

Allegan County Water Study Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 2:00 pm

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

Guests and staff: In Person: Randy Rapp, Rob Sarro, Jacque Billette, Emily W, Ashley F, Scott Jones and Dan Wedge.

Next meeting: June 12

I. Approval of Agenda

- A. Agenda approved with addition of item 4, June Work Group Meeting Schedule.

II. Action Items from previous meeting

- A. Jill will reach out to the owners of the target locations where wells need to be drilled to get agreements signed. **DONE**
- B. Jaclyn will research whether Kalamazoo or Van Buren have any groundwater research underway. **DONE**
- C. Zach will find out where the Ottawa monitoring wells are and how many of the Ottawa monitoring wells are actively transmitting data to the central systems. Zach will check on whether Barry County or Kent County have any monitoring wells. **DONE**

III. Discussion

- A. **Jaque Billete, new Allegan County Health Officer, introduced herself in person**

B. Monitoring Wells Update (Kapenga)

1. R. Sarro presented update on status of agreement for wells to be located on Township properties. Memorandum of Agreement almost ready for use.
2. R. Rapp stated Discovery Center is willing to host monitoring well on their site. Nate from Michigan Geologic Survey and Discovery Center are coordinating site visit to establish exact location of well. Action is in hands of MGS.
3. R. Rapp noted opportunity to provide education about groundwater in the form of a kiosk display and classes for students. R. Kline-Robach to reach out to Kelly at Discovery Center.
4. D. Wedge said the 911 radio tower on 30th St. in Monterey Township is owned by the County. The land is leased to a farmer for agriculture. A monitoring well can be placed on the site as long as it does not interfere with the farming or radio tower operations. NPSCS will need to be notified. R. Rapp to contact MGS to meet at site and set stake in ground for the actual monitoring well location.
5. J. Hulst asked that MGS notify work group in advance when drilling will start, as some members of the work group would like to watch and learn.

C. Private Well Assistance Program (Rapp)

1. R. Sarro updated group on status of draft scope of work. Recent meeting held with ACCF. R. Sarro concerned about the administrative fees. Wants to see that highest amount of funds possible go to homeowners.
2. R. Sarro stated as long as County can get an agreement in place by October 2024, the commitment for ARPA funds will be met.

D. June Work Group Meetings

1. June 5 and 19 meetings cancelled.
2. New Work Group meeting scheduled for June 12. W&W to present draft Groundwater Assessment Report.

IV. New Action Items

- A. Ruth Kline-Robach to reach out to Kelly of Discovery Center and learn about opportunities to integrate groundwater education into their learning platforms.
- B. Randy to meet with Nate at County's 911 site to set location for monitoring well.
- C. Steve Sedore to contact NPSCS about locating a monitoring well on the 911 tower site.
- D. Tom to reach out to John Yellich to ask County to be notified of well drilling schedule.
- E. Jill to send notification to cancel June 5 and June 19 meetings, and to add June 12 meeting.
- F. Jill to invite W&W to present at June 12 meeting.