

Allegan County Water Study Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 2:00 pm

Member Name	Group	Attendance	Notes
Dean Kapenga	County Commission	In Person	
Chad Kraai	Well Driller	Absent	
Brian Talsma	Conservation District	Zoom	
Doug Sweeris	Municipal Water Supply	In Person	
Jaclyn Hulst	Community	Zoom	
Ruth Kline	MSU Extension	Zoom	
Brad Lubbers	Agriculture	In Person	
John "Ric" Curtis	Community	In Person	
Liz Binoniemi-Smith	Tribal	Absent	
Tom Kunetz	Community	Zoom	
Zachary Curtis	Consultant	Zoom	

Guests and staff: In Person: Jill Dunham
Zoom: Angelique Joynes and Scott Jones

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 19, 2023

I. Approval of Agenda

- A. Agenda approved

II. Action Items from previous meeting

- A. Chad will review the list once he gets it from Zach and report whether the high nitrates site (60-100 ppm) north of Martin is on it. Jill will update Excel list with full address.
- B. Tom will meet with the County Administrator to discuss the plan for partnering with Michigan Geologic Society to drill 12-13 wells by year end. **DONE**

III. Discussion

- A. Phase 2 addendum Results (Z. Curtis)
 - 1. Presentation attached to minutes
 - 2. Dean asked about getting a better definition of "high risk." Zach responded that future plans will address this.

3. Brad – Does the contaminate inventory analysis stay in the county or does it have to be reported to EGLE. Zach responded that much of the information comes from EGLE.
 4. Tom – Should the contaminate inventory analysis be sent to EGLE? Zach said yes, he would recommend that.
 5. Randy – Are you suggesting that the Top 20 sites should be monitored? Zach responded: Total list of contamination sites ranked for hydrogeologic risk will be combined with additional information to create the Hydrogeologic Risk Map, as part of the next step. Risk Map will be reviewed with BOC.
 6. Jaclyn suggested promoting well testing and why it's important.
 7. Angelique – work with EGLE to assist homeowners in getting their wells tested for free. Agrees with educating residents on the importance of well testing. EGLE is launching a website for private well owners to get their wells tested free (possibly end of July.) Allegan County Health Department can amplify the EGLE offerings.
 8. Ruth Kline – Several groups within EGLE
 - a) Source water protection Unit – important for Type 1 well owners
 - b) Non-Municipal - Smaller Ground Water wells (Type 2?)
 - c) Private wells – Well Construction group
 - d) There are Regional and District EGLE staff – per Angelique we usually work with Regional staff
 - e) Well Testing with EGLD – Is this related to MDHHS “Care for my Well Program?” Angelique will check into details.
 9. Jaclyn – Does the County have a home where GIS files can be stored? Yes. Steve Sedore commented that it's a good idea to find out what type of file formats our GIS team need for the mapping info that Zach has created.
 10. Tom asked Ruth if other counties are looking at contamination. Ruth said not at a county level. Ground water protection is happening within several municipal jurisdictions (city, township or village) – but not at a county level.
- B. Groundwater Protection Strategy RFP Update (Rapp)
1. Randy reported that the Board of Commissioners approved the recommendation to award the contract to Williams & Works.
 2. Randy spoke with Valdis about contract. Valdis sent the contract to Williams & Works and he is waiting to hear back.
 3. Randy suggested that we should see if Williams and Works could present updates on their progress at our workgroup meetings.
- C. Monitoring Wells and MGS (Rapp)
1. Tom met with Rob to discuss the need for an agreement with John Yellich to place monitoring wells on county land. Randy sent the list of locations that John Yellich wants to place monitoring wells to Rob. Randy also got boiler plate language from Valdis for an agreement, but nothing matched our needs. Randy

will check with Valdis to see how quickly we can get an agreement that would work for monitoring wells on county property.

2. Jaclyn – spoke with Matt at Ottawa County. They have sensors installed at 2-3 monitoring wells and there were sensors that were broken and didn't work right away. David is the sensor representative and is willing to meet with the workgroup, show us the equipment and educate the workgroup on monitoring well data. Dean mentioned that John is aware of what happened in Ottawa and we will not have the same equipment. Shouldn't have the same issues.
3. Tom reported that John Yellich told him that the monitoring equipment has telemetry or some way to communicate the results to EGLE. We will then access the info from EGLE.
4. Dean asked about the non-county contracts with Michigan Geologic. Randy said that the contracts are not as thorough as what would be needed. Rob will be creating a suitable contract.
5. Tom asked if we understand the process and cost to cap a well – if it were needed in the future. They are only 2-inch wells, so not as difficult as a larger well (5 inches for instance.) Tom will reach out to Chad Kraai to find out more details about the capping process.
6. First monitoring wells will be on county property. Second priority is for Townships.
7. Randy asked whether Tom sees a need for monitoring wells on private property, where we would need an agreement for private property owners. Tom said not likely – a low priority. Don't work on this unless we can't get what is needed to be monitored using townships and the county.
8. Jaclyn mentioned that theft has been a problem with solar powered monitoring equipment.

IV. Future Work Group meeting schedule (Kunetz)

A. No meeting on July 5th; next meeting on July 19th

B. Tom wants to move into discussion of private wells. ARPA money given to municipalities for public water systems but not private wells. Tom would like to identify "who are the residents with private well issues?" What are the issues? low production, contaminated or broken? Could we give little grants to residents of private wells? What would the application system be? Tom has spoken to Rob. We do have a little money left from our Water ARPA allocation, plus Rob may have access to other sources. Also, Ruth might have additional sources for addressing private well issues.

July 19	Discussion of ideas to assist Private well owners	
Aug 2	TBD	
Aug 16	TBD	

V. Action Items

- A. Randy Rapp – set up meeting with the three EGLE contacts and invite Tom, Angelique and possibly other workgroup members. Purpose to explain to them about our Ground Water Study workgroup and what we are doing.
- B. Angelique will check into all the details about well testing programs for private well owners – EGLE and MDHHS
- C. Randy Rapp – check with Valdis on the status of the contract with Williams & Works.
- D. Jaclyn will send Tom the info on the monitoring equipment and contact David.

Meeting adjourned 3:25 pm