

Coon Creek Community Watershed Council (CCCWC)
March Gathering
Coon Valley Conservation Club, Mar. 4, 2026
Eat & Greet! Food Served: 6:00p.m.
Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

1. Greetings and Reflections
2. Marc's Fascinating Flashback

There were 7 different types of CCC camps in our area, by May 1935, 190 men working there.

Business:

- a. Secretary's report
 - b. Treasurer's report
 - c. Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Conference in Plover, Feb. 24
 - d. Strategic Planning: Mar. 18 2026, Coon Valley Conservation Club
 - e. Burn training April 11-12, Coon Valley Conservation Club
 - Saturday virtual classroom training 9-3pm
 - Sunday, live fire and equipment training, (24 person limit)
 - Signup info on website
3. Fishers and Farmers Project Launch, featuring US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish habitat biologist Heidi Keuler
 4. Presentation on well water quality and testing with Vernon County Public Health Director Amy Kleiber

Vernon County Public Health runs a laboratory based in Viroqua. Public health has a long history of watershed literacy initiatives, including collaborating with Monique Hassman at the Vernon Co Land Information Office to put up watershed signs following 2018 flood, in an effort to enhance watershed literacy

There are 5597 private wells in Vernon County

The Vernon County Health Department is an "agent of the state," through its collaboration with DATCP. This includes conducting water testing, as well as things like restaurant certifications

300-400 tests a year come through the lab. It often collaborates with the state lab of hygiene to test wells.

Two main types of testing: Bacteria and Nitrate.

For bacteria testing- tests for presence or absence of e-coli and coliform. You would need to go to the state lab of hygiene for exact amounts, or other types of bacteria. There are also private, for profit labs that will test for these bacteria, but that is much more expensive, and the funding does not stay local.

Nitrate testing; 150-200 tests per year, \$30/test. Licensed by the DNR

1823 tests have come through the lab in the last 3 years. Nitrates and bacteria levels are less than expected. 6 percent of tests are positive for nitrates, relative to 8 percent state wide.

How often to test?

Epa says nitrates and bacteria should be tested annually, or more if there are issues.

Test for arsenic, lead, cadmium and other heavy metals every 5 years.

How do you access kits? Go to vernon co public health office.

5. Coon Creek Confluence Updates

6. Next meeting: Coon Valley Conservation Club, April 1, 2026.