

Advisory Council on Wells and Borings Meeting

WELL MANAGEMENT SECTION

Date December 3, 2024

Location Hybrid meeting, MPCA

Attendees **In Person:** David Duffey, Tannie Eshenaur, David Henrich, Bruce Johnson, David Kill, Melissa King, Michael Liljegren, Jordan Mayer, Danny Nubbe, Roger Renner, Michael Steffl, Joseph Stevens

Virtually: Richard Lamb, Don McKeever, Gabriel Sweet

Others Present: Jon Olson, Kelly Medellin, Teresa Purrington

Absent: Kelly Gribauval-Hite, Steven Traut

Call to Order

David Henrich, Chair, called the meeting to order, and asked Kelly Medellin to go through the roll call.

Approval of meeting agenda

David Kill made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Bruce Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Approval of last meeting minutes

Joe Stevens made a motion to accept the Advisory Council minutes from September 4, 2024. Roger Renner seconded the motion. David Henrich asked the council to vote on the motion to approve the minutes with those in favor say “aye” and those opposed say “nay”. Motion carries.

Old Business

Recap from this year

Teresa Purrington reported on a recap from this past year, including items completed for establishing charter for council activities, the Advisory Council SharePoint site, and rulemaking advice that included screen assembly workgroup and 4725 rule chapter. Council reviewed items not completed and suggested that limited master plumber license requirements should be a continued conversation. At some point, contractors won't be able to put in a water supply line, and plumbers don't want to do that. Joe Stevens stated that MWWA is writing a letter to the plumbing board that will hopefully give some answers as to which way to move forward, and

where DLIs authority lies. David Henrich stated that when this generation of contractors that are master plumbers are no longer around, there is no other pathway for contractors.

New Business

Advisory Council moving forward

Teresa Purrington reported on the Advisory Council plans moving forward, including the charter, future education topics and the 2025 meeting schedule. The charter will be briefly reviewed at the start of every year. Meetings will include old business, new business, an education topic, an advice topic and a council member open forum.

Teresa Purrington asked that the state agency council members rotate education topic presentations in the future. Roger Renner suggested a presentation on Fluoride and Don McKeever suggested Methane in water.

The meeting schedule for the 2025 meetings will be from 10:00-2:00. Meeting will be March 5, June 4, September 3, and December 3. The council agreed to strongly encourage attending in person and will keep the hybrid-option for members.

Education Topic: Gas Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Mike Liljigren reported on the Gas Technical Advisory Committee. The committee includes members from DNR, EQB, MDH, MPCA and DOR. Last legislative session, there was a moratorium on gas production without a permit and allowed agencies under GTAC to perform expedited rule making within 24 months, with a temporary framework before new rules. Jordan Mayer asked if this includes gas injection. Mike Liljigren responded that it currently doesn't, but this will be included in their recommendations.

Mike Liljigren went through the GTAC Directive, with the main one being to create a temporary regulatory framework for those who want to produce before new rules are adopted. Gabe Sweet stated that engaging the company that's exploring doesn't seem to have been addressed. Mike Liljigren responded that they've had some conversation with the company, but they have used consultants from other states, and now that it's public, they'll have a chance to respond. Gabe Sweet responded that he would caution at putting the full regulatory role out front before the discovery has been made. Mike Liljigren stated that they did have extensive conversations on this, but the thought of having an environmental review twice when other states are already doing this the way they're proposing. Gabe Sweet stated he would like to see the option for exploring without the full rule requirements for a test boring.

Mike Liljigren went through the GTAC timeline, and stated right now we're in Phase 3, Tribal Input and Public Comment. He also went through the DNRs draft GTAC recommendations. Mike Steffl asked what the estimated cost of a permit. Mike Liljigren stated that each agency has looked at permit fees. David Henrich asked if the Well Management Section will manage these wells. Teresa Purrington responded that the section would manage these wells within a new rule set, but the current recommendation is to repeal the authority to prospect for gas within Chapter 4727. David Henrich asked Teresa Purrington if there's a plan to handle this kind of

work in the section. Teresa Purrington responded that there would be budgeting in that area and the section would need to hire a subject matter expert.

Advice Topic: Advisory Council SharePoint site

Kelly Medellin reported on the draft Advisory Council SharePoint site. Kelly will send an email invite for member's access. This is a private site only for this group, no public access. Asked members to respond to survey as to how they would like to be trained on the new site. Training could be before or during the next meeting.

MDH Announcements

Water Policy updates

Tannie Eshenaur reported on Minnesota Drinking Water Action Plan. The Water Policy Center has received input from colleagues, other agencies, academic experts, water resource professionals, and the public. The plan is to have this completed in January 2025. Goals remain the same, but the measures have been refined.

Tannie Eshenaur reported on the southeast Minnesota Nitrate Response plan. Currently the agencies are implementing Phase II: Public Health Intervention. A campaign to promote testing starts in January 2025 and opening up more broadly after the Southeast Minnesota Water Analysis Laboratory has added capacity. One of the EPA directives was to provide a private well inventory and there are an estimated 12,000 wells not in the County Well Index. MDH will provide contracts or grants to support this work. Mitigation is led by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Danny Nubbe asked who maintains the point of use reverse osmosis system. Tannie Eshenaur responded that Department of Agriculture would provide maintenance for the first year, but after that, the well owner is responsible.

Tannie Eshenaur reported on the Clean Water Fund private well initiative proposal and encouraged the council to attend the Clean Water Council meetings, as they do have a public open forum and value input from stakeholders.

Rulemaking updates

Jon Olson reported on rulemaking updates for the Submerged Closed Loop Heat Exchanger (SCLHE) rulemaking. Stated that the notice is published, and the comment period is still open until December 12, 2024. Moving forward towards adoption.

Council Member Open Forum

The council discussed industry hot topics.

- Teresa Purrington reported on eLicensing. Working with OpenGov to get 28 of our processes in an eLicensing system. Well disclosures would not be included, as there are third parties involved. Joe Stevens asked if this system would provide email confirmations to the contractor and the owner. Teresa Purrington responded that the specifics of the new system are not complete.

Next meeting

Date: March 5, 2025

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: MPCA

Adjourn

Mike Steffl moved to end the meeting. Joe Stevens seconded the motion. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned.

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