

MINUTES –

Hull WATER COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 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, January 27, 2015 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, Mike Carder, Ken Ramage, Rick Stautz, Rey Vega, Matt Johnson, Mike Bohlman and Committee Secretary: Patty Amman.

Guests: Tim Zimmerman

2) **Citizens wishing to address the Committee on non-agenda items. Agenda items are for discussion and possible action.** *(See Tim Zimmerman comments towards the end of agenda item #8).*

3) **Announcements.**

Holdridge Patty Dreier, who is the Chief Executive for Portage County has had 9 listening sessions around the county. She is going to be having a final summary one on February 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the Portage County Annex Building. She'll summarize the information from the listening sessions. She had put together some information for the listening sessions. I thought the most interesting thing to read was this 2 page fact sheet which she put together. I highlighted some things about water. According to the Wisconsin Constitution, water belongs to everybody and that's called the Public Trust Doctrine. I've heard that from the Well #11 issue. Then it goes on to describe a number of different terms. It says Portage County gets an average of 32 inches of precipitation. It's great information that I would have liked to have had when we had our Task Force of which we included that report for you. It's got a lot of basics on the water situation. Our concern, because we have 2,020 private wells, is what happens to the wells and to the water. I would encourage you to look that over. It's the first time I've seen it in that form.

I also included a booklet on the Central Arizona Project. I came across this over Thanksgiving in Tucson. We took a trip to the Desert Museum which is right outside of Tucson. It's quite a spectacular place. We were leaving there and up on a little knoll I saw this body of water out in the desert. There's a federal forest there and they have a headquarters so I went in and asked the ranger, "What is that?" He said, "That's part of the Central Arizona Water Project." This booklet gives a lot of details about it. This is an effort to provide water to Phoenix and Tucson. They run it from Lake Havasu which is up on the Colorado River. Some of you may have been there; it's a fairly popular vacation place. They run the water about 330 miles through aqua ducts through Phoenix and down to Tucson. In the early 1920's they realized they had a water problem. Groundwater wasn't going to do it so they needed some surface water. That's how the project developed. If you read that brochure, it started in 1973 and was completed in 1993, this whole project. There was a famous court case that went to the Supreme Court, Arizona vs. California on the water issue. When I was out there, one of the people told me at the Desert Museum, which is run by volunteers, it's not for profit, this lady said,

“You know, Tucson is going to be out of water.” That brochure was sent to us by the Executive Secretary with a cover letter that included her phone number and I’m trying to contact her to see how all this is shaking out over there. It’s quite a mammoth undertaking.

Also, the daily newspaper in Tucson is the Arizona Daily Star. Here’s a letter to the editor wondering why Tucson is taking the water from the outlying areas. It sounds like Stevens Point taking Hull’s water. So the water issues, they’re all over. I grew up in Baraboo and every corner of the square had a water bubbler and they ran 24-hours a day during the summer. There was no irrigated land. If you drove from Baraboo down to Sauk City past pretty good farm land, none of that was irrigated. Now if you go down there, it’s all irrigated. It’s really changed. So that’s the Arizona Project. That gets a lot of coverage because the fear was that the Southwest would take Great Lakes water. Any comments or questions on that?

4) Introduction of Water Committee members.

Holdridge I thought we could go around the table and tell us a little about your interest in the topic, education and experience. I’ll start with myself. I was on the County Board for 17 years and then ran for Town Chairperson. I was an administrator, the last 9 years I taught at SPASH. I taught Social Studies and started the advanced placement government program. I’ve been on the Town Board since 1991. I graduated from this university. Then I went to UW-M. and got a master’s degree and I had PhD work in Minnesota.

K. Ramage I live over on Sunnycrest next to the town park, Somerset Park. My wife and I have been there 16 ½ years. We moved there from Connecticut where we had been 2 times. We like it very much. We’re one of the families on a shallow-driven point well. We still have water. It’s great water. I’ve been retired about 6 ½ years. I worked in Iola for Krause Publications for 9-10 years. I have a degree from the college of arts and science in Missouri and also a degree in journalism. My interests include fishing and hunting. I’m really interested in groundwater. I’m looking forward to a good learning experience. This is my first ever expedition into the public sector government. I’ve always been a for profit management sort of guy. So I think it’s going to be interesting.

Holdridge I’m glad you joined us. We sent out a newsletter and told people we were creating this committee.

R. Stautz Going way back, I came from West Bend. Went to the University of Wisconsin in Madison 1972 -1976. Became a civil engineer and environmental engineer. I worked for a consultant for 3 years then decided maybe I should work for the municipality so I worked for a couple of small municipalities. I spent 5 years at the water utility in Shawano and 25 years as a public works director in Shawano and retired about a year and a half ago. When I worked in these other municipalities I was the one looking for water, working with water and sewer utilities. I moved here last April (2014). I have a shallow well. I’m right on the edge of the city. My neighbor is in the city. I’m on Janick Circle. I love the water in my well. I heard about this and actually before I retired, I took a tour of Well #11 at one of the water conferences and thought, wow, this is such a big well, this is really got to suck up the water. Now I know.

Holdridge Yes, 33 other households know too. What drew you to Stevens Point and the Town of Hull?

Stautz I have a son in Eau Claire and a son in Madison so it was kind of in-between the 2. A little closer than Shawano and I wanted to go somewhere where everybody didn't know me like they did in Shawano. So I didn't have to answer questions like what do you think of your replacement. My wife has an eye problem too and it's better to be in a bigger community where they've got more things.

Holdridge Well good. I'm glad you joined.

D. Pederson I'm a member of the town board since 2003 I believe. I taught at SPASH starting in 1975 and finished my career at the alternative school. They had a program for students with behavior problems and emotional problems. I have a bachelor's degree from River Falls in English and history and my master's is in behavior disorders. I became involved in the town board when Hwy. 10 was going to go across the Plover River. We were fighting the crossing north of the city. We didn't prevail on that but we did avoid the river crossing on the Plover. We've lived in the Town of Hull since 1977. When we moved out to where we live, we had a well that we had to wait for if we did a load of wash or took a bath. We subsequently put in a deeper well but now we have a lot of iron. Our problem there is we're on a rock feature and you have to go down quite a ways. Basically the water comes through the fissures in the rock unlike the sand areas. So I have an interest in water and maintaining the integrity of the water in the township.

Holdridge Dave lives over in the I-39 West area.

Pederson If you know where the Pipe is.

B. DeVita I see my name-tag says I'm with the Water and Environmental Analysis Lab, but I consider myself a member of the committee as a town resident. I've lived in the town for 25 years. I went to school at UWSP, graduated in 1983 with a degree in water resources and chemistry. After graduation I went to Duluth and worked at the EPA lab up there for 5 years working on a national dioxin study. I started that job for the first couple of weeks with a meat grinder and a bunch of carp. That's how I started my career, grinding fish from across the country. We were testing for dioxins. I moved up the ladder a little bit and got into analytical processes, gas chromatography and mass spectrometry, tools they use to do organic compound analysis. I did that for 5 years. I saw the writing on the wall that someone with a bachelor's degree was probably not going to go anywhere. I obtained a federal position. I was a contract employee. So I returned to Stevens Point to work on a master's degree and work in what was known as the pesticide lab working for Byron Shaw at the time. I worked on a master's degree while working full time and trying to hold down a family. After 6 years I finally got the degree and thesis done. It was primarily environmental chemistry. I've been there now 26 years in the lab and now am managing the lab. Again, I consider myself a member of the committee as a resident. John asked me to serve and I think that was the intent, to be here as a resident, correct?

Holdridge Yes but we don't want to hide our expertise.

DeVita I was on the Water Study Task Force. Currently we're working on a project in the Town of Hull with some DNR funding where we're looking at a couple of different subdivisions. The Stroik Subdivision and over south of Fleet Farm in the Conifer Acres Subdivision, we're looking at trying to separate sources of nitrate because we know nitrate contaminates wells very readily. We're trying to separate what comes from septic systems and what comes from agriculture because homeowners like us maybe tend to blame agriculture for the nitrate problems, the elevated nitrate

levels. The agricultural community tends to say, what about the septic systems. So now we have this process where we go through and sort that out. My background is mostly water quality, not water quantity so much but I studied some hydrogeology as a graduate student and worked closely with George Kraft at the Center for Watershed Science and Education. We might all have our opinions on where the water is going but there are only so many facts that we have. So if we would try to look at the facts and hopefully I can help.

Holdridge We'll talk a little about the DNR project later.

M. Carder My wife and I have lived in the town since 1986. I managed the Portage County Health Department Environmental Health Program for 15 years. I got my degree from UW-Oshkosh. I'm kind of a rock hound, an amateur geologist. I have a great deal of water expertise as I've served on a number of task forces, these work groups over a number of years. I have expertise working with the DNR folks with public and state agencies as well as municipalities trying to raise awareness and get information out to people especially about the quality of their water. I've answered a lot of questions over the years about wells and water quality. What people can do. I have some expertise on well construction. I've been retired since 2012. I saw this opportunity as a way to share some expertise I gained over the years especially in water quality issues. I've done a lot of research especially in nitrate issues and contamination with bacteria and micro-organisms. Hopefully I can help out.

R. Vega I've been in the Town of Hull for about 10 years. I'm retired from the Wisconsin DOT as a civil engineer. I'm primarily here because I was asked if I wanted to participate in this committee. My qualifications are nowhere near some of yours. So if you can find a spot for me, something I can do, I'm willing to help out.

M. Johnson I live in the Stroik subdivision right on the corner of Jordan and Torun. I've lived in the Town of Hull 4 years. I'm a graduate of UWSP in political science 2001. About 8 years ago we moved back to Stevens Point and rented a few years before finding a home we wanted to buy out here in the Town of Hull. Really wanted to be a little bit outside of town with a little space but close to the city still and have all the ties to schools and things going on in town. Became aware of the water situation through some neighbors of mine and at that time offered any services I can. I'm a social worker in Waupaca County for a Medicaid long-term care program, disability and frail elders. Reading over the reports, I saw a lot of issues that we have may be in data collection or getting Hull residents interesting in sampling and getting our own data going as soon as possible. I thought that might be an area I can contribute to the group. We have a lot of expertise at the table here but I'm here to find a way to contribute to the community.

Holdridge Matt lives in the Stroik Subdivision and that is the area where just to the north is wooded land and the person who owns that had obtained a permit to put in a high-capacity well. The prospects are that they will probably clear-cut the wood lot and we'll have this high-capacity well next to 2 existing residential areas.

Johnson My home is about 35 to 40 years old I think.

Holdridge It's an older subdivision. I wanted to get someone from the Stroik Subdivision on the committee. So I'm glad you're on it.

M. Bohlman I'm right behind him (*my house*) in Emerald Forest. Grew up in Polonia surrounded by a lot of agriculture, fields and irrigation. I have some extended family that owns those types of farms

elsewhere. I saw how they experienced health issues as I grew up. I've always been interested in water and that kind of information. I have a couple of kids and we now live in Emerald Forest. We were in the other side of Stroik for 8 years before we bought this house. Our child's day-care provider lives right behind where Well #11 went in. Of course we have a lot of connections seeing other friends struggle with the issue. So we're very interested in groundwater and the safety of our kids. We view our home as an investment beyond anything for the future and see water as a very important issue because without that you don't have much. John as I spoke to you several times, as you start reading about it, this is an issue in many places. I don't have near the level of expertise. I have a degree in education from UWSP and a master's in administration. I'm here to do what I can. I teach up at Everest. I teach math.

Amman I've worked for the Town of Hull for about 6 years. Although I was born in Wisconsin, I actually grew up in Lake Havasu City, Arizona which is interesting that we're tying that in with this a little bit. Then eventually I moved back to the Midwest.

Holdridge Patty is the secretary for the Plan Commission, Parks Commission and now the Water Committee. So you grew up in Lake Havasu.

Amman I did. So I learned Arizona history instead of Wisconsin history. So I have a little bit different sort of background.

Holdridge Did you remember the construction of the Central Arizona Project?

Amman Yes, there were things you see down river like the large pipes and when I say large, I mean like the size of this room, they were huge. They were down river from us a little that were sucking water. We were more under the impression it was sucking water and taking it to California, which is was, but they were also in the process of building this because I was out there in the 1970's when they were starting this project (CAP). It was ironic that water was being taken out of the river for so many places but Lake Havasu City did not get their water from the Colorado River. They had deep municipal wells like we have here. It was really interesting. When we moved out there in the 1970's, a lot of the big lakes back east like Lake Erie were so polluted but Lake Havasu had the reputation of you could take a cup and dip it in the lake and drink it. It was really pristine, it was really clean water. So they really wanted to protect that.

Holdridge Is it a pretty good size lake?

Amman It is, it's like 5 miles by 7 miles. It's pretty good size. It was created by them damming up the Colorado River. I took tours of Parker Dam and Davis Dam, some of the different huge hydro-electric dams that were in the area along the Colorado River.

Holdridge If you've got a question about something, e-mail Patty. Our minutes can be 20 pages long. Any other comments? I thought it would be good to see who each person was.

5) **Public Constituted Group.**

- **Open meetings and staff responsibility**
- **Advisory to Hull Board of Supervisors**
- **Recorded meeting proceedings**

Holdridge Let me talk about #5. This is a group that has been formed and is a legally constituted group. What that means is, it was created by the Town Board, subject to the open records law. This is

an open meeting, anybody can come to it. So it's very official. We'll keep minutes of the meeting. The Town of Hull is a structure with a 5-member Board all of whom serve for 2-year terms which are staggered. We don't have an executive. If there's an executive function, it's probably in the town chairperson. We have 2 full-time clericals. One is the Town Clerk who is Janet Wolle. The other is the Town Secretary, Barb Brilowski. Those are full-time. Patty is part time and Marilyn Kranig basically handles voting. We have a 3-member road crew and they take care of 82 miles of Hull roads. We have 4 snow plow routes. So we hired a part-time road crew person and that is Joe Wierzba. That's basically what we've got. We have to rely on volunteers. Also 2 of the functions the town does not provide, one is police service which is done by Portage County as part of our levy, the second is planning and zoning services. There are 17 towns in Portage County. For 15 of them, planning and zoning is controlled by Portage County Planning & Zoning. One town doesn't have any zoning and one town has its own zoning. So we have to rely on Portage County Planning & Zoning for many of our basic services. Otherwise, we contract to pick up the garbage, recycling. We have a very active volunteer fire department. We administer our own voting and all the other basic functions. Our general level of government is provided by the Town of Hull. If you look at our taxes, last year 13% of the property tax went to the town. It went up this year and is maybe 16%. Do you know Dave?

Pederson I know that it went up, but I don't know how much.

Holdridge So if you look at your property tax, a very small percentage goes to the Town of Hull but your service level is basically through the town. The school district gets a bunch, the county gets around 30%, the voc-tech system gets quite a bit.

We are an advisory committee to the Hull Town Board. That's true of the Plan Commission and the Parks Commission. So we make recommendations to the Town Board. That doesn't mean we can't, in some cases, operate independently. Again, we have recorded minutes of the meeting. When we have a meeting, we have to announce it in the paper so it's public knowledge.

6) Hull Water Committee Ordinance (adopted 1-13-14).

Holdridge We drew the ordinance up and got it approved by the Town Board. I encourage you to ask any questions. In Section 2, "The adoption and implementation of the Water Committee Ordinance provides significant citizen input to oversee water projects and usage in the Town of Hull and to advise the Hull Board of Supervisors of current and future water policies." Towns are probably one of the most loosely structured governments you have. The Town Board can take action on things. If you were in the City you'd have any number of committees and all the structure. But early on in 1967, the Town of Hull adopted Village Powers which meant we could act to protect the health and welfare of our citizens. That was a significant adoption and one that has been helpful. The reason why we have a nuisance ordinance is because we have village powers where we can protect the health and welfare of neighborhoods. That was important.

On Section 4, committee members need to be members of the town.

On the second page in Section 6 I say we'll meet at least quarterly and there's the open meeting law.

You don't get any pay for this service, but what we did, we gave each person on the Parks Commission and the Plan Commission \$100 travels stipend. We process that in December so you'd get \$100. You don't have to worry about claiming that on your income tax. So for your service this year, you'll get a check for \$100 (travel stipend). So that's the one compensation people get. We don't count miles or any of that stuff, we just give it to you as a gratuity.

In Section 8 we indicate official minutes.

Under Section 9, experts and staff, we certainly have the ability to recommend through the budget process additional expenditures of money for the purpose of the committee. In the 2015 budget we have \$3,000 to put in 3 monitoring wells and those monitoring wells would be between the Somers land and the subdivisions that are impacted by the Somers land. I talked with you Bill and you put in some. We have some money for a water study being done by Bob Enright. If there's a need, we make our case and go from there.

Then it talks about the selection. #2. Vice Chairperson – The Water Committee may elect by open vote a Vice Chairperson to serve in place of the Chairperson. Anybody that would want to serve as that, let me know.

Then on the next page, 3. Secretary – The Water Committee shall elect by open vote a Secretary. So I would recommend tonight that we formally elect Patty Amman as our secretary as our first official act. Any discussion (there was none).

A motion was made by John Holdridge to elect Patty Amman as Secretary for the Hull Water Commission. Motion was seconded by Bill DeVita. Motion passed with voice vote.

Holdridge Under Committee Objectives, through Bill's operation and Kevin Masarik at the University who has done these water tests around Wisconsin. We had about 109 homeowners who had their water tested. They had an educational thing at the University where they gave out the results and it was great. People were able to pick up the bottles here. Then Bill DeVita picked them up from here since he lives over on Torun, then took them to the lab.

DeVita If I could explain this a little bit. Kevin is a groundwater educational specialist. What Kevin does is he organizes the collection of samples and advertises. Often the way it works is within a county, there's a township and maybe within a township there's a section or a quarter section he might focus on and we would get samples from that particular area of the township. They bring them to the lab and we do the analytical work. We sent the results to another member of our team, Dave Mechenich who is more of a computer guy and he'll factor it all together. He does a regional water quality picture and then Kevin will go into the community and have a meeting in a place like this or a high school auditorium and sit down with the residents. Each resident will get their results and a report. They'll explain it, what the data means without getting too personal about what your particular water might look like, presenting it as a regional water quality study. It's a good educational program that we've been doing for 35 years, long before Kevin was on-board. It's something we can do again in the township. Each resident pays their own lab fees.

Holdridge What does the package cost?

DeVita It's \$49 for the Homeowner's Package and that includes testing for nitrate, bacteria, Ph alkalinity, hardness, conductivity, corrosively, chloride, the basic water quality characteristics. Then you can look at metals, there's a metals package we do for \$45 testing for 10 elements. If you get into testing for pesticides, that can be pricey. But the homeowner can choose 3 different levels of testing.

Holdridge So that could easily be repeated. I'll have to talk with Barb Brilowski because she has gotten some inquiries.

DeVita We have a full schedule already for 2015. We fill up early because we do this around the state with Kevin.

Holdridge Have you done any others in Portage County?

DeVita Not for drinking water programs. Nathan Sandwick, our UW-Extension Regional Outreach person is also very involved in coordinating the effort.

Holdridge Then “B” of Section 11 of the Water Committee Ordinance is monitoring Stevens Point Well #11 and we can certainly get into that as this Well #11 get’s played out. I’ve looked at the Town of Grand Rapids which had some issues with Wisconsin Rapids back in the early 1990’s. Rapids put in a high capacity well in Grand Rapids and they worked out some long-term deals. Fond du Lac had some issues with high capacity wells and they worked out a situation where the town had water problems and Fond du Lac put in a new well for them so there are different ways you can deal with it. Most of those were in the early 1990’s.

Then “C” is investigate the decrease in the water level in private wells in the vicinity of Well #11. That’s a Well #11 issue, that’s on-going.

“D” is southeast section analysis. That’s the one we haven’t done yet.

“E” is the one that Bill talked about, the DNR/EPA grant. How many wells have you put in Bill?

DeVita Just 7 monitoring wells but we’re doing private well testing too. The monitoring wells will only be done and analyzed twice but the private wells we’re looking at, I think there are 18 private wells, we’re doing those quarterly over 2 years. There will be 8 collections of 18 wells. In those we’re looking at the basic water quality characteristics like nitrate, bacteria but also pesticides and pharmaceuticals. Pharmaceuticals and personal care products are something that’s relatively new to our lab.

Amman That tells you potentially where the nitrates might be coming from?

DeVita Right.

Amman There’s a connection there.

DeVita Right. We know if we find pesticides, if we’re assured they’re agricultural pesticides, then this would be an agricultural source of nitrate. If we find some of these pharmaceuticals, particularly the ones we find, we see a lot of artificial sweeteners, we see some antibiotics, we see things like caffeine, those are pretty indicative of septic system, of human influence, flushing your toilets essentially. Antibiotics are, I think, the ones that are of the most concern because we’re finding levels of antibiotics that have not been seen before in the literature.

Holdridge So people could be dumping those down the toilets?

DeVita We don’t know.

Amman It could be in your system as it flows through your body.

DeVita Right. You’re overdosing your system with antibiotics when you take those.

Amman But they use antibiotics in animals too don’t they?

DeVita Right but we can tell the difference. There are human antibiotics and there are bovine/veterinary antibiotics.

Pederson Could they potentially affect your septic system bacteria?

DeVita These are parts per billion levels of antibiotics. When you dose yourself you're looking at 800 milligrams so it's a pretty heavy dose. The things we're seeing in groundwater are low-parts per billion. If it was a pesticide at 10 parts per billion, it might be of concern. An antibiotic, it's probably not going to do the same resistance.

Holdridge One of the goals was to trace the origin.

DeVita I don't think that's one of our goals. To trace the origin. That's going to take a lot more effort.

Holdridge Would you be able to trace if the nitrate came from farms or from septic systems, or lawn fertilizers?

DeVita Not lawn fertilizers, no. Again, the way we would try to separate these 2 would be the presence of the pharmaceuticals and personal care products or the pesticides that are commonly used in our area. We don't test for everything, we can't.

Holdridge I know that southeast area where the water flows towards the Plover River and the impact to those households from the farm fields. That, to me, would be great if we could nail that down.

DeVita If you can imagine that you have septic systems that are discharging in that top 3 feet or so and you have the Plover River on the west side of that subdivision. You have Brilowski Road on the east side. The fields are east of Brilowski. The water that's hitting those fields slowly sinks down and goes west so that nitrate contaminated or pesticide contaminated water slowly descends vertically and gets below that septic plume which tends to be up at the higher levels. The idea of going deeper to get better water is not valid because you can go deeper and hit that high nitrate/pesticide laden water. If you're too shallow, you're going to be drinking septic effluent, essentially. It doesn't sound good. It's septic impacted water. So it's nice to have some testing done before your well driller leaves the site so you can place your well in the area where there is a safer level of nitrate.

Johnson So the sample depths have a lot to do with what you're going to see in your testing? Or are you seeing a lot of low pesticides and personal care products at the same time?

DeVita Typically we see one or the other. Although the farther west we go, we've got some testing on the west side of I-39 (*south of the Hwy. 10 East / I-39 interchange*), we've got some deeper monitoring wells over there, we do see both. In the deeper part of the aquifer.

Johnson Would you pick one over the other in most cases?

DeVita Over in the east side of I-39, yes. In the east side of I-39 you can usually find a place where you can terminate a well where there's better water. It's not going to be real deep and it's not going to be real shallow.

Holdridge I think what we'll find with those 33 households that lost water that were shallow wells, they had good water. Then when they went down to 40-60 feet, they got iron and manganese, they got water of lesser quality.

DeVita The closer you get to bedrock, the more iron and manganese you get.

Holdridge That's a real issue. They not only had to put in a new well, they got poorer quality water. How long have you been into this study?

DeVita We're coming up to the end of 2 years at the end of June. So it'll be done June 30th.

Holdridge That's funded by the EPA?

DeVita It's DNR. It may be funneled by the EPA through the DNR budget.

Holdridge Have you reached any preliminary conclusions?

DeVita We can't say yet. We don't have all the data yet. We have a couple more rounds. Amy is out sampling right now, this week.

Bohlman I've had a few people ask me, "How do we check the water depth in our well?" I didn't know but I could maybe ask, I said. Is there a way you can check your water depth?

Carder The DNR has that information from the well driller report. I would contact the DNR and with the location, they should be able to get you some information.

DeVita The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey maintains a lot of those records also. Some of that is available on-line.

Carder Get on-line, right on the DNR website.

DeVita If the well was put in before 1988, they may not have a record. Then it gets difficult because you can't just drop a measuring device down a well. You've got that pitless adapter. Even if you have a driven point and the pump in the house, you'd have to take the pitless adapter out which means you'd have to dig it out and pull that whole thing apart.

Holdridge So what was your question?

Bohlman They were inquiring how deep is there well or how much water is actually in my well? They're worried about the potential of the high capacity well right out their back door, Well #11.

Stautz The DNR data is going to give you the depth of your well and what the water level was at the time it was drilled but it's not going to give you the water level now.

Holdridge Patty, we ought to be able to find out the source of the DNR data.

Amman Yes, I actually have that CD from the DNR. I think it comes out in July and January.

DeVita There is a monitoring well right now that's just north of the corner of Jordan and Torun. As part of this project, we do collect out of that occasionally. That was put in back in the days of the Emerald Forest subdivision issue back in 1992 I think it was. When their basements were flooding. I think that monitoring well was put in by the county. I don't have any records on that.

Holdridge Back in the 1993 flood, there was a well put in near the corner of Jordan and Willow Springs. We could never find it. That isn't the location you're talking about?

DeVita No.

Amman No but those 2 were put in about the same time.

Holdridge How do you check the depth of those?

DeVita It's not our well but Ray Schmidt told us if we ever want to sample it, we can go sample it. So we do. It's in the right-of-way.

Holdridge How do you do that?

DeVita We have a couple of different devices we use. One is an electronic groundwater elevation device where you drop this gizmo down the well with a tape measure on it essentially and when it hits water, it bridges the electrical gap so it conducts electricity and sends a signal up and it beeps or we have a little concave popper brass device that we drop down on a tape measure and you hear it when it hits. It pops on the water. It's actually fairly accurate.

Amman How often were you checking that well out on Jordan?

DeVita It really wasn't part of our study area. We were using it as an up-gradient well so we just threw that in with our other monitoring wells testing so it would be done twice.

Amman So within the last 2 years you've checked it a few times.

DeVita I think we did it last fall.

Holdridge I think one of the things we want to do is take a look at the monitoring wells in the town.

DeVita The other thing I might suggest is if you can get ownership of those monitoring wells the city wants to abandon. See about getting the ownership transferred to the Town of Hull. The same with the one up by Jordan and Torun. That could be valuable property to have. If there is one on Willow Springs and Jordan, do you know what corner?

Holdridge It would be northeast.

Bohlman On the corner of my lot somewhere?

DeVita Do you have a metal detector?

Bohlman I don't but maybe one of the neighbor kids does.

Holdridge Would you look for that? There was some thought a plow might have taken it out. I can remember going into some of the houses in that subdivision when the flooding was going on and the water was up to here. It was just ice water. I hope that wasn't your house.

Bohlman It wasn't. I think it was the guy next door actually.

Holdridge Don Butkowski is a County Board Supervisor and lives in the Stroik subdivision. Don called me back then and said, "John, you've got to come out, I've got a stream of water running right by my house and it's got fish in it." At that time I was chairman of the Portage County Highway Commission and I remember somehow we had to stop that water coming from the fields flooding our subdivisions. So I called up Bill R. who was the Highway Commissioner and said, "What do I do?" Bill said to haul some dirt out there. So we hauled dirt out and blocked off Jordan Road with a berm. Then the farmer with the field got mad and called me up about every half hour saying we were killing his crops with the water backing up. But that was a real experience. Finally, we had the National Guard come out with a tanker truck to provide drinking water. That was not just in Hull. It was throughout this area. I think it was the spring of 1993 to the summer. But I agree, we've got to identify the monitoring wells and inventory those.

This #2 (from the back page of the Hull Water Committee Ordinance) regarding Moses Creek has been a challenge. It was particularly a challenge in 1993 because it overflowed and backed up. Recently it hasn't been an issue but sometimes it is. I thought and if the group thought if we'd have some analysis of Moses Creek, maybe you could get some of your students over there to participate in that.

Then #3 about the wellhead protection ordinance, that could be important.

#4 is probably the biggest one, develop an ongoing system to monitor and report the quality and quantity of Hull water throughout the town. I don't know how you structure that. How do you decide where to put a monitoring well? What determines that? That may be a hydrologist or somebody with some real expertise. If you want to get a good analysis of the Town of Hull and want to know what is happening underground, where do you put monitoring wells? After all, it is all underground. It's not like surface water.

#5 is an annual report at the April Annual Meeting bringing the citizens up to date as to what we are doing because water is continuing to become an issue and will be for a long time.

Any comments about this?

DeVita Do we have a budget to work with? Funding to support installation of monitoring wells or water level monitoring?

Holdridge We have some money in for a study and we also have money to put in 3 monitoring wells. I was talking to somebody and it was suggested that maybe you do it by households. They can help you monitor the water situation. The question to me is how do you check the depth through a household well? The quantity question.

Pederson For that, I think, we'll have to rely on those monitoring wells. You take the cap off and measure at different times of the year to show seasonal fluctuations.

Holdridge I think I sent you a copy of George Kraft's speech he did in front of the county board. There was a paragraph in there that says, "This past year was the 5th wettest year since 1930." "And in 2010, we had the 4th wettest year. We are definitely in a period of wetter conditions and we should be seeing lakes and marshes and streams at all-time highs rather than at lows." We had a joint meeting

with the City attorney and the hydrologist, the argument was to make sure that the weather hasn't caused the water to be down. Well, George is saying we're in a wet period. It's not a question of lack of precipitation, it's simply that it's dried up.

DeVita George is giving a talk tonight in the Town of Lanark about his most recent work where he and Dave Mechenich have modeled the area around Sunset and Rhinehart Lakes and if you put so many more high capacity wells in the arable land up there and start pumping a certain quantity of water on that land, what's going to happen to those lakes. I don't know if he's going to be giving that talk anymore, I suspect he will at some point, I encourage you all to go and see him speak. He's making the point that we are in a wet period and he puts the data on the big screen and you can see the trend line. We're not in a drought as some may indicate. We had a dry summer in 2012 when there was a lot of irrigation and the water table dropped. The Little Plover River went dry but beyond that we are in a wet period. Last year, he mentioned we have 41" of rain. Typically we get 32" of rain or precipitation.

Holdridge So last year we had how much?

DeVita 41" I would encourage you all, if you have an opportunity to see George Kraft's presentation, check it out. I saw him at the GCAC meeting, Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. Tim Zimmerman is our representative on that. There was a question from the audience before George even started his presentation. This gentleman had been at the Portage County meeting where this article is from. He made the comment, "Why are you spending your time listening to Dr. Kraft's speak when there is irrefutable evidence that high capacity wells are lowering the water table, lowering the elevation of the water in lakes and streams in the Central Sands? Why are you spending your time doing this? You should be doing something about it." That was his comment to the Citizens Advisory Committee. First of all the Citizens Advisory Committee is only advisory to the Portage County Board. The Portage County Board doesn't have the authority to do anything about placement, permitting or installation of high capacity wells. It's down at the state level, the DNR. The comment that stuck with me is him saying there's irrefutable evidence. Not everybody believes the evidence is irrefutable. Like the City of Stevens Point, what they say and what they believe may be two different things. The former mayor often suggested Well #11 had nothing to do with water levels in the Town of Hull. Well, not the case.

Holdridge I always thought you can have high capacity wells that take down streams and lakes and that's important. I'm a duck hunter and trout fisherman. But I always thought, when you start denying water to households where they don't have water, that's where it really hits the fan. I suspect if this Well #11 deal gets into the courts and if there is a decision, that will have a tremendous impact because there's damages involved in this and it's a decision that a court makes. This might well get resolved before that. There's some interest in doing that by some City folks. But that's where it really hurts. If you folks lost water, you understand that better than most. The inconvenience and having to go out and spend \$6,000 to \$7,000, this is real damage to real people. If a decision comes down that a high capacity well has damaged households, real evidence that the water table went down, that's going to have a real substantial impact, I suspect, on those who have high capacity wells. You can't deny that. Even reading this Arizona report, what they say in there, the weather is a tremendous factor but when you start pumping, that's the big factor. That's George's point. So we'll see what happens.

Does anybody else want to comment on the ordinance? Remember this is a town board that's taking this on, we don't have a lot of models to follow. We've got some people that can advise us with some expertise.

Carder The distinction between the high capacity wells used in agriculture and municipal type high capacity wells and where that water is going, when a farmer pumps water for his crops and irrigates his fields, most of that is going back into the groundwater. With the City, it's going down the river. When that water gets used after it's treated, that's going into the Wisconsin River.

DeVita I have to disagree with you on that. Irrigation water, and I remember hearing a potato grower saying, "We don't irrigate recreationally. We're not out there to saturate the field to let it go back into the ground." They spend a lot of money pumping the water up. So they are very careful to not over saturate. The water is not going back into the ground. That's going up to the atmosphere.

Carder I guess the point I wanted to make was the difference between agricultural high capacity wells and municipal high capacity wells. The city isn't putting one drop of that water back into the ground. Agriculture is. Now, the percentages we can sit and discuss but I guess that was the point I wanted to make. When the City pumps it out, it's gone.

DeVita Yes.

Holdridge Yes, it's in New Orleans.

Carder Eventually

Holdridge I read in the handout Patty Dreier had, it talked about municipal water systems in Portage County. The Village of Plover, Whiting, I think Junction City, Amherst and Stevens Point, I think the 5 of them. Amherst puts their water into the Tomorrow River. The rest of them, maybe Junction City puts theirs in the Wisconsin River. But certainly Whiting, Plover and Stevens Point take in the sewage, clean it up, then it goes out to the Wisconsin River and goes downstream.

DeVita The other thing about the Stevens Point well, whereas agricultural wells are only pumping 3 months out of the year and only during certain times, Well #11 is pumping 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Pederson John, the treatment plants in Rosholt and Almond put the treated water back into the groundwater so those 2 don't send it down the river.

7) Hull Water Study Task Force Report on Groundwater Quality & Quantity (adopted 10-18-12) .

Holdridge We never collected any data on wells and pumping of wells and issues like that. So what I did was I decided we needed to have some information on water. We've got 2,020 households all with private wells and we didn't have anything. Now when we investigated it, there had been some collection of data in the late 1980's but nothing was ever continued. No, over-time analysis whatsoever. So we created a Water Task Force and had great cooperation from the University and others who shared with us. We investigated. We had a graduate student, Amy Nitka, who did a lot of the leg work. Bill (DeVita) was a big help, Paul McGinley (professor at UWSP), Ray Schmidt was a big help. Out of that came this report entitled Water Study Task Force on Groundwater Quality & Quantity adopted by the Hull Town Board on October 18, 2012. Our focus was initially all on quality. We thought we had a lot of quantity and thought that until Well #11 then all of a sudden it wasn't just quality, it was quantity. So the report was developed and we did some research. I was reading it early

this morning and there's really quite a bit here as I go back through it. We talk about the need for public awareness. The 4th paragraph on the first page says, "Public awareness of the value of water resources has grown in Wisconsin and the United States. Public awareness in Wisconsin has been heightened by the efforts of the City of Waukesha to obtain Lake Michigan water because of contaminated municipal wells." Waukesha is faced with the Great Lakes Compact which includes the states around the Great Lakes plus 2 Canadian provinces. So if people want water outside of that Great Lakes Basin, they have to be supported by the governors and the provinces to get the water. That was a movement which probably anticipated efforts in the Southwest to get Great Lakes water. When I was thinking about this early on wondering how would they ever pump water from the Great Lakes to the Southwest. Well they pump oil all over. It seemed so farfetched at one time. So that was the Great Lakes Compact and I don't know what the status of Waukesha is today. I think they're trying to do something where they go through Oak Creek to try to get some water. But their wells were contaminated and it's a pretty good size city. Do you know anything about that Mike?

Carder They had radium contamination I think.

Stautz I think it was more they started out with wells that were 200 feet now they're 400 feet deep. The water table has dropped so far from the pumping that they just don't have enough water supply.

Carder I think you get more radium as you go deeper.

Stautz Right. I think it's the same thing around arsenic especially in the Ledgeville and Green Bay area. It's natural in some of the sandstone.

Holdridge I talked about Ledgeville in there.

Stautz They had the same sort of problem. They had to go deeper and deeper for water that it became easier to take Lake Michigan water.

Holdridge I said in the report, "The Town of Ledgeview has two water systems: a sanitary public district and private household's wells. The sanitary district wells became contaminated with arsenic and radon. They now get water via Manitowoc from Lake Michigan 35 miles away." I think they got in before the Great Lakes Compact.

Pederson Well they're in the Great Lakes Basin.

Holdridge But I think that compact wasn't signed when they were able to do that.

Stautz The problem with Waukesha is there's a divide. The water to the east of there goes to the Great Lakes, west goes to the Mississippi and that was the problem. They were on that edge.

Holdridge I only wrote this into there because some people think this is such a remote problem. Then in Abbotsford, they thought they were going to get water from Wausau along the highway. Eventually what they did, apparently towns along the way, they wanted to be able to tap into that too if they had a need and that kind of killed it. Eventually Abbotsford put in some new wells.

Stautz They had the same problem some people have in certain areas around here. They have granite close to the surface then clay over the top of that. Not a lot of water there so they had to put

their wells in stream valleys. They did the same thing that they did here with Well #11, they went to the horizontal well so they could collect more water. When you drive along Hwy. 29 you'll see this well 5 miles away from Abbotsford. They had to go that far away to find water as there's just not a lot of water there. We have granite underneath here but we've got sand on top.

Holdridge That's true in parts of Hull. On the 2nd page, I indicated this is unique to Hull. I've talked to realtors asking what happens when they sell a house. They said they do a water test. We explored that a little further and if they go to get a loan they have to have a water test. So anybody that thinks that they don't want information about their home out there when they try to sell it, they'll find they've got to confront it. That's the reality. People that buy a house want the water tested and often the septic system too. The buyer wants that and the banks want that.

DeVita That law has recently changed so instead of just having a test done for bacteria, they now need to test for bacteria, nitrate and arsenic. That's as of October 1, 2014 they have to have all three for a property sale (*if the bank or buyer wants a test done*). It's DNR code.

Bohlman I know someone in my family that is in real estate, there was some property they were looking at that had nitrate issues and they were going to put a reverse osmosis system in but then it came down to if you're the person selling it, obviously the buyer wants you to install that, it comes down to property values and the home is an investment. If that's the case, it leads to more discussion and a need for information.

Holdridge On page 29 there were Summary Conclusions that summarized what we came out with. On the next page were Recommendations. On A, use an intergovernmental approach. That's important. Our problem is now, we've never really had any good interaction with the City of Stevens Point particularly with the former mayor. The mayor before him, Gary Wescott, we could communicate a lot. I certainly favor the intergovernmental approach. We certainly ought to be jointly planning expansion whether for the City or stabilizing our boundaries. That's a big issue and a big issue before our Plan Commission. On the second one, the Southeast Sector was a sector that is north and south of Hwy. 10 East, that business area there. That had the most data when we went back and pulled up data. We found a lot of testing done in that area. That is a goal to analyze that and Bob Enright is going to analyze that but we haven't done that yet. We've got sit down with Ray Schmidt who is the County's water specialist and get that data. That was a big concern. When we did this study, we broke the town down into 4 sectors to manage it.

D. is to share information to our website.

E. Recommend authoritative sources. It seems to me you have to get information out as much as you can because most people, unless you're into that area, don't understand it. This has been a whole learning experience for me. I had never taken science or studied water and so many of our citizens are like that so the more we can do to inform them, the better off we are. Then E is to advise residents of the potential damage of chemicals and pesticides.

G. Explore the possible limiting of future subdivision lots to 2 acres. That has kind of changed. Now they've discovered you can have 2 acres and for septic systems, it's not as serious for a contamination issue. There was a report I saw the other day that this isn't the problem they thought it was.

Then H – uranium in the drinking water. We used to have a water fountain right over here. We had it tested and found uranium in the water, right here in the municipal building. That became an issue for the employees.

I. Create a central location in Hull government for data. That's one of the big things, I think this group has to do, to collect data and over time, institutionalize it. The data we have is basically

what Stevens Point has. They put some test wells in our area. I think there are 6 of them. They've collected data going back around 15 years. Interestingly the data they collected is the data our hydrologist used and our lawyers are going to use to claim that Well #11 caused the water shortage. We'll use their own data. It showed clearly the water was dropping after Well #11 came on line.

Joel Lemke told me one day, "John, we'll just cap those (monitoring) wells." I told him not to cap them, we may want to use them for our purposes. To me it's a question, where do locate the wells. What's the best spot to have a systematic system. Then develop communication with individual households surrounding municipal Well #11. We've tried to do that. I'll talk a little about Well #11 before we conclude. But we have e-mails and we're trying to communicate with this.

Then K – develop a system to measure the quantity of water in Hull and explore the development of a wellhead protection ordinance in Hull. I don't know if any town has a wellhead protection ordinance. The City has one and the village has one but we certainly need some way to protect our private wells.

Then in the back there's a bunch of resources. There's quite a bit here and I encourage you to look it over. It's fairly unique. I don't know of any place where people started from scratch and tried to study this. We're lucky here because we have the University with a lot of expertise and we've got people who have expertise who are interested in the topic.

8) Update on water investigation in Hull.

Holdridge Well #11 came online in May of 2012 and by June, we had calls that people were having problems with their wells. Prior to Well #11, we had a big meeting out here. Mayor Halvorson came out, Kim Halvorson from the Water Department. They had their engineer, Patrick Planton (S.E.H.), George Kraft was here and the DNR guy out of Wausau was here and they made their presentation. They argued that the 30 day test they were running...George argued that wasn't long enough and they needed to run it out longer. He made that point very emphatically. Then once we had these incidents, we had a big meeting up at the North Commons at SPASH. That's one of the reasons we're doing this (remodeling). We want to hold the meetings here, not up at SPASH. Previously we could only seat 40 people in here. The meeting up at the North Commons was full. We went through it and the question I asked at the end was, did the citizens of Hull want the Hull government be their advocate. They all did. So we took it on, hired a hydrologist, used the Anderson, O'Brien Law Firm. Jerry O'Brien lives in Hull, Bob Konkol lives in Hull. That began the process of investigation. Steve Gaffield has done his modeling. Hydrologists all work on modeling. Steve is currently looking at what happens if Well #11 goes to 13 million gallons per day, how does that affect the private wells in Hull. That's of great concern for us, not just for the 33 people. The well capacity is about 2.5 million gpd, what they're pumping now. They can go up to 5 million gallons per day because the treatment plant can handle that much. We have the modeling by the hydrologist for that. As I mentioned earlier, he's used all the data that was generated by the City, their own data is showing this. We had one meeting out here with the City attorney and he brought a hydrologist. The mayor never showed up. Dave Wilz, a board member was there and Jerry O'Brien plus an attorney that works with him, Brent Jacobson, who knows a lot about injunctions.

Right now the law firm has hired a gentleman who is going to the well drillers of those households who lost water, put new wells in. He is interviewing those well drillers.

When this first happened, Barb Brilowski sent out a one-page questionnaire, then when we got into it, there was a 6 or 7 page questionnaire that each household filled out that we put on a matrix. There was one key question, VI. Did you have any water problems prior to Well #11 going in? The answers were all no. Did you have any water problems after? All the answers were yes. So it was pretty much demonstrated. I've had a few e-mails from O'Brien and Mr. White who is doing the

contacting of the 4 or 5 well drillers that were involved over there that put in the wells. The law firm wants to get an injunction against the well saying you've got to stop that pumping. They're probably argue for it to be at 2 ½ mgd. I don't think they can get a judge to just shut it off. To stop it, we don't want any more damage. What that means, if that goes in, you have to start projecting what happens when that capacity goes up on that well. Gaffield is writing another report on that from the modeling that he sees. The hope is we can sit down with the current mayor, Gary Wescott, because I think he'd like to resolve this. The evidence, that's what we're looking for. If this gets into the court, and even if it doesn't, the evidence is pretty clear that there are some real damages here. My view is probably what the City will do, they'd hired an engineering firm who went with a 30-day test for the modeling process. Kraft made the point all along that was far too short to see the real impact of that. But there will probably be some action against the engineering firm, errors.

Stautz If it's standard that they would do that, that period, I don't know if they'd be able to get anything from the engineers on that. This is a different situation with this horizontal well. I'm not really familiar with those. It's just spokes coming out. I don't know how they figured it would have the same effect as a cone of depression around a regular well.

Holdridge Yes. But if you look for an error, I think that may have been the error in judgment. Then they figured out a 1,400 foot radius and talked with householders within that radius.

 But this thing is moving along and the biggest problem in these legal actions is due process of law. It's always a question of what process is due. If the O'Brien group is ready to file a notice of claim against the City, the City has 120 days to respond to that. It's a step by step process. Anybody that's been in a legal case probably understands that.

 The other part of this is the legal firm can get an injunction to hold it and provide the evidence and the judge hears the impact. Now what has to happen, those 33 people who have been harmed by this, they have to institute some sort of class action. They have to get an attorney and it would probably be on some kind of contingency basis then institute a class action suit. That may not be terribly difficult because the evidence part of it will probably be reviewed as part of the injunction by the judge. They feel pretty strongly they'll have a judge from out of the county. They're pretty well prepared for that situation. I've got a meeting scheduled next week with 6 or 7 people and Gary Dreier who lives in Hull but is not associated with Anderson, O'Brien, he'll meet with them and outline the process of a class action. Because you've got 33 households and you have to determine is that a class as defined by the law. O'Brien seems to think that's a clear class who have all been harmed by this.

 So that's Well #11. Any questions about that? Are any of you involved in that?

Zimmerman I have one question John, as I understand it, the ones that were effected had short wells and mostly in the Somerset area. Were there any to the east or north or any other area besides that that had their wells affected?

Carder Yes, my neighbor did, he's to the north in Jordan Acres.

Zimmerman What I'm getting at, this is a well with fingers (spokes), if this finger is pointing to the northeast and that's affecting the northwest because of its angle. One of the parts might be, why isn't it affecting all these other ones that have 29 foot wells. You would think it would affect it equally in a area ¼ mile around it.

Carder They're not all at the same depth and they might have failed for different reasons.

Holdridge That's one of the things being checked out. We did look at the Jurgella subdivision and went back. Patty did that. Because if weather is a factor, why didn't it impact other parts of Hull. I think when we did that, Patty, there was no comparable loss of water by households (*in distant subdivisions*).

Amman We looked at wells in other subdivisions in Hull (away from the Well #11 area) to see if wells of this kind were failing in those other parts of Hull. The answer was no. You'd maybe have 2 or 3 in the course of a year or 2 but not 30 or 50.

Holdridge The cumulative effect of what happened was pretty startling. I'll be after O'Brien when they get some analysis from the well drillers to suggest we sit down with the mayor and City attorney and probably the hydrologist and say here's what we've got. What do you want to do? If they don't want to do anything, then I think we'll have a lawsuit.

DeVita John, when are those interviews going to be done?

Holdridge I don't know. He's processing through it. He went back and got some DNR data so it's on-going.

Zimmerman The other question I have is the DNR is doing that thing on the Little Plover River about pumping and what the effect is on the Little Plover. The study is supposed to say, if you take this much water out, this will have this effect on the Little Plover River but it would also be able to predict on this well over here, how much that water table will go down. They're supposed to be done by June.

Holdridge I try to stay away from some of that, with other Town business. This is a huge issue.

Zimmerman I understand.

Holdridge We could be drawn off in this direction, George has wanted me to come to these meetings and develop some kind of uniform group. I've kind of shied away from that. We've got an issue here in Hull with Hull people.

Zimmerman That was my question, how is that data from down there going to affect the Hull well up here?

Holdridge I don't know. I'm just dealing with Well #11 and that impact. We've got 33 households that are harmed and that's our issue we want to resolve. We want to look at the future impact of that spoke well and how that affects future households in Hull that have wells at a certain depth. That might be one thing we will look at. Pulling up some other wells in Hull, based on Steve Gaffield's analysis and seeing how far does that go out if that thing goes up. We know what will happen at 5 mgd but what if it goes to 13 mgd? The mayor had gone to an economic meeting saying we've got Well #11 and we can pump a lot of water out of that and be happy to share that. Patty Dreier was at the meeting and she called me up right away and said here's what the mayor said. That's the harm to our town. You can pump all the water you want out of there but that's going to be hurting our households. So the plan with the City on that thing is it's a high capacity well and they probably want to sell that water even. That's the kind of issue we've got here. So I'm concerned about Hull households and that issue. I'm not unconcerned about lakes and streams but these are real people who have been hurt in the pocketbook. When you lose household water, I have a problem when the

electricity goes off and I can't pump at my household and I know what that is like. I've read those stories that people wrote up and there's some real horror stories there. Well #11 is not going to go away and we're going to continue to pursue it.

Is there anything else anybody has?

Carder Do you know, since this issue has come up with Well #11, have they backed off from their pumping at all?

Holdridge They've maintained pumping at 2 ½ million gallons per day.

DeVita I thought at one time they were at 4 (mgd)?

Amman Yes, they were, before.

Carder The reason I ask is because my neighbor behind me just this weekend put in a new well. So they're still drilling wells out by me. On Holiday Court.

Bohlman Do we know if any of the new mayoral elects are....

Holdridge Mike Wiza is talking about cooperation. On the other hand there are a couple that strike me as wanting all this economic development. I'm not against that but you've got to worry about the basic environment. I think that's getting short-shift. But if something comes of the lawsuit and people are harmed, there will be some real attention to the water issue.

My suggestion is, because of the condition of our building here, we not meet in February and meet again in March.

The question is, what is our focus? What do we want to take up as a group? Well #11 will be continuing. Is there any way you'll have some data, Bill, from your study?

DeVita Our report won't be ready because the project goes until June 30th of 2015. Then we have 60 days to get the report to the DNR. At that time, we could share that with the committee and we would have some conclusions drawn from it.

Holdridge One of the things we could do, we've got access to hydrologists, is develop a plan for the monitoring wells. Where we want to put them, what is our inventory now? Joel Lemke who runs the City water utilities told me they'd plug those monitoring wells. I said don't plug them, we could probably use them. Those are basically in our right-of-way. We didn't think much about water for all these years.

Pederson I think that would be the logical next step, to develop a plan as to how we're going to develop a monitoring system.

Johnson Is it just test wells at that point? Has there been any talk about homeowners or private wells? I'm sure there are plenty of people you know, John, who have lived in the Town of Hull for many years.

Holdridge I'm sure there would be.

Johnson That's what I thought we would be getting done tonight is getting some kind of direction on how we're going to get our own data valid and recorded and use as soon as possible.

Holdridge There's a question of what's the location of the well. Where do you put it? If you want to monitor water throughout Hull, where would you put the appropriate well? If there's a place where you could put it where a householder is and use that. But then there's the question about the depth. How do you get inside it? My well is outside the house. I don't know how you'd measure the depth to the water in that functioning well. Maybe there's some easy way to do that.

Amman Matt, are you implying putting a monitoring well on a person's lot? Because they talked about the pitless adapter and how you can't measure your own well.

Johnson Or at least if we would determine the frequency of sampling we'd like to take from private residents up against agricultural land or in these affected areas in the southeast sector.

Holdridge I think on the quality issue.

Pederson Yes, use them for quality checks.

DeVita Why can't we secure the City monitoring wells that are currently out there and see what other monitoring wells we have in the township and maybe pair that up with an adjacent household well. Because the water level's not going to be that much different here and 50 feet away. So if we had a monitoring well we could access and get the water table information off of and pair that up with the closest private well.

Johnson The monitoring well near the corner of Willow Springs and Jordan would be a pretty good indicator of what we'd see in the Willow Springs estate.

Holdridge I would think those test wells are centrally located and located together. Do we have anything, David, west of I-39?

Pederson Not that I'm aware of. We've got both shallow and deep wells, though.

DeVita That's a tough area because of the bedrock over there.

Holdridge Maybe the first approach is to inventory what we have and plot those. Talk with the City and get some agreements there.

DeVita We'd be glad to turn over the wells we installed. Transfer the ownership from the University to the Town of Hull.

Amman Are you talking about these new ones?

DeVita The wells we put in for the DNR project.

Pederson One other step we could take is secure legal ownership of the City monitoring wells (that they don't want any more).

Holdridge Yes, make sure that's a formal action. Are there other topics that should be explored as we get into this?

Bohlman With the water data, are we just focusing on water level or water quality or both?

Holdridge First of all, let's get the inventory because those wells would be quantity, right?

DeVita The City was measuring quantity. There's no reason we couldn't do quality.

Pederson That study that people brought water in for and had samples tested, that data is out there and if they're willing to share that with this committee, we could certainly use that.

Holdridge We may have some houses that are really strategically located. Again, I go back to the issue, where do you want to put these wells? How do you determine that?

DeVita Do you want to keep them in the more populated areas?

Bohlman For useable data, do you want to get the input from the hydrologists or based on our hypotheses of what are the truly affected areas?

Holdridge The hydrologist we have has real expertise and I'd tap his brain about this thing. Maybe George Kraft has some thoughts too. If you take a township and figure out how many square miles and wanted to determine what the quality and quantity of water was, it's all underground, where do you put these wells to make sure you get a pretty good analysis?

Bohlman For quality, could you take a map of our town and systematically take something out of each section, contact the people and ask if they've had it tested and if not, would they be willing to, then you'd have something from our many parts of Hull. Then maybe for the water levels, you do that more strategically and say here's an epicenter of our issues and start there with core ideas of keeping monitoring of water levels. As you extend out from there, keep monitoring the potential evidence.

Holdridge The task force has the town broken down into 4 sections.

DeVita You're saying evaluating the risks that are out there in terms of quantity, quality.

Bohlman You can take your whole area. Try contacting the people saying we're looking at your area, like Emerald Forest. Saying we'd like to keep testing you're water for data every so often and keep a cross section of our whole town along with maybe the water levels. Then adding some of those strategic locations like those 7 wells you might be able to obtain but then some other areas too as we're coming closer to Well #11 or further away. I don't have the expertise, I'm just thinking pictorially.

DeVita It makes sense to me.

Holdridge I think if you plan it and make the plan as effective as you can get it, that's all you can do. There isn't a cookie-cutter approach to this thing. Rick, what are your thoughts?

Stautz I think if you want to look for where you can find the most water, just look at where Stevens Point put their wells. Because why are they not in other places in Stevens Point? They're along the river valley with the best geology for the wells.

Holdridge We have those reports their engineer did. Yes, they put them where the water is.

Stautz And how many of them. Thinking from my engineering side, it would nice to have their maps and look at all the wells and where they're at and what they have for main sizes.

Holdridge They have a couple of wells that are failing.

Stautz What this well looks like from a design standpoint. Where do those fingers go out? If one of them goes out to these 3 people, is it possible to shut that one off?

Pederson I think somewhere we have that drawing of that well, don't we?

Amman We have schematics of that stuff, yes.

DeVita Radials only go out 75 to 100 feet.

Pederson About 90 feet down and 120 feet out.

Johnson I like the point that you made earlier, John, that a lot of these wells are very shallow and the solution is take your 25 foot well and put it a little deeper. But then we do see these new quality issues with other minerals and other problems from the deeper wells with changing the water we're drinking and lowering the quality.

Holdridge The challenge tomorrow is what happens when Stevens Point increases that well. That could affect a very broad area and that's very much on the mind of the attorneys and the hydrologists.

Ramage Will we be able to get some kind of guarantee when this thing has settled, that those of us who aren't currently having a problem will receive some protection down the road?

Holdridge Yes, I'm pretty sure. The law firm is pretty thorough on this stuff. People look at this and say it had to be this because there's too much evidence here and too many wells that lost their water, it's so evident. Well you need to nail that more. The last straw from our standpoint is what the well drillers say who went out there and replaced those wells because we have antidotal evidence from when people were writing up these reports they filled out, they said the well driller said this was caused by Well #11. It's all in their narrative. Now you've got to get the well driller to say, yup. We'll see. Law suits are always peaks and valleys. I wrote a letter early on to O'Brien saying we need to look at what happens in the future. You can resolve this issue to some extent with the 33 households with the damages. But what happens when that well capacity starts to go up 2.5 to potentially 13 mgd. Some of those households are in the City. Some of the City folks have private wells so it's not just Hull. It's primarily Hull but not always Hull.

 If you've got some thoughts, you've got our e-mail address. We'll certainly look at this monitoring system and any other issues that come up.

Zimmerman Communicate with the Citizens Groundwater Committee on what your concerns are. Right now you're concentrated on the City and the Town of Hull. The Tim Hannon situation concerns quality. What concerns me is when you get this information, where do you go and what do you do? Right now you've got a bunch of people and you're going to take them to court, maybe. But the Tim Hannon situation is, he's got a very bad quality problem and he can't put in a reverse osmosis system and get it below the 10 ppm.

Holdridge That would be northeast of Brilowski, north of Fleet Farm. Why don't you explain his situation because it's kind of unique.

Zimmerman He took his water in to be tested and it turned out to be 66 ppm nitrate. He is just north of our subdivision, the Jurgella subdivision which is north of Eastwood which is north of Fleet Farm. The other question is, what happens if that flow where he's at with the high nitrate at 66 feet and comes into our subdivision and all of us all of a sudden have 66 ppm? Will the Town of Hull get involved in that? That's why I'm saying, on your visioning, when you get this information, what could you do, what do you plan on doing? What do you want to avoid doing? If you can't remove that nitrate by reverse osmosis, what good will it do to sue the farmer saying you owe us some water because you polluted our well, that still doesn't replace the water.

Holdridge The importance of Well #11, we may have direct evidence that a high capacity well that's done real damage. It's very specific. If you say Somer's put in a hi-cap well and you can put in some monitoring wells and I would argue he should even provide for some of the cost of that, and you have some incidents over there, that's a much more difficult situation from a legal standpoint.

Pederson I guess what Tim is asking is, if this becomes a wide-spread problem on the other side of the river with nitrate, is the Town somehow prepared to address a solution to that.

Holdridge What would you suggest Dave?

Pederson That ends up being a Hull municipal water system or the city.

Holdridge The "what if" questions are always interesting. I've talked with Tim Hannon and he's very pleased by what the University is doing who have been very helpful to those folks. I don't know, has his situation improved over there?

Zimmerman No, the thing that did startle me was the farmer's hi-cap well which is just to the northeast of his house has never been tested. His irrigation well, if it's down 66 feet for his well, you would think the first thing, someone, the University, the county, the state, would do is test that irrigation well to see what level of Where does he go or where does anybody else go if you have that same problem? Would the DNR test that because his level of pollution is so great?

DeVita I don't know if testing that well is going to shed much light on it. It's not necessarily a water quantity issue. It's a fertilizer issue.

Zimmerman Well it's a quantity issue now because he can't use that well.

DeVita Well right, but it's a quantity issue because the quality is so poor.

Holdridge I would say from a Town of Hull standpoint, we would certainly be helpful in any way we can and be advocates but we probably have limited resources. When we get through paying for lawyers and hydrologists to get into court to try to stop or limit that well, that's big money. I would say, if people have other issues, we'll do what we can. But some of this stuff we may throw up our hands and say it's bigger than us. One of the things that needs to happen, it seems to me, is you've got to change the DNR. That's a big state problem. We fought the hi-cap well of Somer's going in. If these farmers want to put in a hi-cap well, it's almost routine that they get permitted. There's no cumulative effect, none of that evidence at all. George Kraft and Patty Dreier have some figures on

the number of hi-cap wells that have gone in starting in the 1950's with only about 10 wells. What's in Portage County now? There's a tremendous amount of these hi-cap wells (*2,200 in the Central Sands area per George Kraft*). Patty Dreier's first statement says it's a public trust that this water belongs to all of us. Now you got the hi-cap wells be either the City of Stevens Point or the ag community which is taking that water. In our case, we hope to show that Well #11 pulled down the water supply for roughly 33 households. We can't deal with everything but we'll do what we can. I told Tim Hannon that and he was appreciative of the University's help.

DeVita We did do the pesticide analysis and the pharmaceutical analysis. We found pesticides, not at a tremendously high level but enough to say this is not septic contaminated water, it's from agriculture.

Holdridge Coming off the fields, probably from the east.

Zimmerman To the west of Brilowski Road, some of that is city property but they don't have city water.

Holdridge Right, they're on private wells. We'll certainly do what we can but we have limited resources and limited personnel and budgets. We're not unsympathetic and we'll do what we can. Sometimes it's very important for a government to stick their neck out. We are an organized group, we can hire lawyer and hydrologists, we have real public standing. We're the representatives of the people in Hull and that means something.

I appreciate you all coming. If you have questions or comments, send us an e-mail.

9) Next meeting date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 5:30 p.m. That's the 4th Tuesday of the month that would be for the Water Committee.

10) Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman
Water Committee Secretary
Town of Hull, Portage County