



## Director's Water Well Advisory Committee (WWAC)

Constitution Hall  
525 W. Allegan, Lansing  
Theodore Brown Conference Room  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
June 14, 2018

### MINUTES APPROVED BY COMMITTEE: 11-9-2018

Members present: Buddy Sebastian  
Jim Welser  
Chad Brewer  
Dan Milan  
Laura Doud  
James (Matt) Gamble (on phone)

Members absent: Steve Buer  
John Schmitt  
Tom Fountain  
Bob Webb  
Erik Kleiman

Others present: Dave DeYoung  
Anita Ladouceur  
Carolyn Kreiger  
Michelle Crook  
Mike Frederick

A. Call to Order at 1:05 p.m.

B. Introduction of Guests

C. Approval of Agenda – Approved as written.

D. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – Approved as written.

E. DEQ Update – James (Matt) Gamble

1. PFAS

- a. PFAS continues to require a lot of attention.
- b. DEQ is helping Kent County Health Department with well construction specifications in the PFAS areas.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Expired policy/procedures

- a. WWAC & MGWA agree to remove the expiration date from the expired policy and procedures.

2. Ant infestation through screened vent
  - a. Call in Guest – Dennis Jacobson, Merrill Manufacturing
  - b. DEQ requires a 20 to 30 mesh on the vents, and Merrill uses a 30 mesh.
  - c. Increasing the mesh size creates two concerns:
    - i. Reduced or eliminated air flow into the well.
    - ii. Reduced wire diameter thus reduced integrity of the screen.
  - d. Dennis to contact individual who has a breathable membrane that may be able to be installed in the top of the well under the well cap to keep the ants out of the well.
  
3. Geothermal statute
  - a. The deadline for comments on draft legislation was June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. The draft legislation is with DEQ Policy and Legislative Affairs and they will get back with the Well Construction Program following the summer legislative recess.
  
4. Part 127 statute and rule revision
  - a. Buddy reviewed MGWA's "Top 10" list.
    - i. Rig decals
      1. MGWA would like to keep the rig decals.
    - ii. Increase number of wells drilled to become registered
      1. For 50 wells or equivalent, "equivalent" means geothermal boreholes
    - iii. Contractor's exam
      1. Want more service questions on exam.
      2. DEQ is very open to that.
      3. Exam revision would not fall under a statute/rule revision.
    - iv. Statute of Limitations (SOL)
      1. MGWA will provide examples of SOL for other industries.
      2. MGWA will also provide some draft language.
    - v. Isolation distances
      1. This is related to the FOIA requirements at certain LHDs.
      2. This would not fall under a statute/code revision.
      3. DEQ encouraged winter contractor/health department meetings to better communication.
    - vi. Time period for DEQ administrative actions
      1. MGWA wants more frequent enforcement for well record violations. They also want well record violations to be handled outside of the usual DEQ enforcement process.
      2. DEQ explained their enforcement process.
    - vii. Isolation distance to sewage pump chamber
      1. The current isolation distance is 50 feet.
      2. MGWA wants 10 feet from the manufactured watertight pump chambers.
      3. The 10 feet deviation is already allowed. DEQ will get the information to MGWA
    - viii. Other rule requirements.

1. MGWA would like to see certain codes (electrical, plumbing, etc.) removed from Rule 112.
- ix. Grouting using neat cement
  1. MGWA wants Rule 137 to be reworded
- x. Revisit Nebraska Grout Study
  1. MGWA wants a joint department/industry task force to review the Study and make recommendations for Well Code changes.
- xi. Continuing education (CE) related to enforcement
  1. MGWA wants a CE requirement for contractors who receive an administrative enforcement action.
  2. DEQ already requires CE in certain consent agreements if the CE would be practical.
  3. CE requirement on consent agreements would not fall under a statute/rule revision.
  4. DEQ is open to MGWA providing written documentation on under which circumstances CE should be required.

#### G. New Business

1. Local health department representative replacement
  - a. Tom Fountain is retiring.
  - b. DEQ will contact MALEHA for a recommendation for 2 people.
2. Buried pressure tank and associated pumping equipment installation guidance
  - a. DEQ continues to receive several inquiries per year from both contractors and LHDs on what is the approved method/location to install the switch, etc. with a buried pressure tank.
  - b. Chad Brewer shared photos of various installations. He also displayed a model of what he installs.
  - c. DEQ is working on guidance and will share the document once a draft is completed.
3. Modification of P/P “Criteria for Approval of Water Well Equipment” – pitless adapters (PAs)
  - a. DEQ explained the existing policy procedure that requires NSF certification of PAs, and how the well code does not require it.
  - b. The majority and most commonly used PAs on DEQ’s current product approval list are not NSF certified.
  - c. WWAC agreed with the change.
  - d. Once the revised policy is signed by DEQ, Well Construction Program staff will contact those on the current equipment approved list to determine NSF-61 and “Lead Free” status. PAs status regarding certification will be added to the list afterward.
4. Kent County geothermal flow - tabled
5. Well contractor registration exam results and renewal status
  - a. DEQ reviewed the details of the last exam from April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

- b. 17 individuals received CORs
  - c. 71 contractors are still in nonrenewal
6. Enforcement update
- a. Antrim County Well Drilling Contractor
    - i. NOR was issued January 26, 2018.
  - b. Otsego County well drilling contractor
    - i. NOI issued April 23, 2018.

H. Other Business or Comments

I. New Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. Exam Modification

J. Next Meeting Date – Thursday, November 1, 2018.

K. Meeting Adjourned at 4:10 p.m.