

## PRIVATE WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Notes – January 17, 2018

**Council Member Attendees:** Liesa Lehmann (DNR), Pete Chase (WGNHS), Michael Hanten, Bill Hanser, Alan Hoyer, Jeff Kramer, Gary Kuhn, Roger Lang, Terry Marshall, Rob Spence, Ken Sweeney, Troy Van de Yacht, Bruce Walker.

**Other Attendees:** Jeff Beiriger, Joy Hanser, Rick Peterson, Dan Steffes, Tom Puchalski (DNR), Dorie Turpin (DNR)

### Introductions (Attendees)

#### WWWA Words of Welcome from Jennifer Rzepka

Jennifer, the recently-appointed Executive Director of the Wisconsin Water Well Association, welcomed everyone to the 2018 Groundwater Conference and Trade Show. Jennifer said she has learned a lot about the industry since starting as ED about 8 months ago. She said that her goals are to make the WWWA a stronger resource for the well and pump industry and to grow the organization through better communication. She hopes that everyone enjoys the training and the Trade Show. Liesa thanked WWWA for hosting the Advisory Council Meeting at the conference.

#### Advisory Council Membership Changes

Troy Van de Yacht, (appointed by WWWA) is replacing Ken Sweeney as a water well driller representative and was welcomed to his first meeting.

#### Notes from October meeting

The meeting notes were approved without change.

#### DNR Updates

##### a. Staffing changes (Lehmann)

- **JaNelle Merry**, private water field inspector in the Green Bay Office, was promoted to Public Water Field Supervisor of the Northeast District. Her experience inspecting private water supplies will be beneficial as she supervises non-community and OTM inspectors, as well as public water engineers.
- **Jared Niewoehner** started as new Private Water Specialist in Fitchburg in August 2017. Jared replaces Glenn Mueller who retired in May 2016. Jared worked in the hi-cap program before moving into this position. Jared is from Iowa and has experience as a drilling rig operator.
- **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.
- **Three Public Water Staff** from the Southeast District recently retired. They included Chad Czarkowski, Marianna Sucht and Jerry Collins. Chad previously worked in the Private Water program and was sometimes a speaker for Continuing Education. Nessman has developed transition plans for other specialists to cover Merry's and Janowiak's former counties until new specialists are hired (likely to be late spring).

##### b. Well Driller Viewer (Lehmann)

Lehmann introduced a new, online, map-based tool for drillers and pump installers. The Well Driller Viewer will be unveiled tomorrow in her presentation at the Ground Water Conference; and will go live on the DNR website at the same time. It will also be demonstrated both days in the DNR booth at the Trade Show. The tool contains layers of DNR data designed to aid well professionals in planning well construction projects and inspecting wells.

The Well Driller Viewer was tested by a few well drilling firms. The viewer works best using Internet Explorer. The link can be accessed by typing “wells” or “drillers and installers” into the keyword search box on the DNR home page. The goal is to include the same data provided on the Well CD, so DNR will not be producing the Well CD after 2018.

Lehmann demonstrated how to enter a location or clicking on an area of the map to get started, and then zoom in to see the data layers. The current layers are:

- Post 1987 Well Construction Reports
- Landfill Boundaries (including links to the landfill variance application form.)
- Special Well Casing Depth Areas (including links to the associated documents)
- Remediation sites
- Dual aquifers
- Aerial photographs

Lehmann encouraged people to try the viewer and to provide input using the “Feedback” button on the viewer’s tool bar. DNR expects to add more data over time based on user feedback, including:

- Pre-1988 Well Construction Reports
- Special Well Casing Depth Area documents
- Variance documents

Some members of the Advisory Council suggested adding water quality data and High Capacity Well information.

c. Special Well Casing Depth Areas (Lehmann)

- Randell Clark and Dave Johnson have been documenting the process and the department’s authority for creating new special well casing depth areas. Currently there are 132 areas. The largest area is the arsenic area which includes Winnebago and Outagamie counties.
- In recent years, most SWCDA’s have been established as a result of livestock contamination so that replacement wells could be eligible for well compensation grants.
- After going through a public comment process, the procedures will become part of the Private Water Supply Handbook.

d. Outreach (Lehmann)

- **Fact Sheets**—Lehmann reported that six fact sheets have been developed about various code topics. The fact sheets have been highlighted in gov-delivery e-mails and can be reached 2 ways on the DNR webpages. One way to find them is a yellow button on the “well” pages. They can also be found by going to the “Information for Drillers and Installers” web page. (A council member commented that the fact sheets are too difficult for realtors and well owners to understand – Lehmann clarified that the fact sheets are primarily intended for well professionals.)
- **Property Transfer Well Inspections**—Lehmann reported that she and Turpin are working on bringing back two pieces of the original inspection form to be used as stand-alone outreach documents when performing inspections. The first is a 2-page document that gives an overview of what to expect from an inspection. The second document provides explanations for the various noncomplying features that might be discovered in an inspection. Both documents will look very familiar to those who worked on the form before it was reduced to 1 page. The department is hopeful that these documents will make it easier for inspectors. Drafts of the documents have been given to WWWA for their input. Members of the Advisory Council raised concerns with the one-page form related to # 12--Post 1991 driven point wells without a well construction report and #24—Well drilled into bedrock with casing diameter less than 6 inches. Lehmann noted that it may be possible to make some “tweaks” to the form if changes won’t conflict with NR 812.44 as written. The scope statement for the current NR 812 revision does not include changes to that section of the code.

- **NewsBits**—The private water supply program is bringing back NewsBits, the newsletter for well drillers and pump installers, as a quarterly, online source of information. The first edition will be sent via gov-delivery in late January/early February and will include data, notifications, enforcement, code reminders, etc. Ideas for articles are welcome. Previous issues will be available online from a link on the “Information for Drillers and Installers” page.
- e. Contamination Response (delayed until next meeting due to Nessman’s absence)
- f. Compliance and Enforcement Activities
- **Code Interpretations** (Puchalski) – stormwater infiltration basins (100 feet) vs. rain gardens (8 feet). The department will continue to use a variance process until the code is revised.
  - **Springs and nonpressure storage vessels.** (Lehmann reported instead of Nessman) DATCP has learned of a number of unapproved water supplies involving springs and/or NPSV that are used by milk producers and do not comply with federal milk laws. The challenge is that many of these facilities are not electrified and are using nonpressure water systems. DNR staff are creating guidance on how to obtain NR 812 approval for these systems.
  - **Enforcement update** (Puchalski) Liesa will be giving an overview of the enforcement process in her presentation at the Groundwater Conference. Tom reported on an enforcement case involving a pump installer who extended steel well casing pipe out of a pit using thermoplastic well casing pipe. The PI also failed to measure the well casing depth and file the correct forms with the department.
- g. 2018 Continuing Education (Lehmann)  
Several courses have been approved by DNR including the Wisconsin Water Well Association’s courses. A calendar of approved courses was mailed to license holders in early December. A gov-delivery message was sent December 22 when additional approved courses were added to the calendar. So far in 2018 in-person approved courses are being offered by Quality Pumps, Minnesota Water Well Association, Water Right, Wisconsin Geothermal Association, Preferred Pump of St. Cloud MN, and the Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals. The only online courses are the two offered by Goulds that were approved last year. One Minnesota company is providing inhouse training by outside speakers that will be approved for Wisconsin continuing education.
- h. Licensing Exams (Turpin)  
DNR began a realignment process about 18 months ago to improve efficiencies in our licensing program. The Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater was asked to align the department’s operator certification exams and procedures with those for drillers and installers. Starting in 2018, driller and installer exams will be held every quarter concurrently with operator certification exams. Driller/installer applicants will now have 7 exam sites available in the spring and fall, instead of only two; and there will be one site available for taking the exam in the winter or summer. Reservations to take an exam must be made one month in advance (meaning applications need to be submitted earlier than in the past). Private water field staff will no longer need to proctor exams, freeing them up for field work and technical assistance; exams will be assembled and prepared by the operator certification program; and computer grading will be done by the University of Wisconsin Testing Center. Other changes are planned to make optimal use of the internal database for tracking continuing education and license renewals.
- i. NR 812 Revisions (Lehmann)  
Lehmann provided a DRAFT handout (see attached/ not for further distribution) that summarizes department proposed changes for various sections of the code. The plan is to hold public hearings in late 2018. Prior to that there will be opportunities for feedback from external stakeholders. Based on the current timeline, the rule revision will likely be effective in early 2020.  
Web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/nr812.html>

**Old Business**

Recall the discussion at the October Advisory Council meeting regarding pump installers making electrical connections when performing pump installing. Following our meeting, DSPPS 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.

**New Business**

None

**2018 Meeting Dates**

- April – Madison area
- October – central Wisconsin