

# ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WELLS AND BORINGS

## Virtual Meeting

### Monday, June 1, 2022, Meeting Minutes

#### Members Present

David Duffey  
Daniel England  
Kelly Gribauval-Hite  
Bruce Johnson  
David Kill  
Richard Lamb  
Michael Liljegren  
Jordan Mayer  
Roger Renner  
Steve Robertson  
Michael Steffl  
Joseph Stevens  
Mark Thein  
Steven Traut

#### Members Absent

Annie Felix-Gerth  
Daniel Gibbs  
Troy Kuck

#### Others Present

Anita Anderson  
Benjamin Barnard  
Kara Dennis  
Steven Diaz  
Tannie Eshenaur  
Corrie Floyd  
Justine Greene  
Avery Guertin  
David Henrich  
Robyn Hetland  
Tom Hovey  
Sue Lang  
Mark Malmanger  
Alex Martell  
Dan Miller  
Patrick Sarafolean  
Dave Schulenberg  
Jennifer Weier

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by the Chairman of the Council, Roger Renner.

#### 2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF June 1, 2022, MEETING AGENDA

Kara Dennis suggested adding an introduction of the PFAS Dashboard by Tannie Eshenauer as a topic. The meeting agenda was updated and approved.

#### 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF March 2, 2021, MEETING MINUTES

Mark Thein made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Steve Traut seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

#### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### **Introduction of new Well Management Regulatory Coordinator – Kara Dennis (Minnesota Department of Health [MDH] Well Management Section)**

Kara Dennis introduced Avery Guertin as the Well Management Section's newest staff member. Avery will oversee rulemaking projects and enforcement in the Section.

##### **PFAS Dashboard – Tannie Eshenauer (MDH Water Policy Center)**

Tannie Eshenauer provided background on polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) as an emerging contaminant. MDH has been monitoring PFAS in groundwater and surface water since 2002. MDH is in the processes of sampling all community water systems for PFAS. MDH has developed an interactive web map for the public to access information about PFAS monitoring in community water systems. The application also includes a dashboard with information about sampling status and the results for each community water system.

There are two options for private well users in proximity to a public water system that has been sampled for PFAS. Private wells potentially impacted by a single source of PFAS will be supported by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Private wells where there are no sources suspected will have access to information of accredited laboratories that can test of PFAS. This information is available on the MDH website.

#### 5. UPDATES

##### **Type IL Portland-Limestone Cement – Avery Guertin (MDH Well Management Section)**

Avery Guertin provided a brief overview of the Portland-Limestone Cement rulemaking project. The ready-mix industry is replacing Type I Portland cement currently authorized under Minnesota Rules, chapters 4725 and 4727 with Type IL Portland-limestone cement listed under a different ASTM standard. Amendments to the rules are required for the new Type IL Portland-limestone cement to be considered compliant. The changes are expected to occur within a year.

##### **Continuing Education Project – Corrie Floyd (MDH Well Management Section)**

Corrie Floyd provided updates on an improvement project focused on how MDH reviews, approves, and provides continuing education. Process improvement solutions focused on ensuring consistent and equitable learning experiences through the MDH Online Learning Center. The current process for reviewing and approving individual third party courses is not required by Minnesota Rules, chapter 4725. MDH will not require advanced review and approval of courses or activities and will inform continuing education providers what is required in rule for courses or activities that qualify. A voluntary survey sent to certified representatives indicated that learning preferences (virtual or in person) varies. These program improvements are not intended to eliminate MDH presence at in-person events but will provide more flexibility for consistent delivery of MDH-presented continuing education statewide. The Council was provided advanced notice that MDH will seek their input on continuing education topics as outlined in Minnesota Rules, chapter 4725.

##### **Bored Geothermal Heat Exchanger piping and Minnesota Rules – Kara Dennis (MDH Well Management Section)**

This topic was skipped and reserved for future discussion.

**6. SMART WATER POLICY DISCUSSION – David Traut (Traut Companies – Guest)**

David Traut provided feedback and observations on management of the Mount Simon Aquifer under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103G. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regulates this. David advocated for water policies that captures geologic conditions, factors at various levels (e.g., city level), leveraging other ways to meet the water demands of growing populations, implications of domestic infrastructure compared to nondomestic.

**7. WATER SERVICE LINE PLAN REVIEW – Anita Anderson (MDH Drinking Water Protection)**

Anita Anderson described water service line plan review and inspections. These are the water supply lines that connect a well to a pressure tank or building and are a piece of the plumbing in a water system. It is important these lines are locatable using tracer wire and are installed properly so they are not damaged. Separation distances and pressure testing are important to reduce potential for contamination. There is overlap in the regulatory jurisdiction of water systems. Licensed plumbers can prepare and submit plans and perform installations. Licensed well contractors are exempt from plumbing licensing and bond requirements when installing water service pipe from a well to a pressure tank. Plan preparation and design requires a plumber license.

**8. DARCY SOLUTIONS PRESENTATION – Alex Martell (Darcy Solutions – Guest)**

Alex Martell provided an introduction of the geothermal technology developed by Darcy Solutions that is designed to use convection of groundwater flow to transfer heat energy. A traditional geothermal system uses conduction to transfer heat. The Darcy system is designed to be installed in a water-supply well. Darcy Solutions first proposed these systems to MDH in 2019. Darcy Solutions proposed legislation to allow these systems during the 2021 legislative session. This legislation did not pass.

A submersible pump, heat exchanger, drop pipe, and temperature sensors are some of the equipment and components that go into a well as part of a Darcy system. Water is circulated in a closed loop within a well. A Lemco seal is used as a barrier between screened zones and to reduce heat recirculation back to the submersible pump.

**9. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Roger Renner reminded members of the Council that are licensed well and boring contractors that their meeting attendance qualified as one continuing education contact hour under the MDH-sponsored category.

**10. ADJOURN**

Mark Thein made a motion to adjourn. Joseph Steven seconded that motion. The meeting was concluded at 11:30 a.m. by the Chairman of the Council, Roger Renner.

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