

Tuesday February 23, 2016

Hosted by the DEC

1st floor conference room 555 Cordova St. Anchorage with teleconference

Attendees in Anchorage: Charley Palmer (DEC), Chris Miller (DEC), Roy Robertson (DEC), Wayne Westberg (WWC), David Schade (DNR), Roy Ireland (Private Hydrologist?), Cara Shonsey (Private Engineer)

Attendees via teleconference line: John Craven (Public Water System Officer/Operator), Jacob Dilley (DEC), Lee Ice (WWC), Chuck Ice (WWC), Ted Schacle (WWC), Craig Seime (WWC), John Swan (WWC)

Absent: Jeff Ellison (WWC), , Rebecca Baril (DEC), Bill Kranich (WWC), Dan Brotherton (WWC), Angela Bolton (AWWU), Jim Munter (WWC), Pamela Goode (Private Citizen) James Squyres (Private Citizen)

Meeting Minutes

Facilitator: Jeff Warner

Introduction

- Roll Call
- **Other Business/News**
 - Charley - News:
 - New ground source heat pump standards, CSS C448-2016, found in NGWA Toolkit.
 - New North Pole Well Drilling Ordinance (Chapter 13.32), came out last year (2015).
 - A link to this new ordinance was added to the Private Water Wells Website.
 - Wayne: The North Pole Ordinance requires a permit in order to drill well, and does not cost anything.
 - Chris: They also require the submittal of well logs and documents.
 - John: They are trying to correct for the problems they ran into with the sulfolane spill, and not knowing where wells were located.
 - EPA news: focus on groundwater protection, four gas stations in Alaska were fined for inadequate line leak detection systems. Total of ~\$30,000 in fines.
 - Public Scoping Notice from DNR for input on regulations, 11 AAC 93.
 - David: It's a pre-scoping process for public input on the regulatory review. It will be open through mid-March. We are trying to understand how we can adjust and identify what risk factors are actually posing risks. This is being done for 11 AAC 93 as driven by Title 46.
 - Charley: Week of March 6th is National Groundwater Awareness Week.
 - Usually DEC posts an announcement.
 - Other:
 - Drinking Water spoke with APDES for pump test discharge requirements and possibly having them more broadly advertise their intent for the requirements. They responded that for them, the webpage is the best place for advertising.

- Agreed
 - Some typos and grammatical issues were identified and addressed to be fixed.
 - 6(K)(2): AWWA proposed – “...granules (*ie, dry grout method*).”
 - Charley: We define dry grout method in the definitions. Do we want to just add “cone shaped depression” to the definition, then say “using dry grout method” in this section?
 - Agreed
 - 6(L)(6): Add “***The local areal exception, 6(E), may apply.***” To the end of this section.
 - 6(M)(4): AWWA proposed after “...50%...” adding “***or more depending on the size uniformity of the aquifer grains***”.
 - David: Doesn’t the “at least” at the beginning already cover this?
 - Agreed to adding “***depending on the size uniformity of the aquifer grains***”
 - Section 8 Initial Water Sampling and Corrective Actions: AWWA proposed to add “***for water analysis***” to the end of this paragraph to clarify the type of lab.
 - David proposed: “State-certified ***water testing*** laboratory”
 - Agreed
 - Note, Charley: While making changes after the meeting, a problem with the placement of “water testing” is that we have a definition for “state-certified lab”, so injecting these words in the middle of the defined phrase would confuse the definition. So decided to re-word as “***water testing*** State-certified lab”.
 - Section 10(E): AWWA proposed adding “***...under the guidance of a groundwater professional experienced in the remedy of such conditions.***” to the end of the section.
 - Agreed
- **Discussion**
 - David: I will be submitting some documentation for review on March 18th, and would like it if we could possibly throw these documents (finalized) in with them.
 - Charley: I will have clean version with signature pages sent out quickly. We can set a deadline for March 11th to have them returned with signatures. After they have all come in, we will send them to David and anyone else who needs them.
 - Chris: We’ll start using these documents and referencing them at conferences and other opportunity we get. We can send them out to the communities.
 - Wayne: Steve Kaiser at the AWWA conference gave a few talks, and in one of his presentations he said that this is the best document he has ever seen. He said it’s the first time he’s seen an association of water well drillers not hide their head in the sands and avoid talking.
 - Charley: Licensing is technically the next issue on our list of topics. We aren’t ready to talk about that today. At our first Workgroup meeting in March 2013, we discussed that new issues may be added but only after we address the Issues identified on the approved list. We haven’t necessarily been great about keeping an updated list, and some of the issues are nebulous, but I’ve been going through the minutes and finding some of the additional issues that were brought up. How do we want to continue from here? Jim proposed some criteria that could help us determine as a group, when an issue arises, if it is something the group can and should discuss.
 - If action is needed to protect groundwater or public health,
 - The action is economically sustainable; and
 - A statewide need for action.

- Roy Ireland: Well have we answered the question that we originally posed? “Is there a problem? And if so, what can we do to fix it?”
- David: This group has been a great tool for communication. Allowing everyone to discuss the problems that are going on and understand where issues may be arising from.
- Wayne: Some of these issues aren’t ours to handle.
 - Charley: True, but there may be other things we can do than just fix them. We can provide suggestions, or bring problems to the right person’s attention.
 - Roy Robertson: We can act as the “squeaky wheel” that draws time and attention to a problem.
- Wayne: I feel we should work on addressing public well construction standards. This document should be used as a reference for regulations.
 - John: If we are being praised for this document, why aren’t we using it as a starting point for public wells then too?
- David: So for now the group needs to prioritize and provide recommendations. Decide what needs to be addressed next. Come July 1st we could possibly have a very different situation on our hands. DNR is getting a new commissioner, and there is a lot of talk involving the budget at the moment.
- Wayne: Concerning contractor licensing- the association has gone on record to oppose any licensing by the state. They do not identify that there is any need verified or proven.
 - Charley: It is a broader issue than that, and doesn’t have to be black and white. We’re also trying to consider how we find ways to encourage the public to use WWC’s that are educated and experienced. This was just a way to bring up the discussion of how we can do that.
 - Chris: We have references to “Contractor Look-ups” from the AWWA and the NGWA on our Private Water Wells website, so that is a good step in the right direction.

Wrap-up and next Meeting

- The group agreed that the next meeting will be held **March 29, 2016, 6:00pm – 8:00 pm.**

Action Items:

- Charley will finalize BMPs and send out with signature pages by next week.
 - With a deadline to have comments, signatures, explanations returned by March 11.
- Charley will send Final BMPs with signatures to Dave by March 18.
- Charley will compile a list of other issues brought up in past meetings.

Next Meeting is Tuesday March 29, 2015 6:00-8:00pm