

PRIVATE WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Notes – January 7, 2015

Attendees: Liesa Lehmann (DNR), Marty Nessman (DNR), Roger Lang, Jeff Kramer, Terry Marshall, Randall Niffenegger, Rick Brehmer, Rick Peterson, Rob Spence, Bill Batten (WGNHS), Jeff Beiriger, Bruce Walker, Gary Kuhn, David Beecroft.

Minutes: June 2014 and October 2014 meeting notes were approved.

Advisory Council Procedures and Membership

Council discussed an updated Advisory Council Procedures document dated January 7, 2015. Members suggested several edits, including reference the addition of Heat Exchange Drilling. Each appointing organization updated their member appointments. DNR will complete updated appointments prior to April meeting and provide a final membership roster. The Council will adopt the final procedures and elect a co-chair at the next meeting.

Private Water Supply Program Updates

1. Staff

Marty Nessman has been hired as DNR's Private Water Field Supervisor, a new position to provide additional management support for the field program. Randell Clark moved to the Private Water section, and will continue to work on geothermal reviews and landfill variances. Tom Riewe retired from his LTE position in December 2014.

2. Well Construction and Licensing Data

Liesa shared 2 graphs showing Well Construction Report data from the past 10 years. Council members expressed an interest in seeing additional data in the future, including Filled and Sealed Wells (replacement v. unused), Heat Exchange Projects and Drillholes, and Private Wells (new v. replacement).

3. Heat Exchange Licensing

DNR staff continues to review Heat Exchange Driller (HED) License applications. Of the 62 HED applications received to-date:

- 15 eligible for January 8 exam
- 21 pending for later exam date
- 8 incomplete - waiting for additional information
- 5 late – not yet processed
- 13 out-of-state - not yet processed

HED exams will be offered at all January, February and March Continuing Ed sessions so licenses can be issued before April 1. HED license is required to drill heat exchange system effective April 1, 2015. An issue has come up regarding applicants who are supervisory drillers and/or have been in the industry a long time, but do not qualify under NR 146 code requirements because their drilling experience is more than 5 years ago. State statute allows DNR to establish alternative eligibility requirements for individuals with older experience, so DNR is developing guidance. Council members requested more flexibility, and gave input on what criteria should be included in alternative eligibility requirements.

4. Heat Exchange Drilling Notification

Effective April 1, “small” heat exchange drilling projects will require an electronic notification to DNR instead of a prior written approval. The notification system will be similar to the current Well Notification system. No \$50 fee. The 2015 Continuing Education booklet contains a summary of when a notification is required (see page 24).

2015 Continuing Education Preview

- DNR Program Updates – Liesa Lehmann
- NR 812 Revisions – Marty Nessman
- Property Transfer Well Inspection FAQ’s – Dennis Crow/Rick Peterson
- Water Well Wiring – Joe Hertl
- Wire Rope, Rigging and Crane Safety – ATS Specialized

Future Continuing Education

Liesa asked for input on ways to modernize and improve Continuing Education process, as a follow up to Jill Jonas’ request from the June 2014 Advisory Council meeting. One idea being considered is electronic on-line training.

Contamination Responses

Heavy fall rains and manure storage equipment failures resulted in several reports of private well contamination in northeastern Wisconsin.

Newly-Approved Products and Equipment

None.

Old Business

- Latitude-Longitude – DNR is transitioning all well-related applications and forms to the Decimal-Degrees (DD) lat-long format by mid-2016. Until the transition is complete, some forms will request DD, while other forms allow other format. The 2015 Continuing Education booklet contains a description of how to determine and report latitude-longitude, and how to convert to the DD format (see pages 25-26).

New Business

Handouts

Well Construction Reports graphs (2)

Next Meeting

April 2015 – date to be determined