



MEMORANDUM

May 27, 2021

TO: Board of Commissioners

RE: **Water Study Group**

On March 25, 2021, the Board of Commissioners (Board) adopted the following: “Based on the Health Officers review of the report and suggestions for next steps, the County Administrator recommends a work group be convened to review the data and form recommendations for next steps. Public Health is able to bring a recommendation for the construct of such a workgroup (e.g. local unit representatives, Commissioners, well professionals, etc.) back to the board within 45 days. The group would be considered “ad hoc advisory” and all output from the group subject to consideration by the Board. Based on the groups’ final findings and recommendations, the need for a project based group or ongoing group could considered if deemed necessary.” Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 7 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

On May 13, 2021, the Board reviewed the Public Health’s recommendation for the construct of a workgroup. The Board accepted the report, scheduled a follow-up discussion for May 27, 2021, and based on individual feedback, requested additional information regarding the expected tasks and deliverables from the workgroup, further specifics relative to member requirements and an option for reduction in work group size. Please see the additional information below provided in consultation with Public Health:

Workgroup Tasks and Deliverables:

1. Review the final Allegan County Groundwater Study, conducted by Hydrosimulatics, Inc. and submitted to the Board on March 25, 2021.
2. Provide regular updates to the Board and a final written summary of observations and recommendations of the workgroup, within one-year of the appointment of its members, relative to the study content (and any other aspects of Allegan County’s current and future state relative to water quality, including recommendations for how the County (as a geographic area) should proceed with next steps (if any) and provide particular focus on Hydrosimulatics, Inc. recommendation to pursue an interactive Decision Support System. All recommendations must be specific as to the management/oversight model, funding, root need/issue to be addressed and expected results of any next steps to be considered.
3. The Allegan County Health Department will participate in the discussions of the work group and will provide administrative support, guidance and expertise.
4. As an ad-hoc workgroup, the work of the group will be considered complete upon the delivery of item number 2 above.

Workgroup Appointments:

It is recommended that the work group positions be posted for application to provide opportunity for new stakeholder participation utilizing the County’s Boards and Commissions applications. Qualifications of applicants may be providing utilizing the County’s standard application which includes, “Please state any specific qualifications you possess which would be beneficial to the appointment you desire, such as special skills, interests, education, experience, or membership in specific groups. Please attach additional sheets if necessary.” Some positions could be left to the recommendation of a corresponding group if applicable (e.g. Conservation District, Tribe, etc.)

Revised Workgroup Composition (Based on the Public Health submitted presentation provided for the May 13, 2021 meeting):

<u>Position:</u>	<u>Description/Role</u>	<u># of Seats (13 Total)</u>
County Commissioners	Represent the citizenry of Allegan County and have direct links to the Boards of the Local Units of Government (LUG)	2
Manager or Supervisor of a Local Unit of Government.	Represent the LUG perspective. Many LUGs use ground water for their municipal water supply. The local units may directly use the study, possibly for direction of their master plans.	1
Municipal Water Supply Supervisor or Technician	Represent technical expertise relative to Municipal Water Supplies.	1
Academia (Not directly related to the development of the groundwater study)	Provide perspective not only scholastically, but also the latest in technology and how the study can be best utilized.	1
Agricultural Businesses: Growers & Livestock	Agricultural businesses are some of the biggest users of the ground water in the county, not only for irrigation purposes but for watering of animals. Their businesses are directly affected by the availability and quality of ground water. Some farmers, in the dry times of the year, can use several thousands of gallons of water/day.	1
Allegan County Conservation District (ACCD)	ACCD work with many Allegan County agricultural businesses and are committed, as evidenced by their vision, to help sustain the natural resources for future generations. ACCD is familiar with the mechanisms of the Allegan County agricultural businesses as well as the hydro-lithology of Allegan County.	1
Real Estate: Builder, Developer, and Realtor-	According to the survey by the Health Department, 7% of developers are planning on developing in Allegan County using individual wells. Allegan County utilizes ground water or on-site wells for their potable water source.	1
Industrial	Some businesses in Allegan County rely on ground not only for potable water supply, but also for industrial processes. Some of these	1

	businesses can use up to one million gallons of water/day.	
Well Driller	Provide insight, experience and knowledge. Any policy or water management planning can directly or indirectly impact this sector.	1
Restaurant Owner	Several restaurant owners have on-site wells for their water supply. Restaurants have a vested interest. If their water supplies were to become tainted it would put their businesses in jeopardy.	1
Community Member (owner of a private water supply)	Represent the perspective of private water supplies in Allegan County which is very large.	1
Tribal Member	The tribe uses groundwater and represents a portion of the constituency of Allegan County. They have a direct interest into the success and protection of the ground water of Allegan County.	1