

PFAS UPDATE June 11, 2024 Lee Donahue, Supervisor #2 Health Education and Welfare

The good news is the County funded research is proceeding outside. This is a project to monitor both the shallow contaminated aquifer and the deeper Mt. Simon aquifer. This will provide a tremendous amount of information about the two aquifers, and help characterize the Eau Claire formation between the two aquifers. The current drilling shows the ECF maybe between 5-7 feet thick. A second shale layer was also found at roughly 400 ft. We are grateful to La Crosse County for funding this research and equally grateful to our partners in USGS, WGNHS and UW-Madison to perform this research.

The WI Legislative session ended without release any of the \$125 million dollars in the PFAS Trust Fund. This is paralyzing municipalities like Campbell who are ready to begin construction to execute a safe long-term water supply for their residents. The PFAS Trust Fund was authorized by a bipartisan legislature nearly a year ago. JFC can adopt the same legislatively approved DNR methodology used for authorizing and prioritizing funding for communities applying for grants in the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. Campbell has done extensive research and planning to develop safe long term drinking water solutions.

I urge everyone to email members of the Joint Finance Committee and ask them to adopt the same DNR methodology for the SWDFP so communities can gain access to these critical funds. This funding was ***overwhelmingly approved with bipartisan support summer of 2023.***

These funds have been sitting idly for nearly a year. Communities are hurting. Our community is hurting. We are taking strong and meaningful steps to develop and implement our safe long term water solution. We are in the process of accessing Federal funding to drill our municipal well, build an elevated storage system and more. Access to State funding is critical to fully implement our long-term solution. I believe the intent of the bipartisan Legislature was to release those funds and make an immediate impact on the communities devastated by this insidious pollution.

I will take your questions, thanks!