

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP
Wellhead Protection Meeting
May 23, 2011

Present – Supervisors Jay Swanson, Larry Handshoe, Tom Rush, and Randy Atwood and Kim Good.

Call to Order – The May 23, 2011 Baldwin Township Wellhead Protection meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Swanson at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Purpose of Meeting – To educate and put forth information to the public about the function and benefits of the Wellhead Protection Plan.

What is Wellhead Protection – Dave Neiman from the Minnesota Rural Water Association, offered a PowerPoint explaining the Wellhead Protection Plan. Wellhead protection is a method of preventing contamination of a public water supply well by effectively managing potential contaminant sources in the area which contributes water to a public supply well. The City of Princeton developed a Wellhead Protection Plan 8 years ago, and as new wells are added to the system, the plan must be amended to meet state rule requirements. The process involved includes delineating the wellhead protection area by using scientific, computer modeling methods, establishing a drinking water supply management area, determining vulnerability of wells and aquifer activities, gathering information regarding existing and future potential contaminate sources, and particularly stressed is that the public has to be involved. Local planning departments, businesses, land owners, county and local governmental units and citizens must offer their voices in order to work together.

Wellhead Protection Program & Process in Minnesota – Mark Wettlaufer from the Minnesota Department of Health said his is the lead agency to work with so that the Wellhead Protection Program meets requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the 1989 Minnesota Groundwater Act. Their goal is to be proactive in the protection of public drinking water resources. He stated the best success in protecting resources is with citizen involvement. Informing the meeting on why a Wellhead Protection plan is required, Wettlaufer then listed that first and foremost it's to protect the public health. Equally important is the long term protection of drinking water resources, the cost of treatment versus prevention, understanding and educating the public about the 'source' of drinking water, and protecting the actual recharge area. The definition of a recharge area is the geographical area of an aquifer in which there is a downward movement of water towards the water table.

Benefits of Wellhead Protection to Local Residents – It was again stressed that a Wellhead Protection Plan is for the protection of both the aquifer used by the city and area residents. With better awareness of the drinking water issues, everyone can be

proactive in protecting it. There is also the benefit of being able to qualify for grant funding for activities in the Wellhead Protection Plan that protect groundwater.

Adjournment – Handshoe/Rush unanimous to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.



Submitted By: (s/) Cheryl Goetz Dobson
Deputy Clerk
Baldwin Township



Approved By: (s/) Jay Swanson
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Baldwin Township

Attendees: Olge Podtburg, Tom Englund, Linda Englund, Paul Hein, Roger Winkleman, John Bowen, Kelly Townsend, Carol Swanson, Elaine Philippi,