

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**

DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Advisory Council on Well Drilling, Heat Exchange Drilling & Pump Installing

FROM: Marty Nessman, Private Water Supply Section Chief  
DNR Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater

SUBJECT: **Advisory Council Meeting Agenda**

Date/Time: **Thursday, January 28, 2021** – 9:00-10:00 am and 10:15 am-11:30 am

Location: Zoom Meeting

Meeting Agenda**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

- **Attendees:** Nessman, Fetter, Chase, Walker, Niewoehner, Kuhn, Burton, Hanten, Gundrum, Tessmer, Beiriger, Buttke, Farago, Lang, Haupt.

**2. PWAC membership and terms** – no one is on their 4<sup>th</sup> term and has an expiring term. Nessman recommended that everyone with an expiring term extend for one more term...all present agreed.**3. PFAS Update (Burton) – Gundrum takes notes...**

Last updated the PWAC in Oct 2019 – gave a refresher. See slides. What's new: see slides.

- Burton last reported on PFAs October of 2019 -
- Beiriger: From driller perspective, what part of developing rules may affect the private water industry? Burton – Drillers should know that they may need to address customer questions regarding PFAS. People need to be aware if there is investigation... be able to give information if asked. Recommendations on how drill if present. We want drillers to be knowledgeable about PFAS and developments. DNR would like to share information to the industry so they are aware of what and where the issues related to PFAS are.
- Hanten: We are already seeing inquiries and sample testing requests. PFAS has been found in private wells. PFAS has been found in private well in LaCrosse.
- Burton: common questions that people might be getting in the industry come up and department wants to work with the industry to help them to answer questions
- Beiriger: Real estate transactions and ruling may trickle down from who was responsible for the source to the property owner be responsible for dealing with the issue in a real estate transaction.
- Chase: Are there any special casing requirements in areas with known PFAS plumes?
- Nessman: none at the moment. There are some known areas, but department does not have complete understanding of the extent and data is not available. Department will not respond unless there is a clear picture of the scope and extent.
- Burton: PFAS is everywhere. Scope and extent is difficult to determine.
- Hanten: Will 16 additional PFAS recommendations be added to current regulations. Potential for add-ons for years to come.

- Burton: EPA is looking at requirements and it is being reviewed by current administration.
- Walker: This is still emerging, and we have no idea at this point how we will address a PFAS problem. If asked what should be done to mitigate a known PFAS issue, we would have no idea how to respond. We do not yet know what the construction criteria needed to address a known problem.
- Nessman: Would be case specific. You would need to contact the department - would be case by case situation.
- Burton: Just have conventional knowledge now but would like to work with people. Industry should contact regional representative when questions come up.
- Walker: Is PFAS more or less dense than water?
- Burton: We have seen in sand and gravel aquifers spread throughout – top to bottom.
- Nessman: It is somewhat hydrophobic – plume
- Kuhn: Will requirements be added to OTMs and NNs for testing?
- Burton: This part of NR 809 development – may be part of 2022 rule promulgation
- Hanten: This is a new category. Will not be part of SOCs.
- Hanten: Are the department's efforts on hold waiting for federal regulation.
- Burton: State will move forward and not wait for EPA or federal regulation.

#### **4. COVID-19 Pandemic – Impacts to Businesses and Industry**

- No discussion

#### **5. October 2020 Meeting Notes**

- Kuhn will call if there are any questions
- Fetter: notes are available at the PWAC web page where notes are available for review. Call if there are questions or comments.

- 6. WGNHS Updates** Pete Chase COVID-19 impacts on the survey. Preemptive furloughs (9 days total since the beginning of the pandemic. Statewide Gndwater monitoring network contracted to do 2 of 12 wells (Milw, and Rock Co.). Others, including dave, Buffalo and Waushara counties. Targeted areas near where water use has increased (irrigation wells and new suburban devel). Airborne electromagnetic survey in NE counties with shallow bedrock 2-3 week operation starting this week (Wx permitting). Depth to bedrock (important to DATCP) accurate depths, to 200-300' can help with Silurian Dolomite and Maquoketa shale formation locations. Ground-truthing with borings along a 3-mile stretch of the air route. Pretty much done with the central sands lake study in Waushara County. A lot of computing power and elaborate monitoring about turning on/off wells, etc. Public hearings on this in June. DNR webpage has some preliminary findings. Continuing with bedrock mapping projects in Green, Lafayette, Grant, Jefferson

#### **Counties.**

#### **7. DNR Updates**

##### **a) Staffing Updates (Nessman)**

- Sandy position vacant for 1 year, Mattias leaving Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Moving back to Sweden. No approval yet to fill as a full-time position.

- Position posted for new LTE for Sandy position. 22 resumes being reviewed.
  - Expect new LTE position to be filled around March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Position authority frozen until budget considerations complete.
- Field supervisor vacancy – Temporary assignments set to June. Hope to fill the position before June.
  - i. Position to be advertised and can be located anywhere around the state.
  - ii. Beiriger: Would it be helpful for the industry to send a letter to the Secretaries office to encourage them to make the funding available?
  - iii. Nessman: Will pass it on to Steve Elmore.
- b) Private Water Program Priorities (Nessman)
  - WCRs data entry improvements and geology coding – target January 2023.
  - Notification system – adding functionality. Survey in progress to determine improvements needed.
    - i. Farago: would be helpful to include high-cap notifications.
    - ii. Hanten: Data entry for labs through data transfer still not available?
    - iii. Nessman: We have a workgroup looking at current database (dated) as far as what needs to be upgraded. Would consider this as being part of that effort.
    - iv. Would make sense to have this process tie into public water capabilities that already exist.
  - For environmental licensing system, looking at adding capability to view continuing education credit status online. Increase this year in online license renewals. Paper application process has experienced delays that are being worked out.
  - NR 812 - Variance system to be improved to allow submitting variance applications online.
  - Maintain Industry Relationships:
    - i. Newsbits will continue.
    - ii. GovDelivery will focus on important issues that industry needs to know.
    - iii. Will record DNR update and post to website or to training providers.
      - 1. Looking for input on how to best serve the industry with these updates... Format
    - iv. Future rule revisions
      - 1. Possible internal/external workgroups to be developed to plan approach with pump installation.
      - 2. Well compensation currently does not address well abandonment grants or well affected by livestock waste.
      - 3. Any ideas in the industry on rule revision should be shared with the department for consideration.
    - v. Hanten: Who will be the keeper of concerns? Concerns should be directed to Frank.
    - vi. Fetter: Currently having tracking spreadsheets in place for this purpose.
    - vii. Hanten: Any discussion with WWSA on DNR content and what WWSA is doing online this year. Historically the department has been a part of that this should continue even though things are virtual.
    - viii. Beiriger: This is an important part of the WWSA offerings.
    - ix. Jennifer to contact Nessman to get this set up. Would be 1 hour on DNR updates.

- x. Hanten: Refresher once a year on NR 812 is a good idea.
- c) Licensing (Gundrum)
  - 2020 Licensing Data
    - Expirations
    - Retirement
    - Individuals taking on alternative career interests
  - License Exams:
    - Urgent Exam Request Process
    - Recent Pump Installer License Exam Results
  - 2021 Renewal Application Processing
    - Online Renewal Portal Processing
      - Upgrades for 2021 Renewals
      - Online Renewal data
        - How many renewed online for 2021 calendar year
        - How many renewed online last year for 2020 calendar year
        - Online renewal portal process - comments received
    - Mailed Renewal Application Processing – Status
- d) Dual Aquifer/Niagara-Maquoketa layer changes in Well Driller Viewer (Niewoehner)
  - Boundaries are for reference and are not regulatory boundaries.
  - GovDelivery message will go out when this is added to Well Driller Viewer.
    - i. Beiriger: There is no change then from what code requires - what you drill into dictates what you do, not the boundaries on the map.
    - ii. Chase: Hoping to get some electromagnetic data to support this effort. Most data acquired a covers region to the north of this.
    - iii. Lang: How will you notify drillers of this change?
    - iv. Nessman: GovDelivery message will provide update and extent of area the change pertains to.
- e) Compliance and Enforcement activities (Nessman/Fetter)
- f) NR 812 Revisions (Fetter)
  - Future Revisions – PVC Study Group recommendations
  - Beiriger: Want to make sure that when we make rule change that partnership is there with Industry and department before moving forward.
  - Fetter - may need to develop clear definition for “top of bedrock”

## 8. Old Business

- No old business.

## 9. New Business

- Length of meeting - extend by 1/2 hour? Hanten: if in-person, definitely; if virtual; maybe keep as-is? Kuhn; as-needed. Walker; OK with it as long as we're being useful with our time. Kuhn; determine meeting time depending on number and nature of agenda items.
- Nessman: Travel time to meeting is taken into consideration.

## 10. Future Meeting Dates

- April 2021 – Madison area (?)
  - Last Thursday in April is 4/29...Tentative date.
  - Compliance survey data to be included in April meeting.

- October 2021 – Location?