

PRIVATE WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Notes – October 19, 2017

Council Member Attendees: Liesa Lehmann (DNR), Pete Chase (WGNHS), Mike Hanten, Bill Hanser, Jeff Kramer, Gary Kuhn, Roger Lang, Terry Marshall, Eric Schuette, Rob Spence (WPWS), Ken Sweeney, Bruce Walker (WGA).

Other Attendees: Jeff Beiriger, Dan Steffes, Tom Puchalski (DNR), Stacy Steinke (DNR), Dorie Turpin (DNR)

Introductions (Attendees)

- Council Members
- Others

Changes to 2017 and 2018 Advisory Council Membership

- Bill Batten, (appointed by WGNHS) is retiring and will be replaced by Pete Chase
- Jeff Kramer (appointed by DNR) has retired from Sam's Well Drilling but wishes to remain a member for another term.

Member terms ending 12/31/2017

- Ken Sweeney, (appointed by WWA) is not eligible for reappointment due to number of terms already served.
- Alan Hoyer, (appointed by DNR)
- Michael Hanten, (appointed by WWA)
- Bill Hanser, (appointed by DNR)
- Bruce Walker, (appointed by WGA)
- Rob Spencer, (appointed by WPWS)

The appointing organization should either reappoint their representative or recruit a new representative. Please provide Lehmann with your members' names by December 1st, so that invitations can be sent for the January meeting.

DNR Updates

a. Staffing changes (Liesa)

- **Dan Meyer** started as new DNR Secretary in early September. Meyer is a former mayor and 12-year Assembly Representative from Eagle River, Vilas County.
- **Jared Niewoehner** started as new Private Water Specialist in Fitchburg in August 2017. Jared replaces Glenn Mueller who retired in May 2016.
- **Steve Janowiak** transferred to a Hydrogeologist position with DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment program at the end of October 2017. Janowiak was the Private Water Specialist in Wisconsin Rapids for 16 years. Nessman is developing a transition plan for other specialists to cover Janowiak's counties until a new individual is hired.

b. Continuing Education (Dorie)

- About 15 courses were approved for 2017. Most license holders attended WWA classes but there were other options, both online and from Minnesota and Wisconsin. Neither Minnesota course or the online courses offered enough content for Wisconsin license holders to obtain all credits in one place. There were a couple of online courses for pump installers that totaled four hours of credit. At the time "Notices of Nonrenewal" were mailed, the only remaining option for pump installers, water well drillers and

registered water well drilling rig operators who needed all six hours was to attend the WWWW makeup.

- In September, DNR hosted an online meeting for potential 2018 course providers to explain the application process, review the information provided on our CE web page and suggest topic areas for 2018 (Well Filling and Sealing, Property Transfer Well Inspections and Well Disinfection).
- DNR plans to mail and e-mail a schedule of 2018 approved courses and courses with approval pending to license holders in late November.
- Beiriger stated that individuals should be able to repeat attendance of the same course content more often than every 3 years. He suggested that there be more discussion around this.
- WWWW indicated they would be providing presentations on high capacity wells and sampling.

c. Enforcement activities (Tom)

Lehmann gave an overview of the department's stepped enforcement process. Puchalski provided a handout summarizing 2017 enforcement actions to-date. Sweeney suggested that enforcement actions be posted on the department's website to get the word out that the department is actively pursuing enforcement.

d. Pump Installer notification and inspections (Liesa)

Private Water staff are trying to increase contacts with pump installers, to form relationships, answer code questions, and observe more pump installation work. Nessman sent a letter to all licensed pump installers in August, letting them know about our efforts. Field specialists have identified pump installers who they haven't met or haven't talked with for more than a couple years.

e. Code Interpretations – stormwater infiltration basins (Tom)

Tom provided an overview of proposed guidance that will distinguish a rain garden from a stormwater infiltration basin. When the code interpretation is finalized, it will be sent to license holders via govdelivery e-mail.

f. NR 812 Revisions (Liesa)

Web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/nr812.html>

Lehmann indicated that we continue to evaluate policy options, draft rule language and get external input on specific topics. Current timeline is to complete language drafting by January, gather preliminary input from stakeholders in early 2018, then complete the required economic impact analysis. Public hearings are tentatively planned for fall of 2018.

Lehmann shared some policy topics DNR is evaluating, and asked for **comments**:

- Deleting, adding and revising definitions as needed.
- Placing all heat exchange drilling requirements in one code section.
- Grouting
- Eliminating mud and cuttings as an annular space sealant (**Why would things be any better with bentonite grout mix?**)
- Requiring minimum of 60 feet of casing in all limestone situations, not just when it is encountered above the 10-foot depth. (**Concern for cable tool drillers-making code simpler isn't always best idea**)

- Reducing frequency of Arsenic and Nitrate sampling after pump work is done (Why not 12 months instead of 6 months—or also consider sampling done for inspections?)
- Streamlining treatment approval for treating bacteria in private wells
- Streamlining product approval process
- Allowing bentonite chips in specified situations without variance
- Should DNR mandate where a sample is collected? Should DNR require sampling at a pressure tank tap or untreated tap instead of another tap in the house?

Old Business

None

New Business

Stacy Steinke presented a situation where a pump installer thought he was told by an electrical inspector that he couldn't connect the pressure tank switch to the electrical system.

Stacy Steinke presented a situation where a pump installer was told by a local electrical inspector that a pump installer was not allowed to connect power from the pump back to the panel on an outdoor seasonal well. The inspector stated that code required the pump installer to stop at the "nearest disconnecting switch" which the electrical inspector interpreted as the pressure switch. The electrical inspector informed the pump installer and well owner that a licensed electrician would need to make the connection to the main panel.

This interpretation was questioned by the pump installer, and DSPS was contacted to interpret this specific code requirement. The DSPS Electrical Program Section Chief discussed the issue with DSPS legal counsel and they determined that the local inspector had interpreted the code correctly and that the pump installer could only connect power to the pressure switch. DSPS developed a draft fact sheet to clarify the issue for pump installers, but it was in contrast to what many pump installers in Steinke's area and throughout the state had been told previously which was that they could connect to the main panel.

Jeff Beiriger, lobbyist for the Wisconsin Water Well Association and other trade organizations, stated that this issue had been discussed a few years ago when the state electrical licensing code was being developed. An agreement had been made with the various industries that allowed them to connect power back to the main panel so that an electrician would not need to be called for a one wire connection. Beiriger stated that he would follow up on the issue.

[POST MEETING: DSPS reversed their initial determination and revised their fact sheet to state that pump installers can connect to the nearest disconnecting point after the pressure switch.]

2018 Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, January 17, 2018 – Kalahari at 9:30 a.m.
- April – Madison area
- October – out-state