



Minutes - September 3, 2024

Call to Order: Chair Cullen called the hybrid Environmental Management Systems Committee meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. in Courthouse Conference Center, 2nd floor, Courthouse.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Cullen, Gorman and Sutterlin. Citizen representatives Susan Johnson and Jim Farrell.

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff/Others Present: Sheila Williams, Brent Sutherland, Facilities Management Director.

Approve Agenda: Sup. Sutterlin moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Citizen member Farrell. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Sheila Williams (via zoom) requested that agendas and materials refrain from using acronyms.

Approval of Minutes:

August 6, 2024: Sup. Sutterlin moved to approve the August 6, 2024 minutes, second by Citizen-member Farrell. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Goals & Objectives: Discussion of preliminary goals and objectives was discussed. See attached.

Director/Staff Reports:

GTLC 7-30-2024 Quarterly Meeting Highlights: Citizen-member Johnson gave highlights. See attached.

Scheduling Dawn Harvest Solar Presentation: The representatives from Dawn Harvest Solar will be presenting at the October 1st meeting.

Next meeting date and time: 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 1, 2024 in Conference Room N1. Items to include: Goals & Objectives and Dawn Harvest Solar project presentation.

Adjournment: Sup. Sutterlin moved to adjourn at 10:48 A.M., second by Citizen-member Farrell.
ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Terronez
Asst. to County Administrator

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Susan Johnson gave a report regarding the Green Tier Legacy Communities Meeting of July 29, 2024 from 1 – 4 PM. This meeting was entirely virtual. The main focus of the speakers and discussion was Wisconsin waters. Our first speaker was **Mark Wodalski, Director of Public Works for the Village of Weston**. He is a Civil Engineer who has been working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 2016 to provide PFAS-free water for his village. The WI DNR had a drinking water standard of 70 parts per trillion for PFAS, which is not a strict standard. WI Department of Health's standard was stricter than it. In 2022, PFAS was found in two of Weston's wells; #3 and #4, exceeding the 70 parts per trillion. They were adjoining wells, which were immediately turned off once the PFAS was discovered.

Two new wells were dug; #7 and #8, and in May of 2023, they began participating in a bi-weekly sampling program with the EPA. Wodalski used an **ion exchange system**, which was successful enough to be able to open well #4 again. Ion exchange involves replacing contaminant ions with acceptable ones to purify water. The ion exchange process successfully removes contaminants like iron and manganese in addition to PFAS, and does so without using additional energy sources. So far, none of the wells have detected PFAS that goes beyond the current EPA and DNR standard of 4 parts per trillion. Wells #7 and #* have not exceed 2 parts per trillion.

After hearing member updates, **Lauren Haydon, WI DNR Watershed Protection Coordinator**, presented two new online **tools for watershed restoration and protection**; Wonderful Waters of Wisconsin; <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/HQW.html> that informs residents and visitors about the quality of the water for recreation purposes like fishing and swimming, and the Wisconsin Water Protection Tool; <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/WEx.html> that informs residents and visitors as to which waters are protected with conservation easements and conservancies.

Our final speaker was **Manny Teodora**, who is a scientist and professor in the **LaFollette School of Public Affairs** since 2020. He came highly experienced as a drinking water municipal director. He reminded everyone that at one time Wisconsin led the nation in having clean drinking water. In fact, he was proud to say that Wisconsin's Public Services Commission was the first public utility regulator in the country. This year marks the 50th year of the federal Clean Water Act, which has been a monumental success. Unfortunately, about 1/3 of Wisconsin residents use private wells to get their water, which is relatively high in relation to the rest of the country. Residents using private wells do not typically test their water, nor do they have the means to purify their water.

In 2021, Professor Teodoro started the **Drinking Water Excellence Project**, which is furthered by research done by his graduate students. Dr. Teodora has created a report card rating system, which rates the quality of a municipality's water. He hypothesized that residents would value and appreciate their water more if they knew how pure their water was in comparison with others around the state. The traditional system of only reporting when existence of contaminants exceeds state standards does not establish this appreciation among residents for the quality of their water. The shift instead to a focus on excellence will help residents have a greater understanding and knowledge of what it takes to have high quality drinking water. It is difficult to obtain an A on this report card. If a municipality ONLY stays under the recommended standard, it receives a grade of C. Dr. Teodoro will conduct a press release regarding this project in December 2024.