

Town of Round Lake Committee on Water Testing

Notes and FAQ regarding the June 25th Town Informational Meeting

Notes

At 10:00 am Don Stover opened the meeting with a brief history of the events that led to creation of the Water Testing Program.

Don introduced Matt McKay from the Sawyer County Health and Human Services Department as the Subject Matter Expert on water testing to present the information to the attendees.

Matt explained that while we do not have a known or existing threat to the quality of our water, creating a baseline of data is important to protecting it. He also explained how the County will respond to any problems that are found as a result of the program.

Matt also explained that the program is being run in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. The lab there will process most of the samples and return data reports to the Town.

Matt provided instructions for picking up and dropping off sample kits. Pick up will be at the HHS office in the Sawyer County Courthouse starting on July 5th and running through the month of July. Hours for pick up are 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday. At that time, the \$30 fee will be collected and participants will be assigned a date to take their samples and return them to the HHS office. Dates for drop off will be scheduled through the month of August on Mondays through Thursdays from 8am to 2pm. The drop off times are different than the pickup in order to allow for processing of the samples.

Specific instructions on how to take the samples will be included in the test kit. The instruction sheet will also be posted online (location to follow). Keep in mind that some of the bottles in the test kit have a substance in them already for stabilizing the samples and that should not be washed out. Fill out your information on the form provided before returning the samples.

**Note – The pickup and drop off dates may be extended if needed to complete the program.*

FAQs

The following questions and answers were discussed in the meeting:

Q: Will my name and address be included in the data that is to be made publicly available?

A: No. Data will be processed and posted in a database managed by UWSP. The data is presented as dots on a map with no owner names and addresses.

Q: What are the actual test parameters?

A: Bacteria, Nitrates, pH, Alkalinity, Hardness, Chloride, Conductivity, Corrosivity, Arsenic, Calcium, Copper, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Potassium, Sodium, Sulfur, Zinc

Q: Will there be a follow up communication to this meeting?

A: Yes – This FAQ. Additional questions should be directed to Don Stover @ dstover@townofroundlakewi.org

Q: Will the results include information on what the numbers actually mean?

A: - Yes, Results will include a scale or threshold of what indicates a problem. If there is a problem found, homeowners will be contacted via phone.

Q: How is this test different from what is required to have a rental property in Sawyer County?

A: A rental property well water test is only required for bacteria. This test includes 18 additional test parameters.

Q: Are there concern of any particular problems with Sawyer County groundwater?

A: There have not been any Town-wide or County-wide problems found to date. Problems are usually isolated to a well or an area – such as Nitrates.

Q: Should a homeowner collect samples from an untreated spigot if there is a treatment system in the home?

A: Yes, if possible, use a spigot that that is in line prior to the treatment system. In the case of a water softener, there may be an outside spigot that would work. Try to take all of the samples from a spigot that does not have a spray wand, or an aerator. The best location may be the spigot directly attached to the water pressure tank.

Q: If I have an anti-syphon outdoor spigot is that a good option to use for samples?

A: No, it would be best to use the spigot next to the pressure tank rather than a anti-syphon spigot.

Q: If I don't have an email address, can the results be sent via snail mail?

A: Yes.

Q: What effect does a water softener have on the results of the tests?

A: From the perspective of a homeowner, you may want to know how your actual drinking water tests out. For this program, it is best to get the water tested that is not treated. You may consider doing additional tests on your own.

Q: Do we take the samples on the morning of the date we are required to return them?

A: Yes.

The meeting was completed @ approximately 11:00. Unfortunately, the Webex meeting terminated at about 10:42am.

