

# Allegan County Water Study Workgroup

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 2:00 pm

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

Guests and staff: In Person: Randy Rapp  
Zoom: Scott Jones, Allegan County; Dan Whalen & Maleah Rakestraw, Williams & Works; James Baker, Resident

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 6, 2023

### I. Approval of Agenda

- A. Agenda approved

### II. Action Items from previous meeting

- A. Angelique can push out a survey using Qualtrics. **DONE** survey sent out, one response so far.
- B. Randy will contact EPA and get a contact person for Tom. **OPEN** Randy will continue to work on getting an EPA contact.
- C. Ruth has an EPA source water contact. She will reach out to him **OPEN** VM left, Ruth will follow-up.
- D. Tom will work with Randy to get the Phase 2 report posted to the AC water webpage, plus draft a letter to notify EGLE of the information we have collected. **OPEN**

### III. Discussion

- A. Introduction by Williams & Works (Kunetz)
  - 1. Dan Whalen and Maleah Rakstraw delivered a presentation. Introduction to their project, schedule reviewed and handout provided.
  - 2. Ruth asked when outreach to LGUs, who should attend – title/types of representatives. Doug said due to same aquifers, city managers and township supervisors, utilities and DPW directors. Jaclyn suggested surrounding counties be invited.
- B. Monitoring wells update (Rapp)
  - 1. Gun Plain and Little John Lake Park monitoring well have been dug. Monitoring equipment not yet in place. Bysterveld Park and the police firing range are in process.
- C. Private Residential Wells Assistance discussion (Kunetz)
  - 1. Ric presented summary of a 2019 groundwater concerns survey distributed by Allegan County. Conclusion: no data here is helpful for current private well assistance program.
  - 2. Framework document discussed and suggestions incorporated. Next steps: Tom to revise as talking points sheet. Send to Rob Sarro. (Action item: Tom)
  - 3. Rob will reach out to three potential organizations. Work group will reach out to the rest. Gauge interest. Based on level of interest, County will either issue an RFP, or partnering agreement with one organization. County will only contract with a public organization or a non-profit.
- D. Public Education and Outreach RFP (Hulst)
  - 1. Rob emphasized that Williams and Works contract includes a certain amount of public education and outreach. Don't overlap this work with another RFP. Tom said a marketing firm may be required for some of the outreach. Decided that Ruth and Jaclyn will continue to work on the scope of work. This will be presented to Williams & Works for discussion to see what is in their area of expertise, and which parts would best be handled by another firm under another contract.

### IV. New Action Items

- A. Zach will research low-yield regions based on Phase 1 report and EGLE report of low production wells.
- B. Liz will also try to find an EPA contact.
- C. Tom to revise talking points sheet and send to Rob Sarro.
- D. Jaclyn will attend the EGLE webinar on free private well testing on August 31 and report back to the workgroup.

Meeting adjourned 3:50 p.m.