

CITIZENS (WOOD COUNTY) GROUNDWATER GROUP MEETING

DATE: Monday, May 15, 2023

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Wood County Riverblock Building, Conference Room 206 & Teleconference via WebEx

Present (In person or via WebEx): Bill Leichtnam, Bill Clendenning, Shane Wucherpennig, Ben Jeffrey, Ray Bossert, Tim Wuebben, Rhonda Carrell, Tamas Houlihan, Tracy Hames, Sandy Cain, Emily Salvinski and Tom Rayome

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Bill Leichtnam called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:**
None
3. **Speaker—Tracy Hames from “Wisconsin Wetlands”:**
Topic – “The Little Plover River Project” & efforts in conjunction with local producer-led watershed groups.
 - Tracy gave a presentation about the Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project.
 - Little Plover is a five mile long river that is 80-90% groundwater fed.
 - Little Plover River is one of the most studied rivers in Wisconsin and has been the subject of a great deal of controversy.
 - This river dried up from 2005-2009.
 - A watershed enhancement project was started to increase river flow, enhance habitat and improve quality of life by means of voluntary solutions.
 - Things that changed the flow of the Little Plover River are irrigation development, wetland loss and degradation, drainage ditch construction, floodplain disconnection, channel alteration and grassland and forest alteration.
 - The enhancement project to increase flow included water conservation, wetland restoration, ditch removal, floodplain reconnection, floodplain forest management, channel restoration, grassland restoration and restoration of pine and oak barrens. UWSP professors and students continue to monitor and manage the effects of the work done. Work will continue on this project.
 - Questions and answers followed the presentation.
4. **Approve Minutes of Verbal April 25th, 2023 meeting:**
Bill Clendenning shared what took place on April 25th at Lobby Conservation Day in Madison. Eight people from Wood County went to Madison. Testin and Krug were not in office but they did stop and see Donna Rozar.

Motion by Bill Clendenning to approve the verbal minutes from April 25th. Second by Rhonda Carrell.
Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Correspondence/Updates/Handouts/Reports on Meetings Attended:**
 - Bill mentioned he saw a short clip on News Channel 7 about Wisconsin Act 5.
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/acts/5.pdf>
 - Bill asked if anyone attended the Portage county Citizen’s Groundwater meeting and had any updates on the seven monitoring wells at Gordondale Farms.
6. **Future Speakers** – Suggestions welcome – summer months open-Bill Leichtnam working on prospects.
7. **Agenda Items for next meeting** (next agenda comes out one week prior.)
8. **Next Meeting** –Monday June 19, 2023; 2:00pm

Rhonda suggested the meeting be moved back to the courthouse due to problems with getting connected at Riverblock. Bill Leichtnam will check into this.

9. **Adjourn:**

Rhonda Carrell made a motion to adjourn. Bill Leichtnam seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Notes by Victoria Wilson, Planning & Zoning Office