

Groundwater Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 18, 2019

Location: Annex, Montpelier

Attendees: Sille Larsen, Scott Stewart, Brandon Sereni, Everett Windover, Mary (Stella) Celotti, Dominic Reynolds, John Schaefer, Vaughn Jipner, Claude Chevalier, Ken White, John Hammer, Christina Thingvold Dutcher, Paul Lyman, Steve Dukette, Craig Heindel, Harry Locker, Gunner McCain, Colin Dowe, Rodney Pingree, Jon Kim, John Schmeltzer, Ernie Christensen, Michelle Eisenstein, Robert Pelosi, Steve Parker, Suzy Hodgson, Marjie Gale, John Beauchamp

Private Well workgroup

Sille introduced the attendees to the long term purposes of the Private Well workgroup: Providing a collaborative forum for professionals involved in private well matters to discuss technical and regulatory issues. The workgroup is going to meet quarterly. The first meeting focused on Act 161 that requires water quality testing for new homes/water supplies. Testing is now required since the Potable Rules are in effect as of 4/12/19.

We had several speakers presenting on topics related to private wells:

- Mandatory testing of private wells, Rule updates (Ernie Christianson, DEC)
- Water Testing logistics (Stella Celotti, VDH Laboratory)
- Results, Interpretation and Data Use (Sille Larsen, VDH)
- Man-made Chemicals; What, Where and How (John Schmeltzer, DEC)
- Water Treatment (Everett Windover, Culligan)

There were a lot of questions and great discussions generated by the attendees. We unfortunately ran out of time and had to cut the last presentation short. The link to each of the presentations is here – scroll down the Groundwater Coordinating Committee:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/water/groundwater>

Comments during the meeting:

Stella mentioned labs need to be NELAC certified and the Health Department lab does not currently have one kit for single family home sampling, including all analytes, but is working on creating one.

It was suggested during Sille's talk that the lab test report could be color coded (red/yellow/green) to emphasize the test result, with red numbers indicating exceedance of a health standard. The colors on the maps Sille generates denote areas that have enough sample

results to be statistically meaningful. Also, the well tag number is now included in the water sampling form and it was suggested to also add SPAN # along with Well Completion Report number.

Brainstorming general outreach to private well owners was mentioned as an important item for future Private Well workgroup meetings.

Other tasks/Next Steps for the Private Well workgroup:

- Work on FAQs and links to resources on various web pages.
- Look into presenting at stakeholder meetings – VT Association of Home Inspectors, Realtor or Legal groups, Public Service Announcements, TV, Radio.
- Dedicate time to continuing presentations/discussion around water quality treatment and outreach efforts.
- Brainstorm topics to discuss at future meetings
- Create a wish-list of presentations/presenters to be invited to talk at future meetings

Next Private Well workgroup meeting is June 20th at 1pm.

Our next meeting will be the regular GWCC meeting. Anyone who attended or was invited to attend the Private Well workgroup is welcome to attend our regular meetings!

Next Meeting May 16, 2019 - 1 pm at the ANR Annex