



Water Well Advisory Committee  
November 2, 2015

CH-6S-GREAT-LAKES Conference Room  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members present: Chad Brewer  
Tom Fountain  
Erik Kleiman (via phone)  
Dan Milan  
John Schmitt  
Buddy Sebastian  
Bob Webb  
Jim Welser

Members absent: Steve Buer (excused)  
MDARD Representative (to be determined)

Others present: Dan Wyant  
Jim Sygo (via phone)  
Liane Shekter Smith  
Dana DeBruyn  
Jim McEwan  
Anita Ladouceur  
Abigail Eaton

A. Welcome & Introductions of Attendees

- Dan Wyant, DEQ Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting and stressed the importance of stakeholder groups.
- The Director also highlighted the 3 guiding principles of the DEQ:
  1. Be leaders in environmental stewardship
  2. Be a full partner in Michigan's economy
  3. Provide good customer service
- Mr. Wyant also stressed the importance of staying focused on moving forward, listening to input, and building trust.

B. Reasons for Formation of and Tasks of the Committee

- The committee was formed to serve as a place of contact between the DEQ and the water well industry, where water well contractors can come to the DEQ with ideas or concerns.
- The committee will serve as the technical experts that other contractors can contact for help.

C. Historical Perspective

- John Schmitt gave a historical perspective on well contractor's registration and the Well Driller's Advisory Board (WDAB), and subsequent Ground Water Advisory Committee (GWAC).
- Mr. Schmitt stated that it is a very good idea to resurrect the group. The WDAB and GWAC were both effective groups.

#### D. Vision for the Future of the Industry

- The group shared their ideas on the vision for the future of the industry. Some of the comments shared were:
  - Never quit learning – we all need to be educators.
  - The contractors are the experts in drilling.
  - This is a team effort.
  - Communication is the key between the regulatory agency and the industry.
  - We need to come up with a list of goals, no matter how big the goal is.
  - Some contractors work well with local health departments (LHD) and others don't.
  - It would be nice to have a coordination of effort to deal with worst possible scenarios.
  - There is an ongoing need for training to keep relationships strong.
  - There needs to be more consistency from LHD to LHD.
  - There needs to be more uniform policies and procedures from LHD to LHD.
  - LHD/well contractor meetings and Michigan Ground Water Association (MGWA) district meetings are both good avenues to improve communication between contractors and LHDs.
  - We need to do what we can to get the MGWA district meetings active again.
  - Contractors need to have continuing education, which also helps future well contractors.
  - Wisconsin uses continuing education as a platform to discuss changes, enforcement actions, etc.
  - DEQ needs industry support and a strong justification to advance continuing education requirements.
  - Should DEQ enclose a newsletter with the annual registration renewals?
  - How can stakeholders sponsor and encourage education initiatives?
  - Regulation is necessary and keeps us accountable.
  - Increasing the annual registration fee could help us to focus educational activities towards active drillers.

#### E. Current DEQ Activities Involving the Well Industry

- Meetings with MGWA
  - The DEQ and MGWA have met 5 times and discussed 4 main topics:
    1. Well record signature language.
    2. Continuing education.
    3. NSF certification/clarification – a policy/procedure may need to be developed until a rule change can occur.
    4. Closed loop geothermal.
- Training Activities
  - The DEQ reviewed various training activities for LHDs and DEQ staff:
    1. MGWAs Ground Water & Wells Fundamental's course.
    2. LHD Training.
    3. DEQ Type I Engineers In-service.
    4. RAM Center – downhole camera training.
    5. Field Demos with contractors – RAM Center and others.
- Field Consultations
  - The DEQ discussed various field consultations with well contractors, including evaluating auger drilling, grouting and completion methods, and flowing wells.

F. Schedule for Future Committee Meetings

- The meeting schedule will be quarterly until work load lessens and it can be reduced to semi-annually.

G. Closing Comments

- Jim Sygo, DEQ Deputy Director, thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 3:10 p.m.