



Director's Water Well Advisory Committee (WWAC)

CH-2S-WILLIAM FORD Conference Room

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

June 1, 2017

MINUTES APPROVED BY COMMITTEE: OCTOBER 19, 2017

Members present: Jim Welsler
Dan Milan
James (Matt) Gamble
Buddy Sebastian
Tom Fountain

Members absent: Chad Brewer
Steve Buer
Bob Webb
John Schmitt
Laura Doud
Erik Kleiman

Others present: Dave DeYoung
Anita Ladouceur
Elizabeth Kalnins
Dana DeBruyn
Sarah Howes
Mike Frederick
Eric Oswald

A. Call to Order at 1:08 p.m.

B. Introduction of Guests –

1. Eric Oswald

a. Eric introduced himself as the new Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division Director.

C. Approval of Agenda – Approved as written.

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

E. DEQ Update – James (Matt) Gamble

1. Open positions

- a. Two positions have been filled, one in Well Construction and one in Contamination Investigation.
 - b. One “temporary” Contamination Investigation position was also filled.
 - c. One specialist position in Source Water has not yet been filled.
2. Well Driller’s Advisory Board
 - a. The Governor did not sign the Executive Order to reinstate the Board.
 - b. MGWA will pursue Board creation via legislature.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Draft geothermal statute
 - a. The most recent version is on our [well construction website \(www.michigan.gov/deqwaterwellconstruction\)](http://www.michigan.gov/deqwaterwellconstruction)
 - b. MGWA no longer plans to act as the lead in advancing the draft statute and finding a legislative sponsor. MGWA requested DEQ take the role. Sarah Howes agreed to submit a bill request.
 - c. A question was raised regarding whether someone representing home builders was invited to participate in the initial 2015 stakeholder process. DEQ will locate this information and report back as well as provide the entire invitation list to MGWA.
 - d. DEQ was provided draft comments from MALEHA. DEQ will review the information and make changes as necessary. If substantial modifications are requested, additional stakeholder involvement would occur in the future.
2. Ant infestation through screened vent
 - a. DEQ provided summary of Midwest states’ mesh requirements for vent screening.
 - b. There was a discussion regarding videos and photos of ant infestations and the need to educate the well owner when ants are encountered.
 - c. Dan will contact some of the manufacturers regarding manufacturing a mushroom style vent with a finer mesh screen. Wells with a habitual ant infestation issue could potentially use a flowing well seal to solve the problem.
3. Grouting secondary casing
 - a. DEQ reviewed Minnesota and Wisconsin’s liner code requirements.
 - b. Based on a query of Wellogic, there are less than 30 wells per year installed with liners.
 - c. WWAC decided that this is best handled at the local level by the local health departments (LHD).
 - d. DEQ will educate the LHDs on thoroughly reviewing well records where a liner was installed.

G. New Business

1. Status of P/Ps scheduled to sunset December 2016

- a. DEQ provided handout with policy/procedures that are currently active and those that are expired.
 - b. DEQ gave a history of the policy/procedures and why expiration dates were added to them.
 - c. WWAC agreed that the expiration dates should be eliminated.
 - d. MGWA will discuss the elimination of the expiration dates at their October meeting and provide feedback to DEQ.
2. Statute of limitations for enforcement
- a. There was a discussion on the potential need for a statute of limitations.
 - b. MGWA receives a few complaints each year from contractors regarding enforcement years after the well was installed.
 - c. DEQ does not receive any contacts from contractors or LHDs regarding this issue.
 - d. MGWA will share issues with DEQ as they arise.
3. MGWA & education
- a. MGWA is planning to institute a self-certification program for members and use radio ads to spread the word to hire a “certified” contractor.
 - b. MGWA may go from a convention format to an education conference, and have the fundamentals course at the same time.
 - c. The 2018 date for the conference is 2/22/2018 in Traverse City.
 - d. MGWA will be looking to DEQ to provide some of the presentations.
 - e. MGWA to reach out to MEHA and DEQ to reach out to LHDs for potential well drilling demo locations.
4. Enforcement update
- a. Plumbing and heating contractor in the Upper Peninsula
 - The contractor plugged multiple wells in the UP.
 - DEQ sent a cease and desist order.
 - b. Irrigation equipment installer in southwest Michigan
 - The company installed a pump in an irrigation well.
 - DEQ sent a cease and desist order.
 - c. Individual in northwest Michigan
 - Advertising a well drilling rig for rent with “verbal instruction”.
 - Violation notice sent to the individual.
 - d. Water well drilling contractor in southwest Michigan
 - The contractor had 177 late well records, 57 correction orders, and two sit-down meetings with the local health department in just over 4 years.
 - The contractor has agreed to the terms of the Consent Agreement.
 - Signature expected in the next 1-2 weeks.
 - e. Plumbing and heating contractor in central lower Michigan
 - A very long history of performing illegal water well work.
 - The contractor is not a Licensed Master Plumber, so cannot perform pump work.

- A referral to Environmental Investigation Section will be sent in the next day or two.

5. Hollow rod demonstration – contractor recommendations

- DEQ has received contacts from LHDs asking about hollow rod drilling.
- DEQ inquired if WWAC knew of any contractors actively drilling with hollow rod so DEQ and local health officials could watch them drill.
- No recommendations provided to DEQ

6. NSF certified muriatic acid

- NSF certified muriatic acid is available. However, if the acid is used at a high enough concentration to perform, the NSF certification doesn't apply.
- Dan will contact Mike Schneiders regarding the difference between NSF certified and non-NSF certified acid, and varying concentrations.

7. Rygan Corporation – Dearborn geothermal installation

- DEQ shared photos from Rygan's website and explained the technology.
- Rygan Corporation plans to install 200 500-600 foot holes at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn.
- WWAC feels strongly that this installation is a potential threat to the groundwater resource.
- It is uncertain if the materials installed meet the mechanical code.
- The City of Dearborn will have the final approval.

H. Other Business or Comments - None

I. New Agenda Items for Next Meeting - None

J. Next Meeting Date – October 19, 2017 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

K. Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.