

Buffalo County Resolution

Drafted By: R. Halverson

Departments: DHHS-Zoning
GIS-Land Con

Month/Year: June 2022

Fiscal Impact: Yes/No

Committee: Finance

Resolution # 22-06-02

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF ARPA FUNDS TO COMPLETE A
BASELINE GROUNDWATER QUALITY / WELL SAMPLING PROJECT IN BUFFALO COUNTY.**

WHEREAS, nitrate in ground water and drinking water systems is increasing across Wisconsin and currently approximately 10% of private wells in Wisconsin exceed the 10 ppm maximum standard for nitrate; and,

WHEREAS, the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors approved the use of CAPX2020 funding for a limited half-price well water testing program in 2016. The results from this and previous years sampling found that 9.5% of wells exceeded the nitrate standard in Buffalo County. Nitrate levels as high as 18 to 33 ppm were found in six Towns in Buffalo County; and,

WHEREAS, a 2016 survey by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Wisconsin Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) randomly sampled 400 private drinking wells around Wisconsin and found that 41.7% contained a pesticide or pesticide metabolite. This was up from 33.5% in the 2007 survey; and,

WHEREAS, prolonged exposure to contaminants in drinking water can have severely adverse health impacts particularly for pregnant women and infants; and,

WHEREAS, Buffalo County is home to 13,311 residents and groundwater is the sole source of drinking water available to municipalities and to the rural residents of the County; and,

WHEREAS, Initial baseline data will be collected to help inform future land use assessments; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed baseline groundwater study will be conducted in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Steven's Point who will compile the findings into a comprehensive final report to the Board and to the residents of Buffalo County; and,

WHEREAS, the current objective is to repeat the well sampling project every five years to access and document any changes and trends in groundwater quality; and,

WHEREAS, matching funding and grants will continuously be explored and pursued. In 2019 numerous avenues of outside funding were perused including; Area Health Education Consortium, Mayo Health, Gunderson Health, Farmers Union, Farmers Bureau, Pilgrim's Pride, Dairyland Power, Marten Trucking, Trout Unlimited, Ashley Furniture, All Buffalo County Towns, with no resultant offers to assist; and,

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WHEREAS, the well sampling project was developed collaboratively by the Buffalo County Health and Human Services, Zoning, GIS and Land Conservation departments.

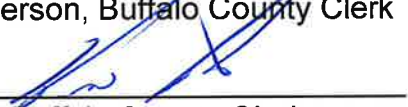
WHEREAS, the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors approves to fund the baseline well water sampling project with up to \$40,000.00 of ARPA funds, to set the baseline nitrate levels at 10 ppm before more testing is completed for herbicides and pesticide levels, and to have all collection of well water samples and reports on the project completed and reported back to the County Board of Supervisors by December of 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors hereby grants authorization to provide up to \$40,000 of ARPA funds to complete the initial Buffalo County Groundwater Quality and Well Sampling Project, to set the nitrate baseline at 10 ppm to sample 315 wells, and analyze results for total coliform bacteria, nitrate, pH, alkalinity, total hardness, chloride, conductivity, corrosivity, and diaminochlorotriazine (DATC), and all testing and reports will be completed and presented to the County Board of Supervisors by December of 2023.

Adopted at a duly called and noticed meeting of the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors on this 27th day of June, 2022.

ATTEST:


Roxann Halverson, Buffalo County Clerk


Dennis Bork, Buffalo County Chairperson

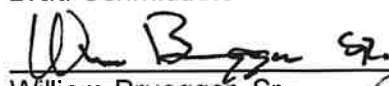
Respectfully Submitted:

Finance Committee


Dennis Bork, Chair


Max Weiss

Excused
Brad Schmidtknecht


William Bruegger, Sr.


Brian Michaels