

## Water Use Advisory Council

New Topics Committee

Agenda for May 5, 2020

Attendees: Pat Staskiewicz, committee chairman, Kelly Turner, Jim Milne, Jeremiah Asher, Tom Frazier, Clyde Dugan, Hannah Arnett, Taylor Ridderbusch, Frank Ettawageshik, Andrew LeBaron, Patricia Norris, Nathaniel Shuff, Todd Feenstra

Pat called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

1. Approval of agenda Frank moved to approve, seconded, motion passed.
2. Approval of minutes (will take place at next meeting)
3. Public Comment on agenda items, No public in attendance
4. Water Users Groups
  - a. Addressing Noncompliance Issues

*Update from EGLE (Milne)*- EGLE is making progress in these areas. Jim provided a review of the unreported large quantity water users (LQW) initiative. All LQW were supposed to register as such before April 1, 2009. EGLE had a 12 to 18-month outreach campaign that was wrapped up at the end of February. 239 applications were received with about 37 that are still in process.

We then discussed what happens when non-compliance is identified. Patricia Norris expressed her concerns that the current laws have no teeth to force a user to comply. Jim reviewed the options that he presents to water users but admitted that EGLE hasn't resorted to any escalated enforcement actions (as opposed to sending compliance communications, first, and second violation notice letters) to date. This was a topic of concern with the 2012-2014 Water Users Committee workgroup and will need some more discussion.

b. Water Users Groups

*Review recommendations WU 2.1 – 2.5 (2014 WUAC Report) (Staskiewicz)*

Pat reviewed some of the recommendations for educational information that would help future Water User Groups. Some of the recommendations from the 2014 report could be addressed with volunteer time from Council members, technical advisors and EGLE staff.

We discussed several potential watersheds in Ottawa County that may result in the formation of a Water Users Group. Pat will reach out to some of the Ottawa County people involved in those watersheds to see if they would be willing to participate in the discussion to provide the perspective of Townships/Counties. We thought it would be best to get a smaller group to focus on one or two of these topics in more detail and then bring it back to this committee for more discussion.

*Recommendation: Form a workgroup to put together information/prototypes for Water*

*User Group information. Workgroup members: Andrew LeBaron, Jeremiah Asher, Todd*

*Feenstra to arrange for a farmer from Ottawa Co, Patricia Norris and maybe a local*

*government entity (Paul Sachs)? Pat asked if anyone else wants to participate to email him.*

c. Accessing Water User Information

*Update from EGLE (Milne).* EGLE staff indicated that they are now able to provide the data identified in this recommendation.

d. Facilitation and Technical Assistance

*Review recommendations WU 4.1 – 4.2 (Staskiewicz)* We ran out of time to discuss this topic.

5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

6. *Adjourned at 11am.*