

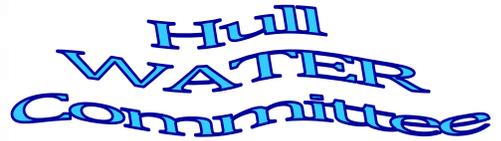
MINUTES –

Hull WATER COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

TOWN OF HULL MUNICIPAL BUILDING

4550 Wojcik Memorial DR., Stevens Point, WI 54482



1) **Call to order:** The meeting of the **Hull Water Committee** was called to order on Tuesday, Sept. 25, 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, Ben Kollock, Bill DeVita, Karen Hannon, Ken Ramage, Mike Bohlman and Water Committee Secretary: Patty Amman, Mon Well Testing Advisor: Bill Omernick.

Excused: Madge Bishop, Matt Johnson

Others: Tim Zimmerman – Portage County Groundwater Advisory Committee representative

2) **Approval of minutes of the Hull Water Committee meeting of July 24, 2018.** *A motion was made by Dave Pederson to approve the Hull Water Committee minutes of July 24, 2018. Motion was seconded by Ben Kollock. Motion approved.*

3) **Informational water articles for review (mailed in packet).**

- JH – to Committee members: keep sending us the water articles and we’ll keep sharing them.
- Discussion about how if farms may be responsible for water contamination, not much can be done about that. Right-to-farm bill limits action. Bill DeVita said possibly a civil law suit could be used. Karen H. talked about getting legislators to change the laws. Ben K. talked about cancer in 2014 and how his doctor felt exposure to farm pesticides early in life may have contributed to the formation of the cancer. Ben felt farms need to be held accountable in how they are affecting their neighbors. Dave P. talked about the fight in California about pesticides and growers and migrant workers. Still fighting that after 60 years.
- JH felt we should be talking about these things with the Portage County Executive.

4) **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.**

- Tim Z. shared the EPA was looking at chlorpyrifos which is a type of insecticide/pesticide. Tim thinks its use has been suspended. The tests on it were from the manufacturer and the EPA may consider doing their own (EPA) testing on it.

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

- JH gave a brief update on the Kluck subdivision issue. The Stevens Point Plan Commission reviewed that on August 6 and they voted not to approve the plat. It then went to the City Common

Council who accepted the City's Plan Commission decision. There was very little discussion regarding that at that meeting. Previously, at a County meeting on May 29, 2018, there was a big turnout of citizens and the P&Z Committee voted 4 to 1 to support the Town and the Kluck subdivision proposal. At this point, Hull is waiting on some interaction between Kluck's attorney and the City's attorney. There isn't much on case law for extraterritorial plan review for this area of Wisconsin but the Madison area has a number of cases related to this topic. Case law is being reviewed.

- The City has a 3-mile range from the edge of the City's boundary for extraterritorial review. The recently reviewed (by Hull Plan Commission) Hidden Brook plat falls within that range. Issues with extraterritorial review from the City will continue to come up as long as there is development within that 3-mile range. Hull wants to protect water but also wants to protect Hull neighborhoods in terms of traffic, safety, walkers, bikers, runners, etc.

- Tim Zimmerman made the suggestion that Karen H. might want to consider being an amicus curiae for the Kluck subdivision issue. The City wants to protect their water and Karen H. wants to protect her water too.

- JH asked if Bill O. had gotten the test data yet from the August round of water testing of the 4 Hull monitoring wells. Bill D. thought the data should go out soon if it hasn't already. JH said the previous tests show low nitrate. The 5 householders along the Stroik/Emerald Forest northern border have also shown low nitrate influence.

- JH wants to set up a system to monitor water throughout Hull and then more specifically in the higher density areas of Hull with more population. Water testing data evidence is important to have.

- JH asked what testing Hull should do in 2019. Bill D. suggested scaling back to twice a year. In 2019, spring and fall then in 2020, summer and winter to rotate the seasons. Bill says we have accounted for seasonal variations by taking 4 tests this first year. The monitoring well testing Bill Omernick does is for both water quality and quantity. The tests done by the 5 volunteer homeowners is for water quality only. Because this is a project testing and the test does not include bacteria, the Lab has lowered the cost to Hull just for this testing project.

- Some discussion about the equipment needed by Bill O. to do the water testing of the monitoring wells. Total cost of purchasing our own equipment would be around \$1,600 for a pump and an electronic depth recorder.

- JH said Hull is creating a Road Committee that will include issues regarding safety on roads. That will be a 9-member committee. If anyone would like to serve on that Hull Roads Committee, please give names to John H. to contact. Two members of the committee will be Hull supervisors.

- JH spoke about the Groundwater Protection Ordinance. Jen McNelly sent a memo, dated around mid-August, to JH explaining a vote was taken by the County Land and Water Conservation Committee regarding a Groundwater Protection Ordinance. There was considerable discussion at that meeting. The vote was 3 to 3 which means it did not pass. The Town of New Hope brought this ordinance forward. However, the issue is dead for now. DP asked if this is an issue we can raise with the Portage County Executive. JH said we should have the County Executive out to Hull for a meeting sometime and ask him about these issues. KH asked if there was any way to influence the people that voted no to change their minds. JH said Karen could call them up and make her point.

- JH spoke about the possibility of doing another more specific Hull communication survey at the Nov. election which will have a larger turnout. If members can think of questions that should be asked on that survey, get your thoughts to JH. Mike B. said it would be good to have citizens informed regarding water issues. Questions like: do you test your water? Is your water safe? Maybe include some water facts in Portage County like the percentage of wells that have high nitrate levels. Mike spoke about impacts everyone has on the water including homeowners as well as farmers. Maybe have a little information on the survey with a link to where more information could be found. Videos on seasonal related issues on how citizens can be a friend to Hull's water and their own water source. How can everyone help in their own immediate area to positively influence the water quality.

JH said maybe that would be a newsletter article. DP said maybe on our website. Mike said multiple places to get the impact out there.

- Jen McNelly sent JH some posters/articles that have been used in the County: “How to Test Your Drinking Water”, “Groundwater in Portage County”, “2017 Portage County Water Quality Testing Program”. These could all be made available to citizens.
- The newsletter goes to every household in Hull in the fall and again in the spring.
- Regarding the survey, JH said you don’t want too many questions on the survey or else people won’t answer them. It needs to be one page with direct questions. Mike said it needs to be brief and pertinent and pull out facts that will grab people’s attention.
- JH has spoken with Jen McNelly regarding items for Hull’s newsletter on water articles.
- Discussion about how to help citizens be more knowledgeable in our community without overwhelming them with sheets of paper that they might not read. Communication can be done in various way. The County posters can be used as they are public documents. Ken R. thought those would be a good addition to the Hull website. Mike said a question like: “Is your water safe? 54% of County private wells are high in nitrates. How do you test? Here is some information”. Ben K. said, “What does (various contaminants) do to you and your children?” Mike – how can everyone be a part of this through the seasons? Salt on the driveway? Fertilizers and pesticides on the lawn?
- JH spoke with Katrina Shankland at a recent meeting and she will send JH an update of Bill 686 where she made some changes. JH has called Nancy VanderMeer and is trying to get her out to Hull. We’ve had a meeting with Senator Testin and Representative Klug regarding water. We need to stay after them.
- Karen H. has been trying to contact legislators but has been put off until after the elections because committee members may change on some of the legislative committees. Karen will work on contacting those people to get support for Bill 686. This is bi-partisan in its support.
- DP said Shankland wants to have state-wide testing but also compensation for homeowners who have 40 ppm nitrate levels in their drinking water.
- JH said we want to encourage those who represent our interests.

6) Map of potential monitoring wells in Hull.

- We identified the current monitoring wells we have available in Hull. A map was put together with a legend identifying the Hull monitoring wells, City wells in the Hull area and non-transient community wells (churches, bars, restaurants) which, by law, are tested at least once a year for bacteria and nitrate and that information is available at the DNR website. The idea being to determine where does Hull already have wells that we can get water information/data. Once we establish that, then we can look at areas that have gaps where we don’t have information/data.
- Ben K. suggested a link on the Hull website for citizens to access the DNR website that has the TNC data.
- JH spoke about integrating Jen McNelly’s grid map with the Hull monitoring well map. Doing an overlay of the grid on top of the monitoring well map.
- Bill O. checked the Hull right-of-way area where Pete Arntsen had done a research project for the University back in the 1980’s or early 1990’s with some surveying wells in the Jordan Acres subdivision, Skyline, Fairview area. Bill could no longer find any of the test wells that had been used for that research. They seem to have been either abandoned or pulled out. Bill D. said he had abandoned some wells along Fairview years ago.
- JH said there were 2 monitoring wells left over from this research still located on what is now the Kluck property.
- JH – there are very few towns that have identified their water quality/quantity in any kind of comprehensive fashion.

- Bill D. felt the focus of our monitoring should be in the more densely populated areas of Hull.
- DP asked if we wanted to ask homeowners to test water. However, Hull has found it is more difficult to gather data via homeowners. It's much easier to test from locations within Hull's right-of-way whether it be roadside or Hull parks.
- PA said there used to be nitrate test data on the County website that was available on homeowners who regularly tested their water. That data is no longer available directly on-line at the County, but the County and possibly the University have that data somewhere. These would be Hull homeowners who test their water every few years and have historical data on their property for water quality, including nitrate levels, over the years. Karen H. said she had gotten something from Jen McNelly where they took off the names of the homeowners and just assigned a number code for homeowners in the Jurgella subdivision area.
- Bill D. spoke about data being put into the Wisconsin Well Water Viewer, which shows water quality based on quadrants of sectors instead of by individual wells. It's on the website for the Center for Watershed Science and Education.
- JH spoke about how homeowners usually do not want their water quality information being out there in a public format. But if a home is bought or sold, the water needs to be tested and the septic system inspected to obtain a loan.
- Hull has assigned a code system to the 5 volunteer homeowners who are testing their water for the benefit of Hull data collection. Hull is sensitive to the privacy of the homeowners and their water data information.

7) Testing of Hull's monitoring wells by Bill Omernick.

- Bill O. said the lab will be sending the results of this testing to Hull shortly as the testing/sampling was done the end of August which was the third test this year.
- JH said Hull should move forward in purchasing the water test equipment that Bill O. needs to do the routine water testing of the Hull monitoring wells. Electronic water depth measurer as well as a pump. Total around \$1,600.
- Discussion about less expensive means of testing, which, although available for less money, would be more time consuming to use as purging of the well is required. Bill D. said there is a tape measure with a popper at the end of it that makes a popping noise when it hits the water and is accurate in measuring water depth. Hull is sensitive to the time needed by Bill O., who is part of the Hull road crew, to do these tests. It was felt the equipment Hull plans to purchase will pay for itself in time savings. Bill D. also mentioned a level logger, which is an electronic device that you put on a string, drop it into the well and it is a pressure transducer that records pressure and relates that to groundwater elevation. Those run around \$300 each. Those can be pulled up anytime, plugged into a laptop computer and then download the elevation data, the date and time it was taken.

8) Results of public Communications Survey taken on August 14, 2018 (during WI Primary Election).

- JH spoke about if we do this again, we might make it more sophisticated. Also, we'll get in people who do absentee voting and we could send it out with absentee ballots.
- The survey showed that the Hull newsletter seemed to be the most useful. The percentage of Hull residents that subscribe to a local newspaper is falling lower. More seem to subscribe to the Portage County Gazette rather than the Stevens Point Journal.
- JH spoke about newspaper reporters that used to come to meetings, but there are fewer reporters and they don't usually attend meetings.

- DP asked how many people voted at the last election. Karen H. said around 27% of the registered voters (approximately 900 something). There were 406 surveys completed.
- JH said this is a start and we don't want to do that a lot. Those who vote are involved citizens.
- DP said all 4 of the ways listed of communication are used to some degree. The lesson may be to use them all or use a variety of ways to communicate.
- Bill D. suggested for the survey, how do you obtain your local news, radio, TV, internet. People listen to WSPT in the morning.
- DP suggested news releases to radio stations.
- JH asked if the committee favored re-doing the survey in November, keeping in mind it can't be very long and must have pertinent questions. DP said he would be in favor of that. Some suggested Twitter as well.
- Ben K. said Facebook is a better bang for the buck. Instagram and Twitter wouldn't be the best for town news use. Ben suggested a Facebook group for town citizens concerned about Hull water would be a good way to get information out there. JH thought it was worth investigating. Ben said Facebook is free to set up/use.
- If any committee members have ideas on what might be used in a November survey, call or email John H. with your ideas. Even if it pertains to something other than water issues.
- DP said the questions: 'Have you tested your water?' 'How recently?' would be useful.
- Ben K. said the question: 'Is your water safe? Yes, or No?' would be an idea. It would make people think about their water.

9) Goals for Town of Hull 2018 - 2020.

- JH wants to get the Town of Hull up to date. #1 is revise and update the Hull Comprehensive Plan. There is a small group meeting periodically to work on this (Bob Enright, Kristen Johnson, JH). That group refers to the Hull Plan Commission that in turn refers to the Hull Town Board for approval.
- #2 establish Hull Road/Safety Committee (will be called the Road Committee).
- #3 Ordinance/Policy group to review and update Hull Ordinances and Policies.
- #4 Enforcement procedures or ordinances/policies. An ordinance is a local law but there needs to be some way to enforce them. Stockton doesn't have ordinances because they have no way to enforce it. Karen H. asked how Hull enforces ordinances. JH said sometimes it involves lawyers, sometimes the courts get involved with small claims. JH spoke about the Hull weight limit ordinance, how that works and how it is enforced through the permit process. Most of the violations relate to Hull road damages. Town ordinances have to follow state law/statutes. The town cannot do anything more than what the State permits towns to do. Hull has a nuisance ordinance that is also sometimes used and includes a provision regarding water. If a citizen wants to be a plaintiff, the town will act in a supporting role. A citizen could say someone is polluting their water, thus, causing damage to their property. Karen H. asked if the Hull nuisance ordinance is on our website. JH said he can give Karen a copy of the Hull nuisance ordinance. DP said eventually, all our ordinances would be posted on the Hull website. But it's a work in progress.
- #5 is to establish a groundwater-monitoring program for Hull. That involves this Water Committee.
- #6 establish a communication information system to inform Hull citizens.
- #7 Hull Community Room/Lobby usage and completion with historical information, technology, etc.
- #8 review Hull Board legal status, oversight authority, parliamentary procedures. Need for on-going training. DP pointed out about 1/3rd of the town clerks in the northern half of the state, this is their first term. The town boards may be similar.

- #9 explore revised governmental structure for Hull. Cannot change WI law but take the various functions and sort out what that person should be doing.
- #10 review fire department needs. Hardly any structural fires, more cars, EMT needs. It's an old building. Hull is now part of the Metro area fire system. JH would like to hear any thoughts committee members may have on that.

10) Next meeting date for Hull Water Committee: Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

- JH said if anyone has an idea for an article about water for the Fall Hull newsletter, let John know. The Hull Board created an editorial committee for the Hull newsletter to determine what to have for articles. Karen H. thought an article about the annexation issue would be interesting. She doesn't know much about that. JH said one of the goals of the Comprehensive Plan group is to define annexation and other terms.
- JH said there was a presentation last night at the Towns meeting by Lynn Markham on Board of Adjustment special exceptions. JH would like to see more training opportunities for Plan Commissions as well as Town Boards.

11) Adjournment. *A motion was made by Dave Pederson to adjourn the Hull Water Committee meeting. Motion was seconded by Mike Bohlman. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman
Water Committee Secretary
Town of Hull, Portage County