

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WELLS AND BORINGS

**Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
625 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota
Freeman Building, Room B149**

September 5, 2018, Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Bruce Bloomgren
Chris Elvrum
Daniel England
Roy Forsstrom
David Henrich (vice chair)
Al Kean
David Kill
Dennis Koepp
Troy Kuck
Daniel Nubbe (chair)
Richard Lamb
Michael Liljegren
Haden Shipman

Members Absent

Byron Adams
David Duffey
Daniel Gibbs
Bruce Johnson
Brian Stangret
Mark Thein

Others Present

Kara Dennis (MDH)
Alex Martell (MDH)
Jeff Paddock (MDH)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 7, 2017, MEETING MINUTES

The Council recommends amending the minutes with oral exam results. Chris Elvrum made a motion to approve amended March 7, 2017, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and the amended minutes were approved on a voice vote.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2018, MEETING AGENDA

Chris Elvrum made a motion to approve the September 5, 2018, meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and approved on a voice vote.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Advisory Council Meeting Notices by Email – meeting notices will only be sent via email in the future.

B. New Well Management Section Staff.

Jeff Paddock, P.G., was introduced as the new Well Management Variance Coordinator.

5. OLD BUSINESS, UPDATES

A. Bored Geothermal Heat Exchanger (BGHE) Rulemaking Update and Timeline.

MDH provided an update on the BGHE rulemaking effort. The Advisory Council discussed changing the depth of regulated directionally drilled geothermal systems from 10 feet or deeper to 15 feet or deeper to maintain consistency throughout the rule. MDH is planning on changing this to 15 feet.

B. Environmental Well Rule Writing Updates.

MDH provided an update on the environmental well rulemaking effort. MDH will update the Council when a draft version of the rules is ready for review.

C. Legislative Updates.

MDH provided a summary of the legislative outcomes from the 2018 legislative session. Changes to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103I were included in a mega-Omnibus bill that was vetoed by Governor Mark Dayton. MDH is not planning to promote any changes in the next legislative session, but the proposed changes from the 2018 session may reappear.

D. Icing and Minnesota Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (MNELAP).

An update on the status of nitrate sampling icing requirements was provided. No nitrate samples have been rejected. MDH is asking for public input, with a final decision planned for October 2018. The Council had no input.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ideas on how staff can become familiar with directional drilling operations.

The Council discussed training opportunities for new staff to become experienced with directional drilling methodologies and considered how to be forethoughtful for other upcoming technologies.

B. Ideas for continuing education.

The Advisory Council suggested the following potential topics for continuing education in 2019.

- Perfluoroalkyl Substances general overview.
- Chlorinating/disinfection.
- Hydrogeology presentation/geology for the non-geologist.
- Manganese in groundwater.
- Reverse Osmosis water treatment.

C. Ground surface determination for environmental wells.

The depth of wells is important within the regulatory framework of the Well Code. Depth drives whether a boring is regulated or not and there may be different requirements for deeper wells or borings. The Council discussed whether engineered fill, stockpiles, tailings piles, and other nonnative fill affects the elevation at which ground surface is determined. In general, the Council agreed that measuring from the established ground surface, whether that surface is fill or otherwise, should continue to be the interpretation used.

D. Work completed date.

The Council discussed the challenge with timely submission of well construction records when there may be a variety of logistical issues that affect when a contractor is done with a project. One problem is that a well construction record asks for pump information, which may not be known for months or years after the date the well was constructed. There will be future conversations on this topic.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Suggested topics for future Advisory Council meetings.

- The inspection database.
- E-licensing project.
- Defining confining units.
- Doing away with Township-Range-Section and using GPS coordinates for well records.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.