



Monday, Jan. 19, 2026 @ 2:00pm (Riverblock Auditorium, room 206)

- 1.) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Leichtnam at 2:00 pm.
  - a. Round robin introductions of meeting attendees
- 2.) Election of Officers
  - a. Elections were run by CWG Member Bill Clendenning
  - b. Election of Chairperson.
    - i. Tom Buttke made the nomination of Bill Leichtnam for Chairperson.
    - ii. Rhona Carrell 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination.
    - iii. Motion to close nominations and cast the vote was made by Tom Buttke. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrell.
    - iv. Vote was unanimous
  - c. Election of Vice Chairperson
    - i. Tom Buttke made the nomination of Bill Clendenning as a Vice Chair.
    - ii. Bill Leichtnam 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination.
    - iii. Motion to close the nominations and cast the vote was made by Tom Buttke and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Leichtnam.
    - iv. Vote was unanimous
  - d. Election of Secretary
    - i. Bill Leichtnam made the nomination of Jen McNelly as secretary
    - ii. Tom Buttke 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination
    - iii. Motion to close the nominations and cast the vote was made by Tom Buttke, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Hovendick.
    - iv. Vote was unanimous
- 3.) Public Comment
  - a. Rhonda Carrell shared that the Dean of North Central Tech College in Wausau said job well done to CWG on the work that they are currently and have done.
- 4.) Approve minutes of Dec. 15, 2025 mtg
  - a. Hovendick made a motion to adopt the Dec. 15, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Carrell 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5.) Correspondence / Updates / Handouts / Reports on meetings attended
  - a. Letter from DHS regarding the letter on the Alliance for Great Lakes Nitrate on Tap Report. (DHS letter attached)
- 6.) Roles/duties of UW-Extension in protecting Wisconsin's natural resources and the CWG can participate.
  - a. Slides from the presentation are attached to the minutes.

- 7.) Discussion/Action from the floor
  - a. Chair Leichtnam encouraged CWG members to think about ways to grow CWG membership and how to become part of the community.
  - b. The association for Home and Community Education (HCE) is seeking new members.
- 8.) Possible agenda items for next meeting
  - a. Would the community access channel be a place for CWG to go and share their story and work?
- 9.) Next mtg. — Feb. 16, 2026, 2:00 pm
- 10.) Adjourn –
  - a. Motion to adjourn was made by Buttke and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hovendick. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Chairman Bill Leichtnam adjourned the meeting at 3:27 pm.

Present in the meeting: Bill Leichtnam, Jen McNelly, Rhonda Carrell, Bill Clendenning, Bruce Dimick, Tom Buttke, Shane Wucherpfennig, Lance Pliml , Tim Hovendick, and Sandy Cain.

Respectfully submitted by Jen McNelly on January 26, 2026

**RE: 8 Recommendations of the Alliance for the Great Lakes & Clean Wisconsin regarding groundwater contamination**

**From:** DHS Constituent Relations <DHSConstituentRelations@dhs.wisconsin.gov>  
**To:** bill and nancy <sespotsy@wctc.net>  
**Cc:** DHS Constituent Relations <DHSConstituentRelations@dhs.wisconsin.gov>  
**Date:** 2026-01-12 15:04

Good afternoon, Citizens Water Group of Wood County,

Thank you for sharing your letter and for your continued efforts to highlight groundwater and drinking water concerns in Wood County and across Wisconsin.

DHS recognizes the concerns you highlighted. As you noted, DHS has issued [health-based recommendations](#) for lowering Wisconsin's groundwater enforcement standard for nitrate, and we remain committed to providing scientific and health-based guidance to our partner agencies.

The regulatory authority for groundwater standards, surface water standards, agricultural performance standards, and farm monitoring requirements falls primarily under the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). DHS will continue to collaborate with DNR, DATCP, and local partners as needed, and we look forward to remaining engaged should rulemaking or legislative discussions proceed.

Thank you again for your advocacy and for bringing these concerns forward.

Best regards,



Constituent Relations Team  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services



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NOTICE: [Get the most up to date confidentiality statement here.](#)

**From:** bill and nancy <sespotsy@wctc.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 8, 2025 8:27 AM  
**Subject:** 8 Recommendations of the Alliance for the Great Lakes & Clean Wisconsin regarding groundwater contamination

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.  
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

Attached you will find a letter to all recipients above from a decade-old citizens group in Wood County which is concerned with groundwater contamination of rural, private wells.

After reading the attached letter, you will see that we are calling for state agency, association, and legislative action concerning this important health-related issue.

I chair this group and am a 5-term Wood County Board Supervisor and also chair of the counties' Land & Water Committee. The residents I represent would greatly appreciate your comment and attention to this important state-wide issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Leichtnam, District # 19 Wood County Board Supervisor

# Water Natural Resource Educators

Jen McNelly



Natural Resources Institute  
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



## ► Purpose

Based in watersheds across the state, Water Natural Resource Educators increase understanding of water resources and work with groups to collaboratively address water quality issues. Through targeted outreach and training, we connect conservation practices to water quality outcomes, build leadership capacity, and expand access to information on surface water, groundwater, and emerging contaminants—to support practical, community-driven solutions.



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# Extension's Work Reaches Across Wisconsin

We help more than 200,000 farmers, parents, youth leaders, neighbors and businesses through our six program areas

Agriculture

Community Development

Human Development & Relationships

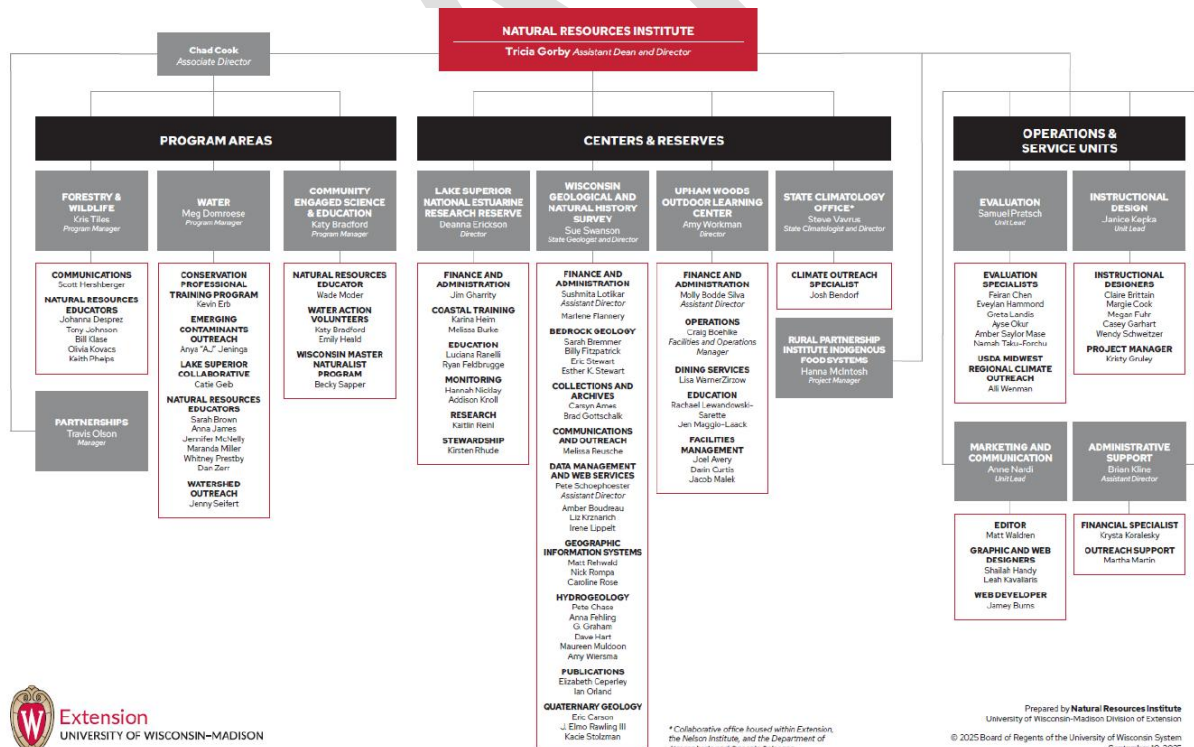
Health & Well-Being

Natural Resources

Positive Youth Development



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## ▶ Central Wisconsin and Wood County

- Jen McNelly
  - Groundwater & Drinking Water
  - Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative
- Anna James
  - Farmer Led Watershed Groups
  - Surface Waters
  - Agriculture



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## ▶ 2025 Projects

- Stakeholder involvement in the state Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy
- Nepco Lake District Planning
- Marathon County Groundwater Management Planning
- Farmer-Led Watershed Groups
  - Workshops
  - Field Day
  - Facilitated Discussions
  - Leadership Trainings
  - Regional Gatherings



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## 2025 Projects

- Science by the River
- Educational Programming
  - High Schools
  - County Conservation Days
  - Field Days
- Groundwater Policy Presentations
- Groundwater Management Planning
- Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative
- Groundwater Tools
  - Nitrate Risk Mapping
  - Groundwater Transport Flow Model
- Health and Conservation Working Group



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## 2025 Partnerships

- Producer Led Watershed Groups
- DNR
- DATCP
- WGNHS
- Schools
- Community Organizations
- County Departments
- UW-Madison and UWSP
- Agricultural Producers



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**2026 Projects**

- Nepco Lake District Strategic Planning
- Nepco Lake Watershed Management
- Marathon County Wellhead Protection District
- Producer Led Watershed Group Partnerships
- Science by the River
- Educational Programming



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