

# ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WELLS AND BORINGS

Retirement Systems Building

60 Empire Drive. St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

Board Room 117

Tuesday, December 11, 2018, Meeting Minutes

## Members Present

Byron Adams  
Bruce Bloomgren  
David Duffey  
Chris Elvrum  
Daniel England  
Daniel Gibbs  
David Henrich (Vice Chair)  
Bruce Johnson  
Dennis Koepp  
Richard Lamb  
Michael Liljegren  
Danny Nubbe (Chair)  
Haden Shipman  
Mark Thein

## Members Absent

Annie Felix-Gerth  
Roy Forsstrom  
David Kill  
Troy Kuck  
Brian Stangret

## Others Present

Kara Dennis  
Alex Martell  
Bill Canty

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Danny Nubbe called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

### 2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2018, MEETING MINUTES

David Henrich made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2018, meeting minutes with the addition of Daniel Nubbe as a member present. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved on a voice vote.

### 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 11, 2018, MEETING AGENDA

Chris Elvrum made a motion to approve the December 11, 2018, meeting agenda with the addition of a brief discussion concerning 2019 continuing education contact hours. The motion was seconded and approved on a voice vote.

### 4. EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Alex Martell distributed expense report forms and requested that members complete and return them in a timely manner.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. Advisory Council on Wells and Borings Open Meetings**

Advisory council meetings are open to the public except for the oral exam portions. If a member of the public would like to attend a meeting or propose a topic, they are able to do so.

**B. E-Licensing Project**

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is working on an online system for license renewal, referred to as the Licensing and Credentialing System (LCS). The new system is scheduled to roll out to the Well Management Section (WMS) in 2019. Licensed contractors will need to create an LCS profile in order to renew their licenses. WMS is also investigating the use of tablets for field inspectors. The e-Wells program is non-operational. WMS will work on finding funding options in order to fund the completion of the e-Wells application.

**C. Open Positions on the Advisory Council on Wells and Borings**

There are several advisory council terms expiring in January 2019. For those who can serve an additional term, Alex will email out directions on how to apply. For those who are no longer eligible to serve on the advisory council because of term limits, they will be asked to attend the March 6, 2018, advisory council meeting in order to receive recognition of their service and to help transition new council members.

**6. UPDATES**

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

The proposed BGHE are ready for the Notice of Intent to Adopt, pending MDH legal review.

**B. Environmental Well Rule Writing and Updates**

MDH is in the preliminary stages of environmental well rule writing. MDH plans to assemble an advisory committee to discuss proposed rules prior to the first public comment period.

**C. Legislative Updates**

The Clean Water Council proposed increased funding from the Clean Water Fund to help with well testing and treatment. Legislative proposals regarding wells last year did not pass.

**7. WELL NOTIFICATIONS AND LIABILITY – BILL CANTY**

Bill Canty brought up a question of who takes on the liability when a second contractor is hired to do corrective work. He was wondering if a second company submits a second notification, then does the liability of failure fall on the second contractor or the original contractor. The advisory council did not reach a consensus and Chris Elvrum will ask MDH legal counsel and report back.

**8. CPT BORINGS AND SEALING – RICHARD LAMB**

Richard Lamb provided an overview of CPT technology and a few of the methods that the Minnesota Department of Transportation has experimented with to ensure the borings are properly sealed, according to Minnesota Rules, chapter 4725.

**9. ORAL EXAMS**

**Derek Schweitzer**

**10. ENVIRONMENTAL WELL SITE**

MDH asked for the advisory council's opinion on administrative, geographical, or other limitations for environmental well sites and notifications that may be submitted for long-term projects over large areas. No consensus was achieved. MDH will look into addressing this during rule writing.

**11. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**A. Communication Ideas**

Discussed MDH requesting email addresses for well contractors when licenses are renewed.

**B. League of Minnesota Cities 2019 Policy Document**

Chris Elvrum will talk with the Environmental Health division director, the Source Water Protection supervisor, and the MDH legal team to assess any MDH response to the League of Minnesota Cities' 2019 City Policies publication.

**C. Experience Requirements for Full Well Contractors**

MDH has received a complaint from a potential contractor applicant that the experience requirements for a full well contractor license are too burdensome. The advisory council disagrees with the complaint and did not support altering the current requirements.

**D. Continuing Education for 2019**

Advisory council reviewed the proposed topics for 2019 continuing education and suggested a presentation about nitrates and more information about perflouroalkyl substances (PFAS).

**12. ADJOURN**

Chris Elvrum made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.