

Village of Nelsonville
Quality of Life Committee

Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2018 6:30pm | Nelsonville Village Hall

Present: Rubina Martini, Lisa Anderson, Tarion O'Carroll, Jared Linzmeier, Jeanne Ryan, Kyle Gordon, Caitlin Luebke Brillowski

Rubina called meeting to order

Introductions

Rue gave **background** for why we are meeting. High nitrates in the community (Source: Portage Co Groundwater Study) has caused concern among residents. Gordondale WPDES permit was up for review so the community took the opportunity to have a discussion. Village residents petitioned for a DNR hearing. Hearing was held. DNR hearing catapulted us into dialogue. Now let's fine solutions.

GOAL FOR THIS MEETING: Create goals for this committee

1. Civility
2. Trust Building through data collection
3. Offer recommendations to the community

ACTIONS:

1. Create Water Testing Program to provide baseline data
2. Obtain maps that depict recharge zones and groundwater flow direction and rate
3. Committee presenting recommendations to the community or creating a forum where they will receive recommendations/information

Discussion about how to create a water testing program. We need to learn to trust one another. Gordondale employee and either GCAC rep or Trustee or another resident could grab samples/test together. Kyle has some nitrate field testing equipment. What about the accuracy of field testing? We can still send samples to the lab and compare. More transparent for the testers to go from well to well.

Pesticide found in O'Carrolls source test has never been used by Gordon's. O'Carrolls source test showed their nitrates were not ag related.

Do we test raw water or people's system's water? Raw water. This provides a greater sense of baseline.

Do we test Gordon's nitrate testing equipment results against the UWSP water lab results? Yes. We are not sure on these details yet. We want to make this accurate and cost effective.

We all want to learn more about the way the UWSP water lab does to test for nitrates.

Discussion about when we will test and the frequency of testing. Tarion brings up that experts recommend testing homes every 13 months to capture all seasons. Testing maybe every 5 or every 7 months.

Lisa will contact the well water study person from UWSP. They may help us design a well water study. She will see if they can come to our meetings and give us advise about how to create a testing program. But we all still want to play a very active role in designing and implementing our own testing program.

Kyle discusses how weather patterns affect nitrate levels year to year.

Who has connections to past data? Lisa has a historical database derived from DNR site and past resident's results. Includes well specs, construction date, treatment systems, method of testing, lab used, etc. She will talk with the county and see what more information they can provide. Lisa discusses privacy and asking permission to have and use well test results. Maybe post on Nelsonville website or create locked Google Doc. Rue will look into this.

Rue will talk to her immediate neighbors on SS about getting their well information and water test results to Lisa to add to the database. Caitlin will talk to west First Street about providing their well data and test results to Lisa.

Lisa will continue to build database and getting more information from the county.

Rue discusses WIC requirements for nitrate testing.

Tarion shares maps of Junction City and described their situation. Maps depict water flow direction and rate. Well protection areas could possibly be proposed within the recharge zones in and around Nelsonville. Tarion will figure out what it will take to get a water flow map for our area. We want to find areas in the community of high concern in regards to nitrate levels.

Jared will look into bringing an expert to the community to give information/provide recommendations about water treatment systems. Maybe some residents think they are effectively treating their water when in fact they are not.

Let's encourage our neighbors to submit well info and results to Lisa for database. We have to be sensitive to the residents that are not interested or do not have the means to participate.

Jeanne clarifies the difference between GOALS and ACTIONS.

Tarion suggests a farm tour to build relationships between farm and community.

Kyle discusses the complexity of our situation. This is not a disaster. We are moving forward. Let's keep the dialogue open.

Rue recaps meeting and reviews everyone's homework for next time.

We are all proud to be here and want to work together.

Next meeting will be July 23, 2018 at 6:30pm at the Village Hall.

Community concerns? None.

Meeting adjourned.