

**ELK RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION  
HELD AT THE ERMU CONFERENCE ROOM**

**April 11, 2023**

Members Present: Chair John Dietz, Vice Chair Mary Stewart, Commissioners Paul Bell, Matt Westgaard, and Nick Zerwas

ERMU Staff Present: Mark Hanson, General Manager  
Sara Youngs, Administrations Director  
Tom Geiser, Operations Director  
Dave Ninow, Water Superintendent  
Tony Mauren, Governance & Communications Manager

Others Present: Robyn Hoerr, Groundwater Specialist with Minnesota Rural Water Association

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order**

**2.0 Public Hearing for 2023 Wellhead Protection Plan Amendment**

Ms. Hoerr Presented background on the value of a Wellhead Protection Plan and the steps followed by ERMU's planning group.

Ms. Hoerr explained that the portion for the Drinking Water Supply Management Area labelled as moderately vulnerable could be due to a geological factor which may allow surface water to penetrate the soil in less time, bypassing some of the filtration benefits provided by the soil.

Ms. Hoerr explained one of the main considerations for Elk River going forward will be population growth and providing adequate water to the community.

Ms. Hoerr informed the Commission there are limitations to constructing new wells in the Mt. Simon-Hinckley Aquifer as experts and agencies look to preserve the resource.

Mr. Hanson explained that regulatory agencies are now looking for utilities to demonstrate conservation efforts before approving a new well.

Chair Dietz asked if all cities are required to have a Wellhead Protection Plan.

Ms. Hoerr responded that all public water utilities accessing ground water are required to have a plan.

Ms. Hoerr explained there had been a 60-day notice given for this public hearing with no comments submitted prior to the meeting.

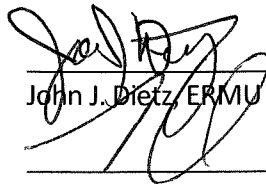
She estimated that the approval of the plan from the state could be provided sometime in July or August.

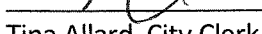
Chair Dietz opened the public hearing. There was no one in attendance to speak.

### **3.0 Adjourn Special Meeting**

**Moved by Commissioner Bell and seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the special meeting of the Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission at 5:22 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.**

Minutes prepared by Tony Mauren.

  
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John J. Dietz, ERMU Commission Chair

  
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Tina Allard, City Clerk