



Monday, September 14, 2026 @ 2:00pm (Riverblock Auditorium, Room 206)

- 1.) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Leitchnam at 2:00 pm. Introductions were made.
- 2.) Public Comment – Dimick updated that Ron Hall drilled a new well, installed a whole-house ionic exchange system, and is testing at no detection of nitrates.
- 3.) Approve minutes of August 17, 2026 meeting
 - a. Buttke made a motion to adopt the August 17, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Carrell 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4.) Correspondence / Updates / Handouts / Reports on meetings attended
 - a. Joint Legislative Committee met on September 14th. Nitrate and PFAs were discussed.
 - b. Correspondance with DNR was shared.
 - c. Handouts
 - i. News Release from the Groundwater Coordinating Council – 2026 Report to State Legislature.
 - ii. Dive Into Democracy – EPA proposed new definition of Waters of the United States.
 - iii. Resolution to Wood County – discussed further in New Business 6(a).
- 5.) Updates
 - a. Association with “Clean Green Action” for “pass-thru” funding.
 - i. Clean Green Action is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Citizens Water Group has partnered with Clean Green Action to assist with a fiscal account to help with purchasing, donations, etc.. Clean Green Action is able to be the financial agent for future grant opportunities.
 - ii. Discussed future project to work with Clean Green Action on a virtual option to donate, such as via QR code and Venmo. Hovendick is pursuing further.
 - iii. Discussion to work on using Facebook page and link to Clean Green Action website.
 - b. Reports on informational tables at community-based events so far.
 - i. An update was made on the Wisconsin Rapids Farmers Market, Rome Farmers Market, and Central Wisconsin State Fair. There is a need to plan and communicate far in advance for booth accessibility. Discussion on the need for multiple people to set up tent, rocks/clipboards to hold paperwork down, and sand bags to weigh tent down.
 - ii. Suggestions discussed related to purchasing a fold-up wagon to use for transport of materials for events, having t-shirts/badges for volunteers to wear at the events, and creating business cards.
 - c. Thrivent Grant (Logo/Banner, Graphic Artist, tent, T-shirts, approve purchases, etc.)

- i. Purchases made with Thrivent Grant
 - 1. Redesign of logo – “Citizens Water Group Serving the Central Sands Region.”
 - 2. T-shirts, notebooks, nametags, table, tablecloth, canopy tent purchased.
 - 3. Discussed having CWG pins made to wear on Thrivent t-shirts that are required to be worn at events (as a grant requirement).
 - d. Results of CWG presence on social media
 - i. There is a CWG Facebook page. There is a need for an administrator.
 - ii. There needs to be a caveat that the page is not monitored regularly due to concerns of inquiries with no immediate response. Daily checks would suffice.
 - iii. It was suggested to use an intern from the UW system to administer the Facebook page. There is potential to expand to other social media platforms as well.
 - e. Report on Wood County Land & Water’s 30 “nitrate hot spots” rural well testing
 - i. Well testing data completed in Wood County through the Land & Water Conservation Department and UWSP Water Lab at hot spots in Town of Grand Rapids and Port Edwards/Nekoosa.
 - ii. 15 well owners from Town of Grand Rapids and 15 well owners from Port Edwards/Nekoosa were randomly chosen to test their wells for a panel of chemicals for agricultural and human inputs to determine what is influencing private well contamination.
 - iii. Port Edwards/Nekoosa wells – agriculture was main pollution source.
 - iv. Town of Grand Rapids – human waste was main pollution source. High density subdivisions.
 - v. A report will be published by the Groundwater Center at UWSP at a future date.
 - vi. Potential of using municipal communication departments and radio to get the word out about water issues was discussed.
 - vii. It was suggested to disseminate the results to local municipalities, especially Town of Grand Rapids and Port Edwards/Nekoosa. Promotion is key to getting interest.
 - viii. The Town Association meeting was suggested to disseminate results.
- 6.) New Business:
 - a. Discuss / approve & pass on to CEED committee Wood County Resolution on Protection of surface & groundwater (slated for October 20th Board action)
 - i. Buttke made a motion to pass resolution on to CEED Committee. Perlock 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Discuss creating CWG Treasurer position/possible action
 - i. A treasurer may not be necessary as the group is not a 501(c)3 and does not have a bank account.
 - ii. Clean Green Action manages and tracks funds.
 - c. Event planning for multiple locations coordination-passing of tub with literature & water bottles, developing schedule & sign-up, contacts, fees, etc.

- i. Discussion on the need for a second tent/table set up to eliminate travel to exchange/hand off supplies. Suggested to wait until there is a need for second set of supplies.
 - d. Upcoming Events
 - i. Handouts at events for volunteers to use as reference.
 - 1. Graphics from Sue Smith/Health Department showing different scenarios and information for each.
 - 2. Social media messages related to drinking water.
 - 3. Health effects of nitrates in drinking water.
 - e. Events Subcommittee Planning Time (Officers, date, time, place)
 - i. Creation of an events subcommittee?
 - ii. Where are the event materials going to be stored?
 - iii. Goal is to be at three events this fall.
 - 1. Rome Farmer's Market on Friday, September 25th.
 - 2. Wisconsin Rapids Farmers Market on October 10th.
 - 3. Science by the River on October 17th.
 - iv. It was noted winter farmers markets are a potential booth venue.
 - v. CWG sign for events
 - 1. Vinyl banner that will hang from canopy tent with "What's in your well?" proposed as slogan.
 - vi. Decided by consensus to request the CEED committee allocate Land & Water ARPA dollars to fund free nitrate well water testing at fall CWG events.
- 7.) Discussion / Referral to future agenda (if needed); items from the floor
 - a. Future grant projects
 - i. Water quality awareness grant proposal
 - b. Social Media administrator / monitor for inquiries. Intern from UWSP with waters background? The marketing program at Mid-State Technical College is also an option. Carrell will follow up with Kevin Masarik at UWSP to see if there would be a candidate to take up this project. Pliml will follow up with Mid-State Technical College program director.
 - c. Community water testing.
 - d. Discuss creating CWG Treasurer position/possible action.
- 8.) Next mtg – October 19th, 2:00 pm, Riverblock Auditorium
- 9.) Adjourn -
 - a. Chairman Leichtnam adjourned the meeting at 4:24 pm.

Present at the meeting: Bill Leichtnam, Bill Clendenning, Tom Buttke, Russ Perlock, Shane Wucherpennig, Tim Hovendick, Kendra Wilhelm, Carol Davis, Linda Casper, Rhonda Carrell, Bruce Dimick, Sandy Cain

Virtual: Ben Jeffrey

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Kendra Wilhelm on September 16th, 2026