

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

April 12, 2016

Attendees:	Roger Thompson	Justin Willis
	Chris Russo	Peter Boemig
	Gunner McCain	Scott Stewart
	John Beauchamp	Ken White
	Darlene Autery	Ernest Christianson

Scheduled meetings:

May 18, 2016 AM with exact time TBD ANR Regional Office, 111 West Street,
Essex Junction

Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed and time was assigned for discussion of the revisions to the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules.

Minutes:

The minutes of the March 15, 2016 meeting were reviewed and amended. Ken asked that the notes related to well tracking numbers be corrected to state that the proposed changes include adding a well identification number to a previously unrecorded well location when the well is hydrofractured. An identification number should also be assigned to a well that has been abandoned, even though it may not be possible to place a tag on the well casing if the casing is removed or buried.

Ernie asked about the TAC support for H.595 which deals with the use of surface water for potable water supplies. Ernie said that he had received comments from several TAC members indicating support for the concept of allowing surface water sources for individual single-family residences, though the support included concerns about how comprehensive the treatment system should be and how to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the system. After brief discussion the statement in the draft minutes that the TAC did not support the bill as drafted is retained. The Committee hopes that if the bill proceeds there will be better legislative direction on what parameters should be considered when drafting rules to implement the legislation.

Span (School Property Account Number) Tool:

Chris said that she is working on the details of allowing a Department developed tool to search for SPAN to be posted and made available outside of the electronic firewall. The SPAN was

discussed in the March TAC meeting as part of a general discussion on the Draft Well Completion/Abandonment Report. The SPAN is being requested on the Well Completion/Abandonment Report in the new Wastewater Tracking System. The TAC had noted at the previous meeting that this information would be very useful to applicants and consultants, however the time involved in researching the number, which may involve searching town files, will limit their ability to provide the Department with the number if the number is not readily available from the landowner.

Electronic Applications:

Ernie said that there are ongoing updates to the new electronic application process currently being implemented sequentially by the regional offices. With a process that covers so many projects, some of which have unique features, these small changes are expected. The TAC asked about the need to identify isolation distances for wells in the application form when the distances are determined by the well type which is specified in the application form. There was also discussion about how to ensure that when a drilled well is designed, with its isolation distances being based on drilled into bedrock, the well is actually drilled into bedrock or the permit is revised to allow for a well not drilled into bedrock. There was discussion about the need for the designer who signs the installation certification statement to obtain a copy of the well drillers report in order to determine if the well was drilled into bedrock.

John said that it would be helpful if applications included information such as pump depth and pump size because this information is needed when designing some water treatment systems. One comment was that this information is often out of date after the water system has been in use for several years and that allowing a change in use that requires more water or installation of a treatment system would likely need verification of the system at that point in time. Roger asked about potential well casing leaks from rusting of the casing when the well has been installed for many years. Ken said that based on a lot of down-well camera inspections this has not been a problem so far. Ken also noted that excessive rusting is often associated with stray electrical current. Older wells were often used as the main ground for the electrical system and if the building electrical system is sending any current into the equipment ground cables it can affect the well casing.

TAC Membership:

Ernie said he would like to request that Ken be appointed to the TAC as a representative for the well drillers which was supported by the Committee. Ernie suggested Jeff Cueto as a possible replacement for Kim Greenwood as a surface water specialist which was supported by the Committee.

Ernie also expects that a subcommittee will be needed in the future to advise on the alternative toilet and gray water bill.

H.595:

Ernie discussed the “as passed the House” version of the bill currently under review by the Senate Natural Resources Committee. There are proposals to attach a provision that would require the testing of all new groundwater sources. The Committee noted that there are many questions about when and how to test because the water quality for initial withdrawals often varies from the quality after the well is used for a period of months. The general sense of the TAC is to not support a proposed requirement for water quality testing for a source serving a single-family residence prior to occupancy.

The bill also includes a provision to reduce the trigger for erosion control permitting from one acre of disturbed area to one half acre.

Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules:

Ernie introduced Diane Sherman, an Agency attorney, who is working with Ernie to review the draft rules. This process is expected to be completed in the next few months when the rules should be ready for approval by the DEC Commissioner and ANR Secretary. This will be followed by the formal rule adoption process.

Ernie reviewed some organizational changes suggested by Diane to drop unneeded references and to reduce repetitive statements in certain sections. Ernie said he has been continuing to make readability edits throughout the document. Ernie will circulate a revised draft as soon as he and Diane complete their review.

Ernie also discussed the issue of replacement areas when subdividing lots with existing buildings other than a single-family residence or a duplex when the design flow exceeds 560 GPD. Ernie suggested that all areas within 1000 feet of the building be evaluated for use as a complying replacement area before allowing a variance in the design of the replacement area. Gunner thought that building with larger design flows should look for a complying replacement area even if the distance to the area is large. After some discussion Ernie proposed removing the 1000 foot limitation.

Executive Committee: Steve Revell, Ernest Christianson, Roger Thompson
Alternates – Chris Thompson, Spencer Harris, Claude Chevalier, Craig Heindel

Subcommittees:

Hydrogeology

Craig Heindel, Bill Zabiloski, Mark Bannon, Scott Stewart, Steve Revell, Mary Clark, Roger Thompson, Peter Boemig, Ernie Christianson, Spencer Harris

Bottomless Sand Filters

Peter Boemig, Mark Bannon, Cindy Parks, Mary Clark, Denise Johnson-Terk, Craig Heindel, Ernie Christianson

Seasonal High Water Table Monitoring

Craig Heindel, Steve Revell, Roger Thompson, Ernie Christianson, Bill Zabiloski, Dan Wilcox, Mary Clark

Well Driller's Reporting Form

Rodney Pingree, Craig Heindel, Claude Chevalier, Peter Boemig, Mary Clark, Ernie Christianson