



TOP News on Water: March 2023

Committee Mission: *"To achieve a permanent safe drinking water solution, within the current site investigation area in the Town of Peshtigo, at the expense of the identified responsible party."*

3/13/23: Utility District Public Hearing

Over 150 residents participated in a 3 hour public hearing primarily comprised of public comment, questions and answers and an informational presentation by Strand Engineering.

Why create a utility district? *In order for the Town to move forward with engineering, pursuing funding sources and municipal partnerships, the Town needs to define a focus area.*

What's the difference between a Utility District and a Water Utility? *A utility district is primarily a financial device which allows the Town to set up the accounting needed to receive funds (such as grants) and track how funds are used. Creating a utility district does NOT allow the town to construct, install, or operate a water utility, which is a long process with rigorous agency oversight. More evaluation is necessary before a decision on creating a water utility can be made.*

How did the Town come up with this boundary? *This boundary 1) covers the potential service route of municipal water whether it be from Marinette or Peshtigo, 2) includes properties that would be adjacent to the potential water main routes, 3) encompasses properties with known PFAS contamination and the WDNR PFAS investigation area at risk for contamination.*

What is the Town going to do next? *The Town has been awarded \$1,667,000 of federal grant funds for "predevelopment activities" (studies, engineering, accounting, etc.) for the Town's PFAS response. These funds will be used to further develop options and to start engineering a solution.*

Visit <https://townofpeshtigo.org/water/> for more information and sign up for electronic updates.

3/14/23: U.S. EPA Release Draft Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS Compounds in Drinking

Water [EPA Release Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS](#) Town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin – As one of many PFAS contamination sites in the U.S. and Wisconsin's largest and most complex contamination site, the Town of Peshtigo is thrilled that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken this tangible action step toward regulating PFAS in releasing draft standards for six PFAS compounds in public utility drinking water. The proposed standards include an enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS with a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of 0 ppt. Additionally, the EPA proposed a hazard index of 1.0 for mixtures of GenX, PFBS, PFNA, and PFHxS. Although EPA drinking water standards do not apply to groundwater and private wells, the draft MCLs acknowledge the importance of limiting exposure to PFAS and protecting public health through the mitigation of contaminated drinking water. The draft MCLs also provide strong support and evidence for state groundwater standards (which do apply to private wells). Once the EPA completes the rule-making process (which is expected by the end of the year), WDNR and WDHS will work to align state standards with federal standards.

Why Would the Town Create a Utility District?

1. Town Board has an obligation to its residents impacted by Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
2. Establish a focus area of the PFAS problem.
3. Establish a district fund account to manage grant funds, expenses, and reimbursements.
4. Demonstrate the Town's commitment to a permanent, safe drinking water solution for impacted areas to grant opportunities.
5. Establish a service area that can be included in a future application to create a water utility.

What's the Difference Between a Utility District and a Water Utility?

Utility District (now)	Water Utility (future)
Created by Town Board resolution	Requires Public Service Commission (PSC) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) approvals
Requires a Town Board vote	Requires a referendum
Boundary can be modified in the future	Service area can be modified in the future
Governed by State Statute	Regulated by State Statutes, PSC, and WDNR
Requires a district fund account	Requires customers, infrastructure, accounting, auditing, and operation
Establishes a proposed service area for a future Water Utility	Entity that actually provides water service

What does the District Boundary include? See map on other side.

1. Municipal water routes from Marinette and Peshtigo
2. Adjacent properties to service routes
3. Properties within the WDNR PFAS Contamination Investigation Area
4. Adjacent properties to proposed water main or investigation area

The District Boundary currently encompasses multiple viable water supply solutions.

Resources and Information:

Town of Peshtigo Water - <https://townofpeshtigo.org/water/>
- Subscribe to Updates - <https://townofpeshtigo.org/subscribe-to-updates/>
DNR PFAS Contamination in the Marinette and Peshtigo Area
- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/Marinette.html>
Wisconsin Department of Health Services – PFAS
- <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>

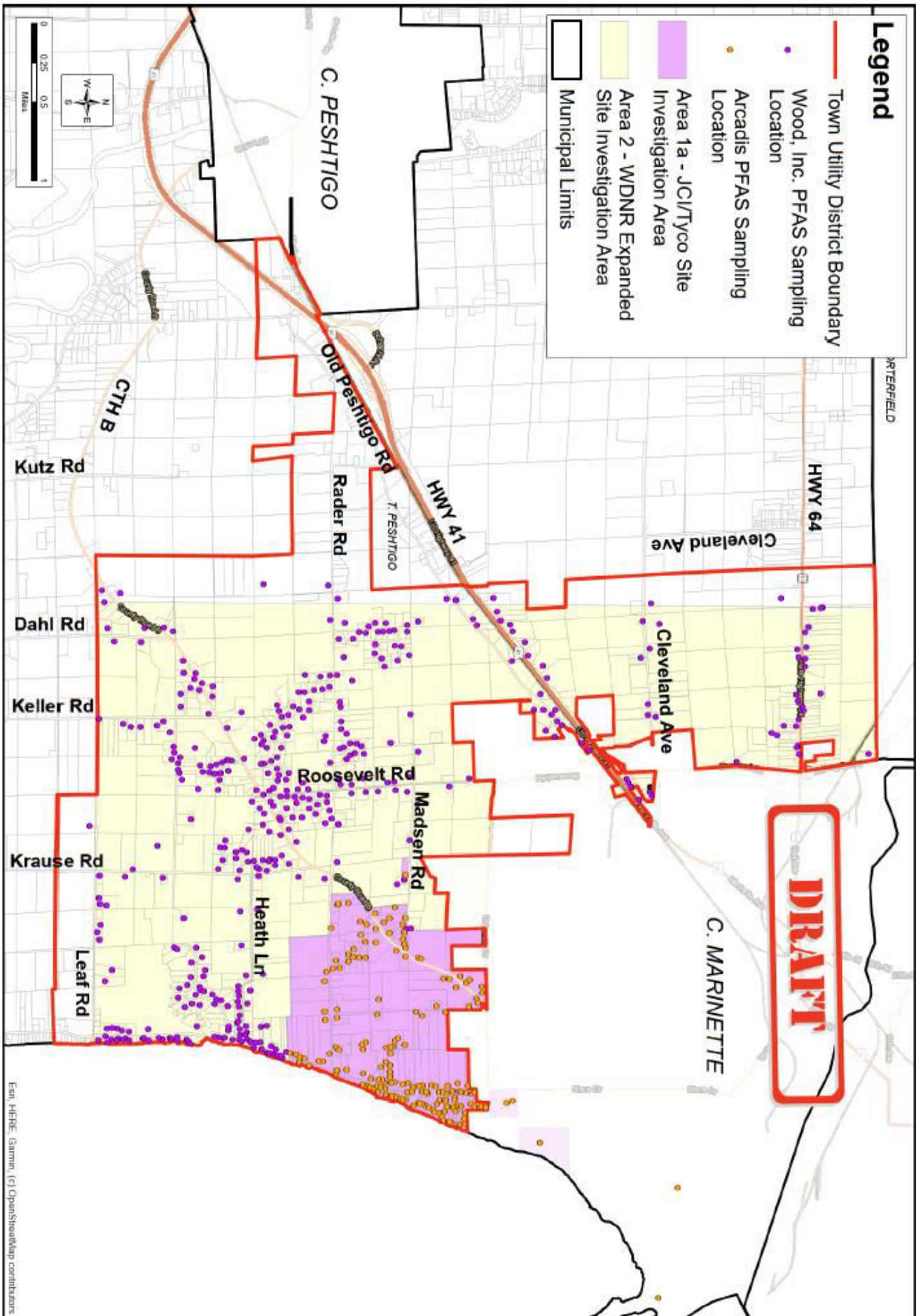
Speakers:

Town Board
Al Reuter – Town Attorney
Nate Ewanowski, P.E. – Strand Associates
Ben Wood, P.E. – Strand Associates



Legend

- Town Utility District Boundary
- Wood, Inc. PFAS Sampling Location
- Arcadis PFAS Sampling Location
- Area 1a - JCI/Tyco Site Investigation Area
- Area 2 - WDNR Expanded Site Investigation Area
- Municipal Limits



PERMANENT SAFE WATER FOR ALL:

UTILITY DISTRICT: Town Board Initiative

- **\$1.67 million Pre-development funding** earmarked appropriations through Senator Baldwin Pre-development costs include such things as: full scale engineering, cost of service and modeling studies, grant application and administration services, legal fees, PSC approval, project management etc.
- **Necessary step for funding including the \$150 million** in Federal Infrastructure Law Grants: A Historic Investment in clean water is available to Wisconsin communities through grants and funding resources: 2 primary buckets of money specific to PFAS: One has available \$13 million/year for 5 years and another has \$17 million/year for 5 years. This funding cycle is likely to take place late fall/early winter 2022 with initial awards early 2023.
- Through our admission into the Thriving Earth Exchange program, the Town has aligned with Bryce Lord <https://uwm.edu/public-nonprofit-administration/people/lord-bryce/> to assist with grant applications! He runs the non-profit graduate program at UW-Milwaukee and this partnership will be at zero cost to the Town.
- Funding grants and resources are being investigated on an ongoing basis, including through USDA RD Emergency Grant, Environmental Policy Innovation Center, WDNR: SDWLP and Clean Water Fund Program, and the WDOA.
- Holding our responsible party legally accountable.

• EPA updated advisory Health Advisory levels: of .004 parts per trillion (ppt) for per fluoro octanoic acid (PFOA) and .02 ppt for per fluoro octane sulfonic acid (PFOS) GenX chemicals = 10 ppt and PFBS = 2,000 ppt

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-06/drinking-water-ha-pfas-factsheet-communities.pdf>

- **Resource for comparing Water and Blood Testing Data:** <https://pfas-exchange.org/>
- **Affordable Water Testing Resource:** <https://cyclopure.com/product/water-test-kit-pro/>

RECEIVE MONTHLY UPDATES: Please Attend the monthly Water Meeting 5:45 the 3rd Thursday of each month, before the monthly board meeting at the Townhall and sign up at **TownOfPeshtigo.org** for monthly reports to be sent to your email or phone.

Cindy Boyle – Town of Peshtigo Chair & resident in the Tyco/JCI contamination area.