

## PRIVATE WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Notes – October 6, 2016

**Council Member Attendees:** Liesa Lehmann (DNR), Gary Kuhn, Bill Hanser, Eric Schuette, Rick Peterson (for Mike Hanten), David Haupt, Jeff Kramer, Rob Spence

**Other Attendees:** Dorie Turpin (DNR), Tom Puchalski (DNR), Kevin Masarik (UW-Extension)

### Welcome and Overview of Center for Watershed Science and Education

Kevin Masarik explained that the Center is an outreach arm of the University of Wisconsin Extension. The Center operates under the premise that homeowners are their own water utility manager. The Center stresses testing of private water supply wells by hosting community water testing events.

### Wisconsin Well Water Quality Viewer

Kevin explained the Center maintains web pages to help private well owners learn more about their area's groundwater. A highlight of the web pages is the Wisconsin Well Water Quality Viewer found here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/watershed/Pages/WellWaterViewer.aspx> This tool allows the homeowner (or driller or pump installer) to obtain general groundwater quality information in Wisconsin by location. Several different water quality parameters can be viewed on the map.

The data includes 90,000 samples analyzed by the Center's Water and Environmental Analysis Laboratory; 40,000 samples in the DNR's Groundwater Retrieval Network; and miscellaneous private well test results from a few county health departments. The data represented by the map is obtained by averaging test results over an area of land, and does not show individual well results. The map cannot be used to determine water quality in a particular well, or to determine changes in water quality over time. The data does not take into account variations in well depth.

### Private Water Supply Program Updates

#### 1. DNR staff changes

- Steve Elmore, new Bureau Director
- Steve Ales, continuing Deputy Bureau Director; oversees public water field operations
- Tom Puchalski, duties changing to policy coordinator; lead contact for policy questions
- Adam Freihoefer, new Water Use Section Chief
- Mary Ellen Vollbrecht retired—Groundwater Section Chief position is vacant
- Western District Public Water Supply Supervisor position is vacant, being filled
- Public Water Supply Section Chief position is vacant (formerly Steve Elmore)
- Many new public water program staff around the state

#### 2. NR 812 – Scope Statement and next steps

Lehmann provided overview of the Scope Statement, which was sent via email prior to the meeting. The Scope Statement has been approved by the DNR Secretary and Governor. The next step is for the Natural Resources Board to approve the Scope Statement at their October 25-26 meeting. Once the NRB approves the Scope Statement, DNR staff can begin drafting rule language. We are currently developing a plan to include internal and external workgroups for certain aspects of the rule. Prior to public hearings, the process for obtaining input from outside the agency will be informal. The tentative timeline is:

- First Half 2017 -- rule drafting and workgroups
- Second Half 2017 – economic impacts analysis
- December 2017 -- January 2018 - public hearings
- First Half 2018 – NRB review
- Second Half 2018 – Legislative review
- January 2019 – Effective date of revised rule

### 3. Driller/Installer Continuing Education

Lehmann provided updates and reminders on changes to CE for 2017:

- DNR updated the criteria for approving continuing education credit hours for each license type, and sent them to a list of past training providers.
- DNR updated the training request form and also sent it to training providers. The form is required to be submitted to DNR via email after it is completed online.
- DNR will review requests from training providers, issue course approvals, and publish approved courses on the internet.
- A web-based training calendar is under development. DNR will send outreach to all license holders to announce the calendar and the initial approved courses for 2017.
- DNR will continue to maintain a system to track course approvals and each individual's credits, and notify individual license holders who don't have enough continuing education hours to renew.
- Any training provider can request DNR approval for continuing education hours. Various methods of training – including electronic or in-person training - will be considered for approval.

DNR will provide a speaker for the annual Wisconsin Water Well Association conference and the annual Wisconsin Geothermal Association conference. DNR staff, including field staff, will not be speaking at other continuing education meetings but may attend.

### 4. License Renewal

Lehmann provided an update on process improvements that were initiated following the survey to license holders in early 2015. For last year's renewal season, renewal applications with the same license number were combined into one form and the renewal form was shortened. The license card was also consolidated so all licenses/registrations held are listed on one card.

Judy Gifford has been working with programmers to develop an online renewal system for licenses and registrations. Once developed, DNR would notify licensees that online renewal is available. Anyone who does not renew online after a period of time will receive a paper renewal form. DNR hoped to have online renewal of individual licenses in place for this year, but the electronic payment function is not complete, so the online renewal will likely be delayed until 2017. Online renewal of business and rig operator registrations will not be in place this year because they require signatures. DNR hopes to implement an electronic signature process next year.

### 5. NR 812 Compliance Report form

The NR 812 Compliance Report form is to be used for all NR 812 inspections except for property transfers. Lehmann asked whether anyone present had been using the new form. One commented that the form is better than the Property Transfer well inspection form. Another stated that the form would be improved if the inspector could add a comment when the water system is complying. The form currently only allows comments when the system is noncomplying. Lehmann will look into getting that changed.

### 6. High Capacity Wells

Tom Puchalski provided an overview of recent statutory changes and changes to the high cap approval process:

- Low capacity residential or fire protection wells on a high capacity property do not require a \$500 fee or approval. The definition of a high capacity well was changed to not include residential or fire protection wells effective October 1, 2016.

- Residential and fire protection wells are no longer included in pumping totals for high capacity properties.
- The Attorney General issued an opinion on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 which affects the DNR's approval process for evaluating new high capacity well applications. DNR no longer considers possible cumulative impacts on all waters and wetlands of the state. DNR may only consider possible impacts on municipal wells, water quality, and certain water resources within 1200 feet of a proposed well, i.e., springs that flow at greater than 1.0 cfs, trout streams, incidences of high water loss and outstanding and exceptional resource waters.
- The Water Use Section has developed a [High Capacity Well Viewer](#) showing the locations of existing and proposed high capacity wells. For more information go to DNR's [High Capacity Wells](#) web page.

### **New Business**

1. High capacity well approval times (*Eric Schuette*)  
Schuette expressed concern about the length of time it takes to get a high capacity well approval. Lehmann stated that the changes to the approval process presented by Puchalski should result in much lower turn around times.
2. Measuring wells during inspection (*Bill Hanser*)  
Hanser pointed out that the Property Transfer Well Inspection Form considers driven point wells constructed after the 1991 code edition without a well construction report to be noncomplying. That creates a difficulty because it results in having to measure the pipe depth to determine code compliance. If the well is shallow, deepening it can result in poorer aesthetic water quality (iron). For property transfer inspections of drilled wells, a missing well construction report is considered an item of concern, but not an item of noncompliance. Lehmann indicated that we may be able to look at this topic during the proposed code revision.
3. Certification of UV systems on private wells (*Mike Hanten*)  
Because Hanten was unable to attend, this item of new business was tabled until the next meeting.
4. Advisory Council – member terms expiring (*Lehmann*)  
The terms of Eric Schuette (appointed by DNR) and David Haupt (appointed by WWWW) are expiring. DNR has asked Schuette to continue. WWWW will determine reappointment or new appointment for Haupt's position.
5. Sampling following chlorination  
A question was raised about the sampling requirements following a well chlorination for an unsafe bacteria sample from a property transfer well inspection. Well and water system chlorination by itself is not considered pump work and does not require the collection of any water samples. DNR recommends collecting a sample to be tested for bacteria to verify that chlorination was successful. Additional testing for nitrate and arsenic is not required unless pump work is performed on the water supply system.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

### **Tour of Center's Water and Environmental Analysis Lab**

Thank you to Bill DeVita for giving an informative and interesting tour of the laboratory.