive.

- JH welcomed new member Ben Kollock to his first 3-year term on the Hull Water Committee. Ben is an 8-year resident of Hull, 30 years old, with a degree in urban forestry from UWSP where he studied water and plants. Ben shared he was raised in the area (Stevens Point), enjoys reading scientific journals and literature, wants to get more involved in politics and committees. This is his first committee and he looks forward to working on a topic he feels is very important. Ben is also very proficient in social media and very willing to assist the Town in possible future communication through that means.

6) Jen McNelly – town-wide Hull water-monitoring program.

- Jen shared an enlarged map showing a grid system overlaying the Town of Hull area. There are 38 grid squares, the size of each square being 1 square mile or a 'section'. Jen had discussed with JH and DP what a town water-sampling project might look like. From that discussion came the idea to put down on paper something similar to what the County did with their water test program. This is a starting point for discussion. The map indicates active residential wells, monitoring wells and transient non-community drinking source wells (these serve the public but not in any large quantity) within the Hull area. TNC's are tested once a year by state statute for bacteria and nitrate but no quantity testing on those.
- Although it was not shown on the map, there was a mon well at Torun/Wojcik Memorial that the City has not used since 2000 and perhaps the City might transfer to the Town to use for an additional source for Town water monitoring. The City would need to be contacted about that.
- JH prefers any mon wells Hull puts in be put in Hull's Right-of-Way or in a Hull park. Hull can then collect their own samples, get it tested and keep their own records on the data.
- Questions about density and how many mon wells would be needed and where they might best be utilized were discussed.
- Although it would be decided in the future, JH thought doing a yearly test of the mon well system would be a place to start.
- Jen pointed out the green spaces on the map are public lands owned/operated either by DNR, County or the Town. White space on the map is Town of Hull; grey is City of Stevens Point.
- JH appreciated all the work Jen and the County GIS department put into the detailed map.
- Bill D. talked about taking one well per section or focusing efforts in more densely populated areas. Bill thought it might be sensible to take a couple of samples from the densely populated sections. There are some sections with very few wells. Does Hull want to monitor every section? Sections with few wells might not be worth investing Hull resources into monitoring.
- JH feels there should be a comprehensive coverage of Hull.
- Dave P. agreed that we should start looking at the densely populated areas.
- JH was concerned if you start with the hi-dense areas, you might never leave that. He would rather start to identify wells in a way to be able to say to citizens, this is what Hull has for water quality and quantity. Then there is the cost. A drilled well is higher cost. JH asked if Bill Omernick could drill a well and Bill said the Town doesn't have drilling equipment. Bill DeVita said the University does have a drilling rig.

- Madge B. said the problem with focusing on densely populated areas is that it focuses only on septic related issues. But Bill D. said the area of Conifer Acres south of Hwy. 10 does show ag influences as well as septic so there are two potential sources of contamination over there.
- MB said whatever is decided, as long as there is enough samples to account for the variation in land use throughout the Town.
- JH said as a result of this project, it may reveal problem areas, then we try to find the source of those problems. That may lead to the determination of the frequency of testing.
- JH said between now and the next Water meeting, come up with a realistic plan and put some numbers behind it. Jen M. said whatever the County can do to assist the Town with questions or resources, just let the County know.
- Matt asked Jen about densely populated area and how many samples she would suggest out of such an area. Jen talked about 10% of the population in a given area. But that might seem extreme. Jen said it might be a case of what you can afford to do versus what is representative of the area but there is no magic number.
- JH asked if there is another town that has done this. Jen said this is usually done on a county level and Chippewa County is testing some private wells on an annual basis, Waupaca County is doing it for 2 years also with select private wells. Both of those counties have data from before and are trying to sample the same wells as before to make comparisons then adding additional wells in areas of concern. Counties usually do this through their health department or else look for grant funding.

7) Hull Well Water Sampling Project – discussion and draft of plan.

- JH said this is modeled after Portage County’s sampling program with changes to make it appropriate for the Town of Hull. JH read through the purpose, methods, timing, products, and budget information. This is a draft version.
- This will be collecting baseline data and it will be shared with the public with the idea of promoting awareness within the Town of Hull on water quality and quantity.
- JH said if committee members have additional thoughts or suggestions they think of after the meeting, to get those ideas to us. The Water Committee will make recommendations to this project and the plan will eventually go to the Hull Board of Supervisors for approval.
- JH reiterated Hull wants to use existing wells rather than have to put in a lot of additional ones.
- Bill D. commented the County via Jen M. and the University with Kevin Masarik would assist the Town as needed.
- JH asked Jen M. if Hull should write into the draft the role of the County in assisting the Town in any way they could and Jen agreed that would help formalize that.
- Bill D. abstained from any voting on this document as Bill works for the WEAL lab and the WEAL lab is mentioned within the document as the testing facility the Town would use.
- Jen M. has mentioned the Town’s interest in doing this project to Kevin Masarik and Paul McGinley so they are aware of it. Jen said she believed Jeff Schuler also was aware the Town is looking into this project.

A motion was made by Ken Ramage to give preliminary approval of the draft of the Hull Well Water Sampling Project with the idea it will be revised and added to as needed. Motion seconded by Madge Bishop. Motion passed (Bill DeVita abstained from voting.)

8) Communication Plan for Hull citizens and households regarding water quality/quantity and septic systems.

- JH said Hull has two newsletters that go out to citizens, one in the fall and one in the spring. He suggests there be an article in each on either water or septic systems. JH feels Hull needs to advocate for better septic systems. Around 30-35% of Portage County is on private septic systems. There are improvements that can be made to septic systems and ways you can make the septic system better in relationship to the groundwater. JH has written a letter to the three County supervisors encouraging them to start talking about septic systems, the improvements that are out there and what do we want to advocate for. One of the persons who is most familiar with and informed on septic systems is Kyle Kluck.
- JH gets UW-Madison brochures regarding expensive water training courses but they all seem to relate to municipal water services. JH wrote to the director asking they consider talking about septic systems and private water quality. JH would like to see the conversation shifted to private water and septic systems that have great merit. The idea that municipal sewer and water is perfect is not always true. The news/media have stories about various municipalities that have water problems. In Nashville, they have to drink bottled water.
- Matt J. had mentioned the use of Facebook in communication. He sees articles on a daily basis on water issues. Matt feels Hull citizens would become more interested in this topic if they were frequently presented with an article from a neighborhood close to ours such as Wood County. People in Hull should follow that closely and it would be easy to follow with articles on Facebook. It's not sharing an opinion or position of the government, it's just sharing information on what is going on with our neighboring communities regarding water. JH said that will take some leadership from the Hull Water Committee and the Hull Board to broaden the information spectrum to use social media, broadband, etc.
- JH said when we next meet, we will come back with some additional thoughts on different ways to facilitate communication with Hull citizens. One of the goals JH presented to the Board last September included a need for communication for all of Hull. Needs exist to communicate about water but also about social conditions in Hull, budget information, etc.
- Ben K. is on Facebook quiet often and was willing to spread the word about Hull community involvement, share articles, inform people about what is going on. Ben asked if there is a current Town of Hull Facebook group that is active.
- Bill DeVita suggested the Town Board might want to consider appointing someone to work with that page.
- Ben said if anyone found an article that is interesting about water, they could send it to Ben and he could share it. If people in the Town of Hull want to leave a comment, those comments could then be shared with the Hull government.
- Madge B. comments it seemed people were becoming progressively more comfortable with the idea of drinking bottled water to the point they don't go to the faucet to get water. MB said the impression some people have is that bottled water will always be a source of great water. She cited a study done at UW-Minnesota health department that looked at international sources of bottled water across the world and well-known bottled water companies. There is plastic contamination in 97% of the bottled water regardless of the source of that water. The amount of plastic in the water at the source did not necessarily match the amount of plastic in the water once in the bottle. MB felt it was a cautionary tale that we become so comfortable with the idea of this water and become less concerned about what our septic system is doing or the quality of our faucet water. That might be a topic to address.
- JH said another side of that is the disposal of those plastic bottles, which is a whole other issue.
- JH will come up with suggestions for the next meeting and if any committee members have ideas or suggestions, send them to us. Although JH likes the idea of using Facebook, his

generation is more familiar with newspapers and less so with social media and some of the newer forms of communication. Social media is huge. An article in the PC Gazette said 16% of households get a newspaper.

- Matt J. said he likes the pages he wants to read when he sits down to open his Facebook. He follows things that are important to him. When he opens his Facebook, what has been posted to those topics Matt is interested in is what comes to him. That's why he would like to see the Town of Hull have a Facebook account that would include yard-waste drop off times, anything special going on for voting day, those kinds of announcements. It would get younger people involved in government.
- Ben K. asked about what resource he could go to in order to find out what the Town of Hull can do in cases like the Hannon situation where the possible source point might be the nearby farm. What are the powers that can be used? He is not familiar with that.
- JH said one of the rules of government is to improve the lives of citizens. One of the ways that has been done recently for Hull citizens is to make use of two grants to expand broadband in our area by laying down fiber optic cable (Amherst Telephone Company) which brought high-speed internet service. That improves the lives of our citizens. If we improve the water, that would improve the lives of our citizens. If a citizen has an issue and wants it to be addressed by the Hull Board, the Board should review it.
- Bill D. mentioned we could 'tag' the water source issues for Hannon's high nitrates but right now, the laws and legislation don't allow for any action against that. Until the law changes, there is nothing that could be done. Although there is the possibility the Town Board could invoke the town nuisance ordinance.
- JH talked about some the Town's use of its nuisance ordinance and how that worked. It has been successful in certain situations to resolve problems between neighbors. Through gradual development of the Town's nuisance ordinance, it is now a pretty strong nuisance ordinance. It's a legal document. Hull does have something in that ordinance about water.
- Madge B. asked Matt J. if he know of any municipal sites that had Facebook and how that might work. Matt said there might be a separate type of Facebook page for governments and it's different from what a personal Facebook page account would be. Matt would like to see Hull get involved in that. Hull has data and other information coming in from surrounding communities, we need to be able to share that and engender interest in the people here in the Town. If we don't do that part, getting the citizens educated and interested, then situations like what happened in Wood County might end up being in our back yard. It's happening all around us. If we don't get interested and involved, it could eventually happen to you/us too. He wants to see the sharing of this information.
- JH thought the sheriff's department has a Facebook account.
- Ben said once you have an established group, like a Town of Hull Water Group, citizens in Hull that use Facebook and join that group would see posts to that account. You can also create polls with questions like; would you be in favor of this? Would you like to see this happen? Not that it would be guaranteed to be used but just to get information from the citizens on any topic we might want input on. Surveys could be put out to get input like; explain what your thoughts are on water in the Town of Hull. Are you concerned? Are you upset about something? Do you have any suggestions? We could put that out there. People can answer anonymously or put in their name. It's a vast tool to get details.
- JH felt in general, government doesn't get much feedback. The feedback is usually an election where somebody wins. At the Hull Annual Meeting, there was a survey of likes and dislikes and that was the first time that was done. Although it's not much done, it ought to be done more. JH felt Ben's suggestion was a good one. Maybe nationally there are too many polls but we don't do that in local government and we should be asking our citizens what they think of our service to their community.

- Matt said Facebook is a service that is open 24/7 and sometimes is used as a complaint box.
- Dave P. asked if there was a place one of the Hull employees could get training on how to set up a Facebook account. Ben K. said it's very easy. There are webinars and instructional videos on how to set it up on U-Tube. How to set up a 'community organizational page' would be what to look for. It can walk you through it step by step in video form. There is less restrictiveness in terms of rules for the 'community organization page' versus the 'government page'. More of an open ended discussion, open forum for comments on what they like, don't like, what they would like to see changed.

9) Next meeting date: Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

- JH said for the next meeting, we will refine the map, also come up with a communication plan. If you have other ideas, send us an e-mail.

10) Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman
Water Committee Secretary
Town of Hull, Portage County