

MINUTES –

Hull WATER COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 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, April 26, 2016 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, Bill DeVita, Karen Hannon, Ken Ramage, Rick Stautz, Rey Vega, Matt Johnson, and Water Committee Secretary: Patty Amman.

Excused: Mike Bohlman

Others: Tim Zimmerman, Jen McNelly, Dave Wilz

2) Approval of minutes of the Hull Water Committee meeting of January 26, 2016. A motion was made by Dave Pederson to approve the 1-26-16 Hull Water Committee Minutes. Motion was seconded by Ken Ramage. Motion passed.

3) Citizens wishing to address the Committee on non-agenda items. Agenda items are for discussion and possible action. None.

4) Announcements – chairperson and committee members.

Holdridge Recently we had our 4th meeting with the City. A civil, solid discussion. That afternoon at 1:00 we had an executive session with the Board. Gary Dreier was here and Sinderbrand. Dreier is representing about 27 people who were harmed. Carl Sinderbrand has the big question of what happens when the well expands from 2.8 to 5 mgd. They gave a really good report. David raised a question which is what we're aiming for, a monitoring system. What we're doing with the City in terms of setting up a monitoring system could very well fit into that. You don't have to wait until somebody has lost water. If the City goes up in their pumping capacity and one of our wells goes dry, it becomes a well purchase plan. That's one of the real options, the City buys the well. But we can anticipate some of that. So the monitoring system we come up is very important. The next time we meet, the City is going to throw out some written proposals. We'll be meeting the 5th of May so this is moving along.

There was an article in the Stevens Point paper about Waukesha and them trying to get Lake Michigan water. Did anybody read that? Do you remember what it said about that?

Hannon I just glanced over it but what they talked about was how many other areas would Waukesha be providing water to. It's because they're on that watershed line/boundary. So Waukesha really could get it, the way it's written, but they can't provide water to other areas.

Holdridge When it came up at the Towns Association Meeting, the towns around were against Waukesha getting it. The lawyer representing Waukesha is Paul Kent and he is also the one representing the City of Stevens Point. Remember Dave we were talking about that date and he was saying there might be a little conflict? That may be the conflict because we're talking about May 5th. The ones approving it, it doesn't have to be approved by the state legislature, but it's got to be approved by the governors.

Pederson I think the article talked about how much water they could actually take. That was the modification they came up with to try to sell it to the governors of the other states.

Stautz I think they were going to try to discharge it in a way that it would go back to Lake Michigan instead of the Rock River.

Holdridge That's part of the deal I think. If you take it, you've got to clean it up and put it back in the Lake. That's on its way I think. At an earlier meeting I asked Paul Kent if just the governors have to approve it or the legislature. But just the governors in the 7 states have to sign off on it.

Hannon The Canadian Provinces don't get to vote on it. They just submit their opinion. My brother worked for Waukesha County and he said he would be really surprised if that got through.

Holdridge Anything else anybody has?

DeVita I had something that I wasn't sure if it was appropriate to bring up now, or if you want to put it on another agenda to discuss at another time, that's okay. I was looking through the Town of Hull website and I noticed something, it's a minor thing. This scroll of pictures that goes by on the top and the picture of the cows by the stream and one in the stream. It's a very pastoral view and representative of the whole farming practices. I look at it and I cringe every time I see that cow in the stream, chewing up the stream bed and of dumping all sorts of manure and waste. From a water resource perspective, that's an issue. If you get the cow out of the stream, it would be fine. Have a picture of cows in the pasture.

Holdridge We could get a picture of someone fishing or Bill boating down the Plover River. Any other thoughts people have? I had never noticed that. I don't usually look at it because it's so small. But that should be changed, not acceptable for an environmentally conscious town.

5) Update – Water Issues – Portage County, Wisconsin, the United States

Holdridge There are a lot of articles out there related to water.

a. New York Times 2-15-16 – “Unsafe Tap Water Not Limited to Flint”

Holdridge My understanding is there were 2 or 3 officials charged. I'm in favor of that because one of our problems is laws are not enforced. If you look across the United States, lead has been in the water, officials have known about it and they didn't inform the public, and that should stop. What do you elect us for? Just to go along? That's a real issue. That article is good and there is also a more extensive article which talks about the federal role typically supplemented by the state role. That is a pretty solidly researched article.

b. Key findings of the Little Plover River groundwater flow modeling project (2016)

Holdridge How many went to that session? (*Several raised their hands.*) What did you take from it? I wasn't there but I read the report on it with the modeling.

DeVita They can take this model and they did it with such detail that they can put an artificial well in any location (*on a computer*) in the water shed and pump it at a certain rate within the model. They can look at how the drawdown will work and the cone of depression and how it would affect the Little Plover River. They could put it around real wells too. They could do this well over here. It's a great detailed model. A lot more detailed than what the folks on campus here did, George Kraft. More detailed but the bottom line was it was pretty much a confirmation of the work they did 15 years ago. George had predicted the flow of the Little Plover River would be reduced by 4.5 cubic feet per second. This model with all the detail predicted the Little Plover River flow would be reduced by 4.4 cubic feet per second. So it was pretty close even though that was years ago without the detail this group had. They did a great job on this model and it's a very useful tool for this watershed. Now they're talking about expanding this to other watersheds. It's going to be expensive to do and whether it needs to be done or not, I think they could use something with a little less detail.

Stautz I understand once they get it made and go through the whole process, after peer review, it will be made available to engineers and hydrologists to use. It won't be just their model; it'll be everybody's model to work with. We could look at using it here with what we want to do to help us.

Holdridge It won't just sit on the shelf.

Stautz Hopefully not. Sometimes that happens with a lot of these reports.

Holdridge With our situation with Well #11, the 2 hydrologist, they agree. They may disagree about some nuisances but they agree Well #11 is the culprit. Dave Glodowski drew up circles showing as Well #11 goes up in pumping capacity. There may be other issues around the state with these high capacity wells in municipalities as they try to expand and affect towns around them and the towns have private wells, there may be some real utilization of what this is.

Stautz I think the graph that showed the biggest impact in this study is the one that showed you can shut this well off and yes the groundwater level right by the well will come back. But if you look at the flow of groundwater from that well down towards the stream, that water went someplace else. So every time you turn it on and do that, then there is this stepping down. So yes the groundwater level comes back up or the cone of depressing comes back up right away pretty level, but you've taken out this water that eventually would have gotten to the river and if you keep doing that, then there isn't any water for the river. I thought that was something they haven't really shown before, the cumulative impact of the well turning on for several months every year. I think they said there are 425 wells in the Little Plover area.

Holdridge Did they plug in any of the municipal wells like the Village of Plover?

McNelly All the high capacity wells that are in the watershed were included in the model.

Holdridge This Well #11 isn't included in there?

McNelly No, not in the Little Plover River.

Zimmerman Looking at it from a political standpoint, there isn't going to be a peer review until the end of the year. They said you would need to cut back by 30% all the wells in that basin to get the

Little Plover back to where it was. From a political standpoint, you can argue about the different percentages with the wells but it just kicks the can down the road. It's argued you have to make some kind of compromise between the users and this study goes far beyond that looking at other streams and lakes. But the point being until you get some agreement on quantity, it might as well have not been done. This gives you an outline on what can be done specifically here but the expense of doing one for say like Huron Lake and those other ones prohibits you from doing that and so where do you go from there? To the court saying my lake should be back to 12 feet when it's down to 2 feet? How much recreational use is prohibited because it's only 2 feet instead of 12 feet? You can make all kinds of arguments other than, if you didn't have agriculture so much dollars versus recreations so much dollars. So which one is going to cost you more? That type of situation.

DeVita I suppose the model is available to attorneys too. Using the model could say, you're using your well at the expense of my private well.

Holdridge You get that before a judge with some science behind it and models and the other side is going to have to have some pretty good science. When that comes before a judge, if the judge is impartial, that would be the key. I don't know if there has been any legal action involving the Little Plover or these lakes drying up. I read all kinds of stuff and I keep wondering when is somebody going to pull the plug and get it into the court house and find out what you've got. That might be conditioned on a pretty good model that can withstand the test. I don't know why there isn't more. It seems like the advocates see this, report it and talk it to death. Maybe the reason for that is they don't have the money to commence a suit or commence action or they don't have the evidence, but there's no lack of discussion on this thing in the literature.

Stautz At least if they can use this model and the other ones they have with the current licensing with the DNR where they have to look at cumulative impacts, I think it will maybe keep future high capacity wells in areas where it will be a little less impact or not as many of them so it will help in that way. But I don't know if it will go back to the point where you've got to throttle your irrigation systems if it affects downstream, at this point, maybe someday.

Wilz Commenting on what Rick said, I think you've got that right. Carl Sinderbrand, our attorney, was the attorney that won the case for the DNR to be able to say, we can do these modelings when somebody requests a hi-cap well. That is for the future. That is what was done with Mr. Somers out here. They had to do that. He was given a well permit with restrictions which the modeling supported. As Carl tried to remind people in the seminar I went to, unfortunately this new law doesn't have anything to do with existing wells. But hopefully the idea is as the science gets better, and once we can get people to agree which science to use, the fighting will be over. The problem is the lawyers are fighting about the science. We see that here. We have George present his science and the next week somebody is saying here's some new science. We've got to agree on the science.

Holdridge I think the hydrologists, if you're at a PhD level, and you're highly knowledgeable, this Jenson for the City is highly knowledgeable, Steve Gaffield is highly knowledgeable, what self-respecting professional is not going to respect the science? The first meeting we had with the City, Jenson and Gaffield were there and they argued some issues but they generally agreed Well #11 was the problem. That's based on a high intellectual content that these experts all understand.

Wilz The issue is, for instance with the Little Plover, if all of this stuff comes out of it and there are 400 wells and 300 of them have created the problem, you can only enforce the law and the law does not restrict these permits issued over the past 40 years. How do you deal with that?

Stautz Part of that was the proposal and I think it's from the DNR, if they did have it licensed, they couldn't lose their license. They could grandfather it in, they could repair it, continue to operate a high capacity well even though they know it's causing problems.

Wilz I think the rules they have now are to keep it from happening worse.

Holdridge It seems you've got to challenge the system and you've got to challenge it where it makes some difference. As far as I can determine and looking back at history, it's often in the courts.

c. Stevens Point Journal, 12-19-15 "Proposals will make our water woes worse"

Holdridge This was an editorial in the Stevens Point Journal. He raised a number of good points. I thought it might be interesting to invite Tamas Houlihan to our meeting and let him comment. That's Dan Houlihan's son. Dan and his wife live over by the river. Dan was really interested in stuff about Hull. He is, I think, turning out to be the spokesperson for the Potato and Vegetable Growers.

DeVita He was the editor of their trade magazine, a commentator.

Holdridge He lives over there. Maybe we ought to invite him. Ask questions and make it a civil discussion.

Pederson Find out what some of the rest of the Hull citizens feel.

Holdridge That's true. He lives in an area which our Board considers a pretty environmentally sensitive, low growth area. One we want to protect and we call it the I-39 West area.

Wilz That goes along with Patty Dreier getting all the people to the table. He's the voice of ag in this area. He's part of that group. I think ag is not going away and I think he knows that, he knows this battle is going on. I think that would be wonderful to invite him. His problem is not going away. He knows that.

Holdridge When we started with this Well #11 thing, the previous law firm talked about shutting it down. We had a law firm from Point and they literally fired us. So we went out and got a law firm out of Madison, a very good one. But there had been discussion about shutting down Well #11. Well you're never going to shut down Well #11. That's the key well for the City of Stevens Point. You better just accept that Well #11 is going to operate because it's necessary. It was approved by the DNR, they put it in, they made some real wrong calculations. That's another issue and that's between the City and their engineering firm, how that shakes out. Well #11 is going to be here so we've got to work within that constraint, do what's best for our citizens in the Town of Hull. That's true of the potato and vegetable growers. These are major economic institutions.

Wilz I would say we're in the next level with the City on Well #11 in conversation moving this thing down the road and that's good.

Zimmerman I just want to know, when we had that first meeting on these wells going dry, there were like 77 people that were filing then it got down to 44, then it's 29 now?

Holdridge I think we counted 27 with damage for a total of over \$200,000 (*combined*).

Zimmerman Are these discussions talking in any way about these people who haven't signed on to the petition?

Wilz Yes. There's information being provided from us. They're looking at their 27 claims, the City is. They need to understand that there are more potential claims out there and they need to be aware of that. I've been very vocal about that but they keep saying, this is all we've got right now.

Holdridge I think when this breaks, there will be other people.

Zimmerman What I'm saying is, you really don't want to re-litigate the whole thing over again.

Holdridge No, we don't.

Zimmerman You get the best deal that you can. I didn't know until now that you had included the others or potential others.

Wilz We've told them, since all this began, I think there's been like 51 wells replaced in that general area since this has happened. 27 have chosen to file and the others, we don't know. So they have to come forward, but that's how that goes. But I think what John was saying too, if we're able to make a reasonable attempt with the City to have a plan to get this thing off the table, it's for the future too so there is a plan that if wells continue to go dry, we don't have to re-litigate. There will be something in place to deal with that quickly.

Zimmerman That's basically what I was asking.

Holdridge That question came up and we don't want to be back here sitting in these seats 5 years or 10 years from now arguing about this. One of the City officials said they don't either. They were very clear, they don't want that either.

Wilz When and if we get done, we want to be done – done. We want to have a plan for the future.

Holdridge The other question that came up, Gary Dreier asked it looking at Paul Kent, he said has the insurance company been notified and Kent said yes. Who is going to make these payments? It's going to be the insurance company. What happens on the other end, I suspect the City is going to look at this and say how did they get into this? What kind of advice did they get from their consultants? They're going to look for money and that's between the City and their insurance carrier. That's the way the system works. Gary is a pretty active advocate and he lives in Hull. That's where we are at and it's been a civil discussion. My preference would be there to be a court case where it's in the record this was caused by the municipal high capacity well. That would be appealed and you would get a decision then when people around the state start looking at something, you'd have Hull vs. the City of Stevens Point. Whatever we come up and mutually agree upon, that's important. But when you can get it into the court system and get a court decision, that really directs the lawyers and judges.

Zimmerman They had one like that with Lake Beulah. But they changed the law. So even though the court went out there and looked, they changed the law.

Holdridge One of the things with Portage County is the people want accountability and protection for water resources. You better watch the County Board and who gets appointed to those committees. I served on there 17 years. I was vice-chairman and the biggest job the vice-chairman had was appointing committees because these guys all want to serve on committees. You load up the advocates on a rural committee, you're going to have a problem. When I was one of the 3, I always tried to mix it up. Get somebody who was an advocate from the City who supports urban on a rural committee because otherwise you're going to have a real problem. That's a huge deal. Who is on these committees. Our committee, Planning & Zoning, my understanding is Stan Potocki is off the committee and he was the chairperson. We've got some issues with the Planning & Zoning Dept. I think maybe Barry Jakowski will be the new chairperson. He'll have a considerably different viewpoint on that role. That's just local politics but that's the way it works at the county level. Any other comments? Any other comments about the editorial here?

**d. “ Little Plover River E-News: Central Wisconsin Sands Region
-Groundwater Nitrate Trends” (2013)**

Holdridge Groundwater pollution from nitrates. One of the top 3 counties. If you come across an article, send it to us and we'll get it distributed. I would ask how many people like this? Or is this a little to detailed?

DeVita I like the local ones.

Holdridge It's a little hard sometimes to deal with the local ones.

Ramage In regards to the local ones, they are certainly more directed to our endeavor here and interest, but having a national perspective gives a wider representation. A broader perspective, in this case, it shows the country has problems. Some are different in different parts of the county but they are water quality and quantity problems.

Holdridge We'll keep this up. I pick them up because I don't know much and I'm assuming there are others on this committee that can use some references.

6) Public Water Supply in the United States – Questions and Answers – How Safe is Your Drinking Water (March 2016)

Holdridge This was a document taken from a recent webinar and it was from a professor of engineering out of Madison.

Amman There was a webinar that was similar to this paper. I'm not exactly sure how they are related.

Holdridge I sat and watched it (*the webinar*) and thought this is common sense stuff that everybody ought to know but most people don't. Questions and answers and it pertains almost exclusively to public water systems. Why would we want to be interested in public water systems? Because we're probably going to have a relationship with the City of Stevens Point. At one point there was consideration of the City of Stevens Point providing sewer and water to the Town of Hull with no annexation but the stumbling block came with who would pay for it. We're weren't and Point

wasn't. So it raised the question, with David and I at least, about what is the condition of the municipal water supply of Stevens Point. We had one session in which Sinderbrand had to answer some questions. It could have been clearer. If we were going to participate in that system, maybe the Stevens Point system isn't as solid as we think it is. Maybe they're got lead in their water. There's all kinds of lead in water (*in various places in the county*) and so forth.

Stautz Just to clarify because I operated a utility, if you have that stuff, you are constantly monitoring for it. Every day, every month. You put out a water report to water customers every year and it tells you the result of every sampling you've done. So if there's going to be high copper or lead or anything, you're going to see it on that report. It'll say this is what it was, this is when it was. Any utility is required to do that and it's not just in the state of Wisconsin, it's the EPA. Where some of these people were saying they didn't know they had lead in their water, they haven't been reading their consumer report because it says it. Unless somebody falsified the data.

Holdridge There are a lot of credible reports where municipalities withheld information.

Pederson That was the issue in Flint.

Stautz That's where they got into trouble.

DeVita The lead wasn't coming from the water supply but from the household piping.

McNelly The water had a corrosive agent in it that tests fine when it's tested at the source but after it comes through the piping, its corrosive.

Stautz The City of Shawano isn't as big as Point but we had to do 20 lead and copper tests inside the houses where we had to go to the tap and let the water run for a little while then we would look at it, those that use lead services or copper services, so we could see what they had. If they had hard water, we put the coating on the inside of the pipe so you won't get the lead and copper. Soft water won't leech it out of the fixtures. Everybody that is a Stevens Point customer should be able to get an annual report on the condition of the water. It's got to be there. All you need to do is go to the utility and ask for a copy or it should be on their website.

Holdridge Churches and other facilities have to be tested so there is data available.

Stautz If they have a well that provides water to more than so many customers.

Holdridge If Stevens Point, who has about 25,000 households, has a problem, that may well infiltrate the whole system. But if you have a problem, Rick, on your private well, that affects your house. It may not affect my house.

Stautz Right.

Holdridge It may not affect anyone else and that may be an argument to keep your private wells and treat them properly and the septic and the whole business.

Stautz But you're not constantly monitoring for the stuff and if they do run into problems, they're going to give you notice to boil water or whatever.

Holdridge The literature I've read, the fact of the matter is, now Shawano is a small town and I suspect that if Stevens Point had a problem, they'd report it. But I've got to tell you there is evidence all across this country where these water officials are not reporting it. They've known that it existed and they have not been forthcoming to their constituents. I've read enough of that, it's out there. Let's say Stevens Point would have lead in their water, maybe they do, maybe they don't, and there's some requirement for them to report it. We would hope that would be made known to the constituents. I wrote an article about trust in government and it's in our newsletter. When you look across our country, what is one of our problems? What is Donald Trump getting support for? That you can't trust government because it's a bunch of crooks. Where is Bernie Sanders on this issue? I wish our public officials in these areas were forthcoming across the board but the evidence isn't very good on that. There was an article about central Wisconsin where some of the schools now have that bottled water. Maybe that was fully reported, or not. But it's a problem in democracy. It's a problem in candor. Telling your constituents.

Ramage Just a quick one on that same subject, in the past year in the Stevens Point Journal, there's been a report or two on the City of Stevens Point shutting down one or two of its wells because of chemical contamination. So they've had to increase pumping on other ones. There was a follow up that said they started up one or two of those shut down wells and they're taking some water out of them and blending it in with the rest so they end up with a blend of stuff that is below the EPA problem specs.

DeVita It's nitrate. Plover and Whiting do the same thing with their nitrate removal system. They take out nitrate from part of some of the water and they blend it with the other water. It's expensive. Maybe it mitigates some of the effects of Well #11 by doing that. I'm not sure. It's expensive to treat and de-nitrate water. As long as they send it out below 10 parts per million, it's okay.

Ramage I think we heard early on one of the reasons the Well #11 site was chosen was because the water on this side of the river was good. If you go on the east side, you have to deal with nitrates and it would be an expensive removal proposition.

Stautz But isn't that what they do with their treatment system at Well #11?

DeVita No, just iron and manganese.

Stautz So there's not nitrate removal. Okay.

Holdridge This 7 or 8 pages has questions about the water situation. Go to the first one where it says where does our supply of drinking water come from. Roughly 63% of the total U.S. source water comes from surface water. That includes, and they list some cities here, Minneapolis gets theirs out of the Mississippi River. Chicago gets theirs out of Lake Michigan. 37% of the source water comes from groundwater, they mention Madison for example. Now if someone had asked me where the water comes from, I might have figured out it comes from two sources but I wouldn't have known this. My guess is most people don't know this. These are just common sense questions. They say that overall, there about 142,000 groundwater systems and about 12,000 surface water systems within the United States. However since the largest system tends to be the surface water system, more people in the United States are served by surface water systems than by groundwater systems. That gives you a little perspective. I called Joel Lemke and the question to Joel was what is Stevens Point's source

water supply? It's the wells, it's not the Wisconsin River. I thought maybe they might have a hybrid system but they get their water from wells, not the river.

McNelly 100% of Portage County's domestic use is exclusively from groundwater.

Holdridge Where does Wausau get theirs, or Wisconsin Rapids?

McNelly I believe Rapids is from groundwater as well.

Stautz I'm pretty sure Wausau is too.

Hannon How come they don't use the river?

Pederson There was a time the City did use the river. They had a big stand pipe down in Bukholt Park but that was years ago. But it was too contaminated eventually to use.

Zimmerman I asked Joel about that at one of our meetings and he said they don't use the river water because it varies too much. There was so much nitrate or mill waste and they can deal with that but it varies so much. It's not reliable to get the same quality of water. If you put too much cleaner in it or not enough, different processes that it talks about in that article there.

Holdridge On page 3 question 4 it says what processes are typically available to treat drinking water and it lists them. Question 5, how is the quality of drinking water regulated in the United States, this goes to Rick's question. As I read this, it's federal supplemented by state regulations. So you might go to North Carolina and they have to do it federally but they might not do anything from a state level. That's part of a federal system. On question 8, how much water does a typical person use in the United States? It's 157 gallons per person per day. When we had that task force, I remember Amy Nitka who was doing the research, she came up with this huge amount of water that each person in the county uses. We looked at it and I said I don't use that much water, but when you add it all up in various forms.

Stautz It's the washing machine, the dish washer, those are the big ones.

Holdridge Then question 9, why do we use so much water and the answer is because it's cheap. If water is more expensive, just like any other market system, you're going to use less water. I think the City for a quarterly bill is up to \$130 a quarter. When I lived in the City and I lived by PJ's, it was more like \$35 a quarter. So it gets expensive. These are common sense questions that I found very useful to give you a perspective on the whole system. Now this gentlemen, he's talking about public water systems, broad based. I would think of writing to him saying when are you guys down there going to start looking at the 1/3rd of households in Wisconsin that have private water supply? When you are going to turn your focus in that direction? I think I'll do that.

Amman He'll probably respond because I e-mailed him and he got back to me right away.

Holdridge Yes. But it's obviously much easier to study a public water supply than start looking at private ones. I thought this was very credible. Done by a knowledgeable person.

7) Groundwater Monitoring Plan for Hull – Request for Proposal (Revised) and Vendor List.

Holdridge Rick put this together and attached is the vendor list. Rick, you want to take an overview of this.

Stautz I think last time, we talked about taking a lot of the other request for proposal parts out and just deal with the scope of the work. Talked about describing the area a little differently but keeping the scope the same. It follows some of Bill's recommendations on what we're asking for there. I did find on-line a listing of environmental service contractors in the state through the DNR since they do monitoring work, or hydro work, they would be on this list. We can go down the list there and see how far away do we want to go for a consultant. Besides the ones in Wisconsin, there are several towards the end that are in neighboring states.

Holdridge Let's go back to the text here. I had a couple of thoughts. If you look at Task 1, Preparing a Groundwater Monitoring Plan. Then on the second page you have those bullet points. One of them I thought of was the selection of Hull personnel for data collection and storage and retention. I think one of the key things as an organization has to do to get the system set up, is give the responsibility to some person and that data has to be collected and stored appropriately. Because in the past, these things were hit and miss. If we're going to have any standing, and I've talked a little with Carl Sinderbrand on this, if you're going to challenge people in the courts on this issue, you've got to have a solid system set up. Collected over time, you see the evidence flow, trends. So I would add that. Make some recommendation.

Stautz Right. Under Task 2 the last paragraph it talks about they would work with us on methods of using Town staff for sample collection and the UW-Stevens Point lab for analysis and yes, there needs to be someone here to keep it all in the computer and keep it up-to-date.

DeVita It's fine that you use the University lab but I would probably abstain from voting on that or if you want to put in there, collect and use the appropriate lab for analysis or something like that.

Holdridge I would use a competent lab like yours but in terms of storing the data, I want it out here in the Town of Hull.

DeVita Sure, absolutely.

Holdridge You get high marks over there. But the Town of Hull needs to take ownership, the government in Hull, and have a good system of collecting it and retaining it.

Stautz I can take that out and just put in appropriate certified lab.

Holdridge Here's the other thing I added Rick, whoever we select or they come in and apply and we select, references, firms submitting proposals shall submit references to Hull of their data collection or engagement techniques in groundwater monitoring. So whatever they submit, we've got the reference list. The other thing I would add is have them identify the dates they worked with whatever town or city, when was that, what was the date.

Stautz I think I had that in the other previous one, I'll look for the wording and see if I can put that back in.

Holdridge That's something we'd want to check. If you look at the list of vendors, right at the 3rd or 4th row in Amherst, is one of these the group you referred to Bill?

DeVita Yes, Sand Creek Consultants.

Holdridge What is that one, Rick, that is hand written in there?

Stautz MSA Services, they have a Baraboo office but they also have a Marshfield one that for some reason didn't show up on my list here so I put that one in. When I printed it out, I thought Marshfield was on there, then it wasn't. The question was, if we put this together and send it out with a letter to these firms, how far away would everybody feel comfortable in going? There are a number of them in the Appleton / Fox Valley area? Is that too far?

Holdridge I guess we'll get feedback from the Board. I would look at the local ones but I would expand.

DeVita We might want to take out Short Elliot because of conflict of interest. They did the City's well.

Holdridge As you look through this, Eau Claire has a ton of them, Fond du Lac, the Fox Valley, Green Bay.

Pederson A firm with experience in the Central Sands area would be something to be considered because soil type or soil conditions can really affect how they view the whole population, if they're not familiar with it.

Holdridge Gremmer and Associates don't have a hydrologist but in talking with Dave Glodowski, they're going to get a hydrologist. But the other firm, AECOM, they have a hydrologist on staff. So there are a lot around the state. How would you narrow it down, Rick?

Stautz The way I've done it in the past is put out a request for proposals and put it out there in the trade magazines or send it to consultants you've worked with in the past. Then you'll get calls from all over the place because once they see it out there, they may be in Milwaukee or Duluth and see it and see if they can submit a proposal. I'm more familiar with firms I've worked with which are in Wausau and east of there and down as far as Milwaukee.

Holdridge On page 6 there are 3 from Point.

Stautz I'm not sure about the one.

DeVita I think the one works more with construction services.

Stautz That's kind of what I thought. So the Natural Resources Consulting, do you know anything about them? I was surprised when I found them on there, where are they?

Holdridge The one above it is the one down the street. Their engineer is doing the overpass on Hoover Avenue by the Country Club. My guess is these guys are hungry.

Stautz Just start sending it to a few of them in this area and see what we get for response then go from there?

Holdridge After Monday night, sit down with Janet Wolle and we'll need to have a cover letter and a date it needs to come back, select some out and give it a go. I like the idea if there is an engineering publication, we could stick it in there and that's probably state-wide. Maybe somebody that's really interested in it. I know from in my discussions and I've talked with Gaffield, nobody has a monitoring program. No town certainly. The most likely spot would be counties. I know Patty Dreier is trying to do some stuff. But it's novel. These up and coming engineering firms are probably figuring out water is a hot topic.

Stautz There's monitoring systems that are site specific like for a gas station or a spill, landfills.

Holdridge We've got one around our closed landfill but I'm talking about a town-wide, or county-wide system. The county's is the fellow out of Schofield. I'm not sure he's on there. He's been with the county since it started a number of years ago. So that's what we've got. Are there any additions to that or corrections?

Johnson John, have you ever reached out to the surrounding towns of Lake Beulah to see where they're at today? I would imagine after some of the stuff they've gone through down there, they've probably got a few citizens committees moving forward on similar things.

Holdridge The Wisconsin Town's Association had a meeting last fall at Lake Delton and they had a session for urban towns and asked what are the big issues? One is water, the second is local control. There's been too much state absorption of issues that are local. These are towns that are probably 4,000 to 8,000. They tend to be towns contiguous to cities the size of Sheboygan, Eau Claire. Around Waukesha there was a lot of discussion from those towns about Waukesha's thing. Then west from the LaCrosse area, there was a lot of discussion about water issues over there. That's about the extent of it. I've been after the urban towns, help us on management.

Johnson So as far as you know, not only are there no monitoring programs, but there's nobody working on one except for us.

Holdridge I've talked with George Kraft, I've talked with Steve Gaffield and there doesn't seem to be a lot of ideas. That's one of the reasons I would go with some practical engineering firm that has a hydrologist that's out in the field dealing with the problems and get some thoughts from these people. But I don't know of any. I've talked with people about it. The towns are a loose configuration to say the least and they generally are smaller operations. They don't have the structure the cities and villages have.

DeVita John, do you think Hull is unique in that we've had such growth on the edge of the City? I know the City has talked about annexation of some of these higher density areas and there's been resistance to annex by Town of Hull residents and town government. Is that something unique in

Wisconsin? We normally see areas like Jordan Acres subdivision and the Conifer Acres subdivision south of Grazie's. Do we normally see those absorbed by municipalities for city services?

Holdridge I think it depends to some extent upon the leadership in the city. When Gary Wescott was mayor, he was very conscious of cooperation with Stevens Point. When Andrew Halverson became mayor, he wouldn't even return phone calls. Around the state, there's still annexation. But so many of these communities have matured and said, why don't we work out a cooperative agreement. That is much more likely today. Mike Wiza and I had talked about boundary agreements. There are certain areas the city is going to grow. The city is going to grow out by Highway 10 and south of Highway 10. Those are farm fields. They're easy to annex. All you need is one owner. So that's been talked about. I backed off because of the advice of our attorney. He said you don't want to get into that until you get this water thing solved. I told Mike that. I said we'd be happy to do that but we need to get this water thing resolved. Mike has been at none of our meetings. He hasn't showed up. But I think he wants to stand back and let the evidence come to him then he can come in on it. Most of the relationships between cities and their contiguous towns have matured so that you don't have the kind of stuff you had in the 1990's. We had some annexations out here on Hwy. 10. The last big one we fought was that one at the Casimir Interchange in which the city wanted to annex that and I think they had a guy that wanted to purchase it and build a gas station. I think it's probably different with Mike Wiza.

Stautz Some urban towns have incorporated and become villages to fight annexation. Kronenwetter, Greenville by Appleton.

Holdridge There's one by Kenosha.

Stautz Down around Racine and Kenosha, yes. Because once you're incorporated as a village, the city cannot annex you. It's kind of like building a wall around it.

Holdridge Our situation, like every town in Wisconsin, is heavily dependent upon the county. County government was created to provide services to the unincorporated areas. We are unincorporated. That's the reason we've got county government.

Stautz Then you get some of these larger towns that actually have sanitary districts, sewer, water.

Holdridge Sometimes they have their constable. I've always been reluctant to get into that because as a taxpayer, you are spending 30% of what you pay in property tax for county services. There are 2 major ones we depend upon, planning and zoning and police services. Only 16% of what you pay in taxes goes for Hull government. The rest of it goes out of here. You have to look at the county, it seems to me, as a local government. If you are at the town level, you've got 2 local governments, one is the town government and the other is the county. Because you interact directly with them. Our problem with creating a village is you almost need to have a business center and be much more contiguous. If you look at a map of the Town of Hull, we're all over.

McNelly I got a question the other day about the monitoring well you were considering to install to replace one that was knocked over. I think it was on the corner of Emerald Acres. Are you waiting to do that until your RFP goes out and that would be part of the plan or are you looking to install that well sooner?

Holdridge Is that the monitoring well up at Jordan and Willow Springs? The one that people keep saying is there but you can't ever find it.

McNelly I got a call in my office about what you're plan is.

Stautz I think we talked about this a little bit when we were putting this together and we might decide that's a good place to put it but a consultant may say, no, it would be better to put it a half mile down the road over here.

McNelly I just wanted to confirm that was your plan of action. I will let him know.

Holdridge We need a plan for the monitoring wells where we can see the whole system. That's what this is about.

DeVita You wanted those University wells. I'm just waiting on you to get me a set of locks then I'll go and take ours off.

Holdridge What I'll do is write you a letter indicating the wells we'd like to take over. It'll be a very formal process. I'll do the same with Joel Lemke. Joel has agreed to this. Those wells may be jointly used by Hull and by the City. But it'll be a formal letter in which we will make certain we'll take that over and we want the system set up to collect the data. Patty, do we have 6 or 8 wells?

Amman In our right-of-way? Yes, about 6 I think.

Pederson How many locks do we need?

DeVita Probably a lock for the county well. This well up on Torun.

McNelly It's locked. I just stopped there, the one on the corner of where the Somer's property is. It's locked so I don't know whose lock that is.

DeVita I wonder if Amy put that on, she might have.

McNelly If you want to ask her, that would be great.

Holdridge The one down here on the corner is locked too.

DeVita So 4 locks that would fit one key, all the same.

Amman So your nested ones have just one outside enclosure that you would lock?

DeVita Yes.

Holdridge One of the questions is yours has 2 or 3 pipes going down because you measure different distances.

DeVita Correct.

Holdridge Now, is that something, if we put in a new well, do we want to look at that?

DeVita I don't think so.

Holdridge That's a question we're going to ask the consultant.

Stautz We're probably not going to ask the consultant, they're probably going to tell us. They're going to set up the design of this system.

Holdridge If he doesn't tell us, I'm going to ask him. You got data from 3 different levels.

DeVita Right. But we were looking for water quality. This is a question of groundwater elevation and flow.

Holdridge This is a quality issue isn't it?

Stautz Yes, I guess it is. Mainly we're looking at groundwater flow and quantity issues. Quality we're going to have to do differently. Depending upon what you are looking for.

DeVita Northwest of that well you're in wooded land. If you want to monitor groundwater as it's being discharged from those woods to that well.

Holdridge The Somer's land, those 80 acres, one of the concerns there is the quality of the water that's going to come off those fields if he turns it into vegetables.

Stautz We have to set the system up to do the monitoring mostly for our issues with the quantity of the water and the flow direction of the water. Then if we see problems downstream with quality in certain areas, then if we have a good idea of the direction of flow, maybe we can try and go back and look at quality but we don't need to look at 3 different levels like they are.

Holdridge Bill's wells are different than the city wells. You can collect more data.

DeVita We can look at quality at different depths in those wells. I was talking specifically about the well at Jordan and Willow Springs. That one well was intended to be used for groundwater elevation so we could draw that triangle to get our flow direction.

Stautz That would be good to talk with the consultant about what we can do with them.

Pederson There is some structure at the corner of Willow Springs and Jordan on the southwest corner that's been painted and it looks like a pipe. It's marked probably so it doesn't get hit when mowing.

Amman I looked at that and it was a gas thing, it wasn't water.

Pederson I just want to confirm that's not the missing well. Somebody painted it orange.

Holdridge That's the most looked after/for well. So that's the plan. This is a lengthy process and that's just the nature of it when you've got part-time people. And we're doing things that are relatively unique to towns. Jen, do you have any information on the county groundwater committee?

McNelly They're still working on their groundwater management plan. They've set their goals. They're going to be working their way through the next step after the goals. Hopefully wrapping it up by the end of this summer, move it along.

Zimmerman I have a question for Rick. Why do they put lead pipes on only part of the extension into the houses?

Stautz Years ago?

Zimmerman Yes.

Stautz Lead was really easy to work with, you could just roll it out. Actually all your old pipes were probably cast iron with lead joints in them and the lead pipe was cheap and cheaper to put in than copper at that point. So that's just what was used. In most cases, it wasn't a problem, it was only if the water was aggressive that you'd have lead in the water.

Zimmerman In Michigan where they pulled it out it seemed that only part of that was lead. I couldn't figure out why.

Stautz Most utilities own the service from the main to the shut off stop, curb stop. Then the homeowner owns it from there on in. So a lot of times they put lead up to that curb stop, then it was copper or iron pipe. You want to see a bad material for water service, an iron pipe because it'll rust away until there's nothing left.

Wilz Joel Lemke explained years ago Stevens Point in parts of their infrastructure where there was a lot of movement, they would use lead in the pipes because it wouldn't break if it was moved. Now that has been replaced over the last 30 – 40 years with other types of things that give. But he said lead was a very used material. People liked to use lead, it worked well.

Holdridge Probably it was cheap too.

Stautz Yes, it was.

8) Next meeting date: Tuesday, June 28, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

9) Adjournment. *A motion was made by Bill DeVita to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ken Ramage. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman
Water Committee Secretary
Town of Hull, Portage County