

PRIVATE WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Skype Meeting

Meeting Notes – April 9, 2020

1. Welcome and Introductions

Council Member Attendees: Liesa Lehmann (DNR), Pete Chase (WGNHS), Gary Kuhn, Steven Tesmer, Mike Hanten, Bill Hanser, Terry Farago, Bruce Walker, Scott Haupt

Other Attendees: Marty Nessman, Frank Fetter and Bob Gundrum (DNR), Terry Marshall, Rick Peterson, Jeff Beiriger, Wyatt Buttke, Scott O'Brien

2. COVID-19 Pandemic – Impacts to Businesses and Industry

Troy- Business as usual as far as drilling. One rig getting repair and is delayed in order to keep staff busy. Customers and other contractors are not always practicing good social distancing. Gary – also business as usual, so not as much new construction. A couple of people in his co. were exposed and had to self-quarantine, he gave his staff the option of self-isolating. Some customers want face-to-face, some don't. Haven't seen a lot of drop off in business, although low-priority stuff is slowing.

Scott O'Brien (Pentair) – One colleague in another state (LP, MI) was stopped and turned back by a local sheriff for not being essential service.

Terry – still wrapping up work from prior to COVID-19. Likely going to hit our summer workload. Not writing as many estimates as a normal year.

Mike Hanten – LOTS of motion! Lab working 2 different shifts, office rearranged to promote social distancing. A drop off in real estate, but it's coming back. Still a lot of buyers on the market. Still lots of business in the real estate and water testing business.

Troy - I agree that things are going to get slow and it will be hard to meet margins. New equipment and capitol investment have taken a back seat. Working on repairs over replacements for now.

3. 2020 Advisory Council Membership

Lehmann shared February 2020 membership list with new/continuing members. Welcome to Scott Haupt who is appointed by WWWW to replace Roger Lang. Membership terms have been updated to end on January 31.

Scott Haupt – 3rd generation drilling contractor (uncle David was well known). Irrigation and residential work; Irrigation work is going well (for now). Located in Auburndale.

4. January 2020 Meeting Notes

No comments or corrections.

5. DNR Updates

a. Staffing Updates (Lehmann)

- DNR staff are working remotely due to Safer-at-Home order. Staff have limited access to US Mail, so don't send anything by mail. Contact us by email or cell phone. We are working and available to assist you!
- Bill Shockley – new IT/GIS Manager hired to replace Judy Gifford. Bill has greater skills in information technology, database management and particularly GIS. His focus will be to

maintain and enhance our electronic systems like Online WCR, Well Driller Viewer and Online License Renewal.

- Gary Kuhn – Who will be handling Judy’s licensing-related duties? Liesa – most of those admin-type tasks have been moved over to WDNR’s Operator Certification program. With online licensing system, more of that will be handled online. Patty Doerflinger is the Op Cert Coordinator. DNROPCERT@wisconsin.gov, Bob will handle some licensing tasks.
- Sandy Hershberger position is still vacant. The state has a hiring freeze during Safer-at-Home. As soon as the freeze is lifted, we expect to conduct interviews and hire her replacement. Maddy Fontaine is **part-time** temporary employee covering Sandy Hershberger’s work with compliance reviews for well construction and well filling/sealing reports and sample results. We have trained additional staff to assist with report reviews. Expect delays and longer review times, especially for paper reports. If you’re unsure who to contact, send an email to DNRWELLREPORT@wisconsin.gov

b. Contamination Responses (Nessman)

- PFAS – There are private wells with PFAS throughout the state. There have been private well owners that have taken their own PFAS samples and had detections. We are providing temporary emergency water to a house near the study area in Marinette.
- VOCs – Wood County
- Uranium - There was a public water supply well in the Village of Ridgeland in Dunn County that had a detection of Uranium. The local health department conducted follow up sampling of private and public wells within the village to see if it is more widespread. No results reported yet. Uranium is possibly coming from a fault/fracture system in the area.
- Bacteria/Manure – There have been a lot of manure spills reported this winter due to the wet harvest conditions. There haven’t been many reports of impacted wells lately but there were a couple reported in the northeast this fall.

c. 2020 Continuing Education – Gundrum presented estimates of how many drillers and pump installers have completed 2020 CE already. DNR’s online CE calendar now lists rescheduled dates for continuing education opportunities that are approved for 2020.

Mike Hanten – if COVID-19 continues to be an issue, can we move CE online? Rick Peterson, main question is how to verify attendance? Liesa maybe we should plan to discuss this further? Also Matt Kouba was planning to be there for his 2-hour safety (afternoon) program? Bob/Liesa – Yes.

Jeff Bieriger – Could online courses be taken at the students’ leisure? Bob - verification of attendance would be the issue to overcome...

d. Licensing (Lehmann/Gundrum)

- License Exams - May 6 exam cancelled due to Safer-at-Home order and prohibition on gathering. All registrants will be notified. 6 statewide exam locations are scheduled for August; applicants will have to re-apply.
- Pending Driller Applications Pre-2020 - Currently there are 22 applications submitted before January 1, 2020 at various stages of review or notified of license exam eligibility.

- Pending Driller Applications/Inquiries 2020 - There are currently 8 rig operators in various stages of applying for a well driller license after January 1, 2020. These individuals will need to meet the 33-hour Rig Operator Training requirement in order to be eligible for the licensing exam. DNR is contacting each individual to determine what past training can be applied to meet the new training requirements, and what training each individual still needs.
 - Gary Kuhn – So we have required training, but don't know when/where we'll get it? Bob - We'll determine needs, then develop training. A total of 30 hours of training on the slide and 33 hours of training required – Liesa, yes there must be one missing (safety & first aid); we'll update it ASAP.
 - Terry Marshall – Has the WWSA Board discussed putting on some of these trainings? Rick Peterson, yes; we met in Appleton about it.
- Study Guide/Exam Updates – Gundrum gave a progress report on DNR's License Exam and Study Guide Workgroup. They have completed a review of current exams and are in the process of completing the first draft of study guides for pump installer, well driller and heat exchange driller exams. License exams will be updated to incorporate changes resulting from NR812 revisions and will provide a more focused approach to exam preparation. Target completion date for these tasks is June of 2020 which will make study guides available in time for those individuals who wish to prepare for and take a license exam in August.

Terry Marshall – Are you allowing retired/advisory members to comment? YES! He will review this weekend and respond to Bob.

Mike Hanten – Example questions the same that will be on the exam? Bob – Not exactly. From what I've seen, I really like it; we're going in the right direction. Keep up the good work!

e. Compliance and Enforcement Activities (Nessman/Fetter)

Compliance (Nessman)

Track the field inspections quarterly, but by the fiscal year (7/1-6/30)

Numbers on the chart (attached at the end of this document)

Enforcement (Fetter)

9 NONs from field staff issued in 2020

2 NONs Issued by CO staff for reporting violations in 2020 (focus has been on getting reporting data entered into system)

1 NOV Pending (PTWI and possibly pump work using someone else's license #)

6 open cases – 2 NOVs issued and Enforcement conferences held in 2020

1 open case had 2 citations issued (2019), and has not yet closed

No new DOJ referrals, 1 Referral from 2018 still open and working through the process

Frank gave a general overview of the pending case.

Pete Chase - Are abandonment reports available online? Yes!

<https://dnr.wi.gov/warsreport/report>

f. NR 812 Revisions (Lehmann/Fetter)

- Remaining Steps and Timeline – Rules are being reviewed by final legislative committee. Effective date expected to be June 1, 2020. Could be delayed until July 1 due to COVID-19.
- Training/Implementation Plans – Communication will begin to rollout on April 20, once we know the rule language has passed all legislative review.

- Future Revisions – New Scope Statement approved by NRB in February. DNR convened a PVC Study Group to include Wisconsin well drillers, to collectively learn about PVC casing issues and inform new rulemaking process. First meeting March 2, second postponed.

6. **WGNHS Updates** – Pete Chase

- WGNHS was pretty quick to put everyone on telecommuting (since 3/16), field work restrictions may be lifted starting next week.
- Plug for WGNHS website year in summary. WGNHS.WISC.EDU...
- Contracting with drillers: >\$250,000 with WI drillers in the past year and received > \$1 million in funding for projects throughout the state.
- Anticipate a similar drilling budget for the next year
- Statewide monitoring network (10 new wells, 1 in Fox valley – cone of depression, a couple in Pierce county with rapid development (MSP bedroom communities), Grant, Lafayette counties and Chequamegon NF, especially around Pigeon lake (west of Drummond))
- Funding of an airborne EMP study southern Door & Kewaunee County using a helicopter flying a grid to provide depth-to-bedrock info to assist with revised NR 150 standards. Calumet & Manitowoc counties might be future, then Grant Iowa and Lafayette counties after that.
 - Related: using a drone to do thermal imaging to use IR images to help with depth -to-bedrock mapping

7. **Old Business**

8. **New Business**

PVC Study Group – Frank and Liesa gave an update. Next meeting may have to be online, and will be no later than June in hopes that the group can meet in person. Liesa let the group know about the website.

9. **Future Meeting Dates**

- October 2020 – central Wisconsin
- January 2021 – Wisconsin Dells

Compliance and Enforcement

FY 2020 Private Water Field Metrics					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Field Inspections:					
Total Field Inspections	584	498	358		1440
During Drilling	235	240	149		624
Pump Installations	27	37	15		79
Filling and Sealing	1	8	2		11
Total Core Inspections	263	285	166	0	714
Percentage of Core Goal:	27%	29%	17%		74%
High Capacity Wells	5	7	4		16
Variances and Approvals:					
Field Variances Issued	42	48	20		110
Landfill Variances (CO)	36	22	28		86
NPSV/Spring Box Approvals	21	30	106		157
Treatment Approvals	0	0	0		0
Enforcement:					
NONs (Field Staff)	14	23	8	1	46
NONs (Reporting - CO Staff)				2	2
EE Requests Pending	0	1	0	1	2
EE Cases Open	8	6	6	6	6
Citations Issued	0	1	0	0	1
Cases at DOJ	2	2	1	1	1