



February 22, 2018

To Municipal Clerks,

In the summer of 2017, Portage County conducted a water sampling project of 214 drinking water wells throughout the County to evaluate water quality. Portage County partnered with the Center for Watershed Science and Education at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for the comprehensive study. This was the first countywide water quality study in Portage County's history and the data collected has created a baseline against which future countywide water quality studies can be measured to track changes over time.

Portage County is excited to announce that the countywide analysis is now complete and a final report has been compiled. In order to share and discuss the project results with local residents, Portage County will be hosting four Informational Sessions around the County. At these informational sessions, the overall countywide results as well as sharing municipality specific results will be shared. These informational sessions will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about the study and results in their local area and to have their groundwater related questions answered.

In addition, **free nitrate water screening will be available at every Informational Session** for those who bring a pint of cold water in a clean container. Screening results will be shared privately following each session along with recommendations for follow-up tests, if applicable.

The entire report and results are enclosed with this letter. The beginning of the report shares background information on groundwater in Portage County. The countywide results and interpretation follow. Appendix A provides a summary table of water quality by municipality and Appendix C provides a series of maps that show water quality concentrations summarized by both grid cells and by municipalities.

Please inform your residents about the informational sessions scheduled:

- Wednesday, February 28 – Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM in the Community Room, 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt.
- Monday, March 5 – Lettie Jensen Community Center from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM in the Community Room, 487 North Main Street, Amherst.
- Wednesday, March 7 – Town of Eau Pleine from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at the Town Hall, 3191 State Hwy 34, Junction City.
- Monday, March 12 – Town of Pine Grove from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at the Town Hall, 5444 County Road W, Bancroft.

MORE

More about the Portage County Well Water Quality Project can be found at www.co.portage.wi.us (In the Spotlight) and <http://www.co.portage.wi.us/departments/planning-zoning/portage-county-well-water-quality-project> or by contacting the Portage County Executive's Office at countyexecutive@co.portage.wi.us or 715-346-1997.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Dreier". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "P" and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Patty Dreier
Portage County Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer McNelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Jennifer McNelly,
Portage County Water Resource Specialist

cc: Town Chairs
Village Presidents