

October 5, 2017
2:00 p.m.- Special Meeting

Yankee Springs Water Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** The October 5th special meeting of the Yankee Springs Water Utility Advisory Board was called to order by Greg Purcell at 2:00 p.m.
- 2. Hear Those Present:**
 - a. Jeff Ulin- Cobb Lake Association
 - i. The Association tests Cobb Lake's water quality monthly and it tested in the top 1% for water quality of Michigan Lakes.
 - ii. After one resident found they had high nitrates in their private well water four years ago, the Association began providing free do it yourself water testing kits for all residents.
 - iii. Around 4 or 5 people on Cobb Lake found high nitrate levels in their private wells. There was no pattern to who had high nitrates and no direct cause was found.
 - b. Regina Young and Carol Balkon, Barry Eaton County Health Department
 - i. There typically is no pattern to high nitrate levels.
 - ii. If homeowners find high nitrate levels in their wells, the next step is to drill another well to find an alternative water source.
 - iii. If an alternative water source cannot be located, the next step is treatment of the well water. The first treatment option for most high levels of nitrates is an under the sink filter. For higher levels of nitrates, a two-part osmosis system is necessary. However, reverse osmosis can only handle so many parts per million of nitrates before it is no longer effective.
 - iv. If you suspect your private well's water quality is not up to standards, the Health Department recommends testing your water at a lab because self-test strips can result in false positives and false negatives.
 - c. Willard Case, Homeowner with high nitrate levels
 - i. He has ordered a two-part osmosis system. Mr. Case's real issue was that a local farmer was injecting waste as a fertilizer.
- 3. Discussion:**
 - a. Possible solutions the Health Department suggests:
 - i. Install an extension of Gun Lake Sewer & Water Authority's current water main. The problem with this is the project would cost over \$3 million.
 - ii. Common community well
 1. Problem is who will run it and maintain it? There needs to be monthly reports and it is expensive to install and maintain.
 - iii. Looking for opportunities such as grants, educating citizens on water safety, and teaching citizens the value of city water.
 - b. The board decided that no further action on this matter could or should be handled by them. Those with nitrate problems have worked and continue to work with the Health Department to find a solution that best fits their needs. The Health Department is well aware of the issue and is doing everything they can to work with citizens affected by this nitrate issue.
- 4. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m. by Mr. Purcell.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.