

**TOWN OF MAIDEN ROCK OPERATING ORDINANCE STUDY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2024**

The Operating Ordinance Study Committee (OSCC) was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2024 by Chair Maryanne Wise. Also present were Bruce Thomes, Terry Timm, Kathy Arndt, Judy Krohn and John Danneker. The meeting was properly noticed in 3 public places by Bruce Thomes. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Bruce, seconded by Terry to approve the minutes of our previous meeting on May 13. All voting aye. Maryanne reminded everyone that our minutes are posted on the Protect Your Town Website <protectyourtown.org/maidenrock>

We had a phone presentation from Adam Freihoefer, WDNR Program Manager for Water Use. His focus is on use & availability of the state's groundwater, not on any safety/pollution concerns. He outlined the history of data collection and study during the last 20+ years.

Adam talked about hi-capacity wells, which are capable of producing 100,000 gallons of water per day. He explained the application process for obtaining a permit to install a hi-capacity well, the purpose of the well's use, likely impacts on neighboring wells, lakes, streams, etc. and the review process before approval or denial. If a well (of any kind) is not used at least once every 3 years, it is considered abandoned and must be filled and sealed. Members of our committee pointed out that there are 2 hi-capacity wells located in our Town (associated with the sand mine/wash plant) that haven't been used in the last 3 or more years; Adam will check and follow up on this matter.

We discussed inspections, monitoring and compliance for these permitted wells. Currently, farms are required to have flow-meters to record water use and self report; DNR checks data from time to time. Adam stated that Western Wisconsin is a "black hole" of water quality data—much more needs to be done to monitor stream flow, hydrogeology, resource value and private wells. WDNR authority to regulate water is often challenged in the courts—as of 2021, Supreme Court has granted that authority to WDNR, but this assurance is likely subject to political influence in the future.

Our committee next discussed the legality of creating/adopting Operating Ordinances. Via a phone conference with Lisa Doerr, we were reminded that the Town has authority under Wisconsin Constitution and Village Powers to protect public health, safety and general welfare of its citizens. The Eureka Township Ordinances (on which we will model our own) have received a threatened challenge, and have legal assistance available to them—there has been no followthrough on their challenge so far. She recommends that we have our Town's attorney review our proposed ordinances before the Town Board would take any action.

Planning for next meeting: we've discussed doing a CAFO visit—either Bennett's or Ridge Breeze. We hope to have our maps prepared to review as well as local findings information from the Comprehensive Plan and any other Town ordinances that may have been previously adopted. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 was given by Terry, seconded by Kathy.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Krohn, Scribe

