

May 13, 2024

To: Gustavus City Administrator, Mayor and Council Members

Although it was disappointing to have been given poor information about the date of the PFAS presentation/discussion, I was able to listen to it later last week when I discovered it had already happened.

I was happy to see the Statewide PFAS Coordinator, Melanie Bray, reaching out to the City of Gustavus. And pleased as well by the Council's questions and interest in moving forward.

I support the idea of a small group to work with Melanie, Aura, Kristin and others to research/pursue funding for a clean water source. I think we all know that a city-wide water system is just not feasible here so the focus needs to be on a clean well that is accessible to all, preferably through a delivery system. I would support having the same folks present at a Town Hall meeting to update the community on the current status. The State of Alaska is expected to align with the EPA's new, much lower, maximum contaminant levels (MCL's). This will have a huge impact on Gustavus with at least twenty more homes/sites testing above the limits, and likely many more. The community needs to be aware of what the lower MCL's will mean for us, and needs to know that steps are being made to address the situation.

Gustavus PFAS Action Coalition has disbanded due to a variety of reasons, chiefly that we felt we had accomplished what we originally set out to do. It is time now for the City to work with the State and hopefully establish an effective relationship through the process. Two years ago GPAC members, with financial support from the City, invested considerable time and funds to the installation of flux meters to measure flow rate and direction with the aim of determining the feasibility of using Plume Stop to arrest the flow in the plume. This data was provided to Shannon and Wilson and DOT. It is my understanding that, based on that promising data, a plan was developed for the installation of Plume Stop, and was just waiting for funding.

***We must hold the State to its former commitments.*** This includes, ***first and foremost, funding the installation of Plume Stop to prevent any further contamination*** so we can move forward with providing clean water that will have a greater chance of remaining clean. And secondly, the State needs to ***complete all remaining cistern projects*** to allow those residents at very high levels to have a safe and reliable water source.

Please make the focus on these two items a priority. Experience has shown that the State will drag their feet unless being pressured, so let's apply pressure! Only after we have the State's cooperation on these two items should we focus efforts on providing a clean water source.

Your time and attention to this matter is very much appreciated.

Sally McLaughlin