



Maine Groundwater Newsletter

"Keeping you in the Flow"

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Term expiring 2012:
Susan Smith - 839-3293
Joe Gallant - 839-3030
Mark Taplin - 374-5447

Term expiring 2013:
Harry Hanscom
825-4983
Tom Mason - 695-2493
Mark Weeks - 465-3753

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Safety Meeting speaker Bradley Kaherl of CMP gave a hands on demonstration of working around electrical lines.

Mark Your Calendars

Here are the dates which have been set for various meetings. MGWA Director's are usually the second Monday of each month. They are at The Grand Hotel, 375 Main St. (Exit 130 off Rte.95), Waterville. There are Director's meetings scheduled for Nov. 12 and Dec. 10.

The Commission will be meeting on Nov. 14 and Dec. 12. These meetings are held at 286 Water Street, Key Bank Plaza, in Augusta.

The NGWA Expo is in Las Vegas from Dec. 4-7

Find us on the Web at mainegroundwater.org

For questions on Commission business call Dave Braley at 207-441-5324

Electrical safety is topic of meeting

Central Maine Power Public Safety Coordinator Bradley Kaherl spoke at the Safety Meeting in Waterville on October 15, 2012 with 20 members present.

LOOK UP AND LIVE !!!!!

OSHA has some setbacks that are stronger than what many drillers have been using so it

Bradley reminded everyone how easy it is to fall into a pattern of doing things that are not really safe even though those things have been done before with no consequences.

Bradley spoke on specifics including how far drillers should be setting up from power lines, as well as discussing the 10-foot setback which has been considered the guideline. That guideline is being reconsidered and some setbacks are now going to 20 feet instead.

All drillers need to review these guidelines and review the new setbacks that will be in effect in 2014.



Ted Rolfe and Bonnie Roberts listen to the CMP Safety presentation.

Please see **Safety** on page 3!

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would be wise of us all to look up their guidelines as well.

The other big issue that Bradley touched on again and again was that just because you get away with a bad habit it is not what you should

be doing, STOP and think not only of yourself as you make that decision but also about your family and what they will go through if you make a fatal decision.



Ronnie and Mark Taplin with Wayne Weeks at the Annual Safety Meeting.



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Doris Poirier is New Commission Clerk



Doris Poirier is the new Commission Clerk and when asked to share some information about herself, she shared the following with the newsletter.

I was a stay-at-home mom for 10 years. This year marks my 10th year working at the State of Maine. I have been married for 24 years and have three children of my own; David, 21; Sara, 18; and Maria, 14.

I am currently attending UMA working towards my Associates Degree in Business Administration with only three more classes to complete! My son David is in the U.S. Army, my daughter Sara is attending St. Joseph's College in Standish, and my daughter Maria is a Freshman. I enjoy going to the rifle range, karate, crafts and shopping! In my spare time, I volunteer for Maine Army National Guard's Family Readiness Group (FRG) to help support our troops before, during, and after deployment.

I transferred to the Drinking Water Program in September of this year and am enjoying every minute of it. The constituents who call me are very friendly, and Terry Trott and David Braley are extremely knowledgeable and wonderful to work with. We make a great team!

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Pat Pratt elected president of NEWWA for 2012-13

The New England Water Well Association Board of Directors met on Saturday, October 13, 2012 for its Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn, Fitchburg, Mass.

The following officers were elected for the 2012 - 2013 year: President Pat Pratt, Bowdoin, Maine; Vice-President Paul Emmons, North Smithfield, RI; Secretary George Sima, Higganum, Conn. and Treasurer Dick Hatten, New Bedford, Mass.

The meeting was held to work on the 2013 Spring Expo, to be held on March 15th and 16th, 2013 at the Central Massachusetts Expo Center in Fitchburg, MA. This is where it has been held for the last two years. Problems with the hotel were discussed and they should be better as Holiday Inn is now the new owner and have opened up more rooms.

The show is two weeks earlier than last year and notices are being sent out to remind attendees of this.

The New England Ground Water Association Web Site is newwassociation.org

Annual Election of Officers and Directors

The election of officers and directors for MGWA will be held at the Annual meeting on January 12, 2013. Ike Goodwin is not running for re-election as Treasurer and at least one Director is not running for re-election as a director. Anyone interested in being on the Board of Director's should contact President Ted Rolfe. He will be appointing a nomination committee at the November Director's meeting, if interested give him a call. The Board of Director's meet the second Monday of the month, except January, July and August.

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Water Well Commission Minutes for August

MAINE WATER WELL COMMISSION
Minutes of August 8, 2012 Meeting

Members Present: Donald Robbins, Chairman; Tom Weddle, MGS; Joseph Gallant, driller; Dwight Doughty, DOT; Ike Goodwin, driller; and David Braley, DHHS.

Others Present: Paul Gauvreau, AAG; and Jessica Bishop, board clerk.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of July 13, 2012 meeting minutes: Dwight Doughty motions to accept the July 13, 2012 minutes as amended. Ike Goodwin 2nd the motion. Passed unanimously.

Pending Complaints:

Complaint received from: Anonymous
Owner is Mr & Mrs. Austin.

Allegation: Well drilled does not meet the minimum requirement of no closer than 100 feet to the leach field.

Well Drilling Company: Affordable Well Drilling

Responsible Master Driller: James Bisson

Commission Action:

There has been no response to the Attorney General's Office letter asking for permission to enter the property to perform an inspection on the well to look for a top seal and that the corrective action was completed as required.

With the Commission's prior approval at the previous meeting, Paul Gauvreau, AAG, will file with the district court an application for an administrative inspection warrant. The Attorney General will request the Court to authorize a

local law enforcement agency to be present when the warrant is executed.

New Complaints: None

Specialty Well Applications: None

Specialty Well Applications done "in House"
None

Exams requested: None

Examinations Passed: None

New Business:

Ben Jonson, the Code Enforcement Officer for Emden, called prior to the meeting asking that the Commission look over its regulations and advise him on calls that he is getting about the FHA requirement of wells no closer than 10 feet from the property line as he has many houses that have wells closer than 10 feet to the neighbor's property line.

Commission discussed and reviewed current regulations and concluded that there is no set back requirement from property lines in the rules, but Chapter 4 does anticipate drillers will work with property owners to locate the best spot on each site for a well.

The Commission cannot change a FHA requirement for financing but if the requirement is based on local and state standards, then Emden would be able to say that there is no such requirement or regulation on well distances from property lines.

Geothermal:

A specialty well application approval letter for geothermal systems has now been established and approved by the Commission. The Commission is still looking into what other states require that allow alternative materials when constructing a geothermal system.

Meeting Adjourned 10:04 a.m.

Water Well Commission Minutes for September

MAINE WATER WELL COMMISSION
Minutes of September 12, 2012 Meeting

Members Present: Donald Robbins, Chairman; Tom Weddle, MGS; Joseph Gallant, driller; Edward Bowie, driller; Ike Goodwin, driller; and David Braley, DHHS.

Others Present: Paul Gauvreau, AAG; Frank Haggerty, public; and William Fortin, public.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m.

Approval of August 8, meeting minutes: Ike Goodwin moved to accept the August 8, 2012 minutes as amended. Joe Gallant 2nd the motion. Passed 5 - 0. Ed Bowie abstained.

Pending Complaints:

Complaint received from: Anonymous Owner is Mr & Mrs. Austin.

Allegation: Well drilled does not meet the minimum requirement of no closer than 100 feet to the leach field.

Well Drilling Company: Affordable Well Drilling

Responsible Master Driller: James Bisson

Discussion:

The Commission viewed the inspection video from the August 21, 2012 inspection.

Paul Gauvreau summarized the status of the complaint investigation to date.

Findings of Fact:

January 19, 2012, written confirmation that previously ordered corrective action had been completed was received from Affordable Well

Drilling. The confirmation included submission of a Setback Reduction Notification Form and the installation of a liner and seal.

January 19, 2012, the Commission clerk, Jessica Bishop, contacted the driller by e-mail for clarification regarding the installation of the liner and seals, as the Commission's order of corrective action required "a liner and seals" be installed. The drilling company responded using e-mail, amending the initial submission to include two (2) seals being installed on the top and bottom of the PVC liner. The initial confirmation was purported to be in error.

On June 8, 2012, the Commission's independent inspector, David Philbrook, inspected the well. The drilling company declined an invitation to participate. The Commission determined after reviewing the results of the inspection during the June 13, 2012 meeting, that water was flowing over the top of the liner, an indication of either a leaking top seal, or that no top seal had been installed.

The Commission determined that the well should be re-inspected to verify the installation of a top seal by viewing joints in the PVC and requested that its independent inspector complete the re-inspection and report back at the July 13, 2012 meeting. The inspector reported to the Commission at the July meeting that access had been denied by the home owner. The Commission directed the Office of Attorney General to seek a warrant to allow the inspection. Subsequently the Maine District Court issued an administrative inspection warrant, authorizing the Commission to inspect the well to determine whether the driller had performed the required corrective action.

On July 21 the Commission's independent inspector re-inspected the well, with Commission Chairman Don Robbins assisting. The Austin's were present; the drilling company declined an invi-

Please see **Sept. Commission** on page 8.

September Commission, continued from page 7

tation to participate. The inspection was reviewed by the Commission at the September 12, 2012 meeting. The inspection showed iron staining on the inside of the PVC liner, indicative of flowing water. Using the location of joints inside the PVC liner, the Commission determined that the bottom of the liner appeared to have a Jazzwell type PVC seal installed, there was no evidence of a similar type seal at the top of the PVC liner.

Moved for acceptance by Ike Goodwin, 2nd by Ed Bowie. Passed unanimously.

Commission Action:

Affordable Well Drilling shall be notified that the Commission has determined that the top seal is not functioning as required by the Rules, 144 CMR 232, Chapter 4 Section 401.5.8 - "Jaswell" type seals installed on liners: When "Jaswell" type seal tips are installed on liners, they shall be water-tight and leak-free. The driller must take appropriate action to install a liner and top and bottom seal assembly that is water tight and leak free as required by the Rules. All work must be completed in the presence of the Commission's independent inspector. The driller must coordinate the work with the inspector and property owner.

Moved for acceptance by Ed Bowie, 2nd by Joe Gallant. Passed unanimously.

New Complaints:

Complaint received from: William Fortin, property owner.

Allegation: Well drilled by-passed a significant water bearing zone near the surface by the installation of extra casing, causing the well to be lower yielding than necessary.

Well Drilling Company: Moosehead Water Wells, LLC

Responsible Master Driller: Tom Mason

Discussion:

Mr. Fortin explained that he felt it was inappropriate for the driller to install extra casing to seal off near-surface water bearing fractures. Several members of the Commission explained to Mr. Fortin that near surface groundwater has a high likelihood of including bacteria, viruses and sediment and that the Rules require drillers to use professional judgment when determining how much casing is required. The matter was tabled until the October meeting to allow the driller to prepare and participate.

Specialty Well Applications: None

Specialty Well Applications done "in House"

Scot Patterson by James Philbrick Well Drilling, Inc. Well to be located 45' from on-site leach field, 60' from on-site septic tank, all others 100+ feet away. Approved with 120 feet of casing or liner with top and bottom seals.

Exams requested: None

Examinations Passed: None

New Business:

The process of hiring a new clerk has been initiated. It should take a few weeks to complete.

Frank Haggerty has been appointed by the Governor to the Commission seat vacated by Ed Bowie.

The Commission expressed its gratitude to Mr. Bowie for his years of service to the Commission and the Maine well drilling industry, and noted that the October meeting will be the first in the history of the Well Drillers Commission without a Bowie as a member.

Meeting Adjourned 11:45 a.m.

Critical Needs' report urges building of National Ground Water Monitoring Network

WESTERVILLE, OH — September 19, 2012 - The National Ground Water Association applauds a new report that urges building the National Ground Water Monitoring Network to help ensure America's critical need for sufficient water supplies.

Critical Needs for the Twenty-first Century: The Role of Geosciences was released this week by the American Geosciences Institute. Providing sufficient supplies of water is one of eight critical needs identified in the report.

Within that need the report specifically recommends, "Monitoring of surface and subsurface water quantity and quality with a focus on enhancing the National Streamflow Information Program and building the National Groundwater [sic] Monitoring Network."

NGWA has been a long-time advocate of the National Ground Water Monitoring Network.

In the United States, 78 percent of community water systems, nearly all of rural America's private household water wells, and 42 percent of agricultural irrigation water are supplied by groundwater. While the nation's people, food supply, economy, and ecosystems depend on groundwater, no systematic nationwide monitoring network is in place to measure what is currently available and how groundwater levels and quality may be changing over time.

"As with any valuable natural resource, our groundwater reserves must be monitored to assist in planning and minimizing potential impacts from shortages or supply disruptions," said NGWA Government Affairs Director Christine Reimer. "Just as one cannot effectively oversee the nation's economy without key data, one cannot adequately address the nation's food, energy, economic, and drinking water security without understanding the extent, availability, and sustainability of the critical commodity — groundwater."

Congress has authorized a national groundwater monitoring network, and proponents are seeking federal funding to build it.

"In the face of current and anticipated water supply shortages, public and private sector water professionals have put out the call over the years for increased groundwater monitoring and the dissemination of the resulting data to the nation — and the need to take action continues to this day," Reimer said.

NGWA, a nonprofit organization composed of U.S. and international groundwater professionals — contractors, equipment manufacturers, suppliers, scientists, and engineers — is dedicated to advancing groundwater knowledge. NGWA's vision is to be the leading groundwater association that advocates the responsible development, management, and use of water.

Groundwater is Critical

Groundwater is a critical component of this nation's water resources. Globally, groundwater resources dwarf surface water supplies. But because groundwater is out-of-sight, the resource is often forgotten or misunderstood.

Approximately 78 percent of community water systems, and nearly all of rural America, use groundwater-supplied water systems. In many parts of the country, surface water supplies are seasonal or unavailable, and groundwater is the only practical source of water supply. Groundwater also feeds streams and rivers, especially during peri-

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Groundwater Critical, continued from page 9

ods of drought or low flow, providing environmental benefits.

Approximately 42 percent of the nation's agricultural irri-

gation water is obtained from groundwater. While surface water and groundwater supplies are dwindling because of drought and water quality degradation, water demand to meet municipal, industrial, agricultural, and environmental uses is increasing. These pressures and many other contributing factors, including unpredictable future water supplies, changing flow and hydrologic patterns, limited surface storage capacities, and environmental challenges of constructing new dams and reservoirs, have led water managers to consider and explore alternative approaches to manage water supplies. A number of alternatives have emerged as viable and efficient tools for water managers to integrate and increase water supplies and provide better reliability, including improved water use efficiency, increased conservation, the use of recycled water, and managed aquifer recharge.

What is managed aquifer recharge and how does ASR relate to that?

Managed aquifer recharge replenishes groundwater supplies by capturing available water (during wet periods, during periods of low

Water supply shortages are occurring now and are expected to occur more widely in the future. Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) is a tool to help achieve water supply reliability and sustainability.

demand, or water that would be lost otherwise) and storing it in underground reservoirs called aquifers. ASR

is one technique, among others, to convey and store this water underground, in this case through wells for later recovery through the same well or a nearby production well.

What are some of the potential beneficial uses and features of ASR?

Twenty-six different applications of ASR have been implemented/ planned. Examples include:

- Drinking water ASR systems are used to provide a more stable water supply during drought.
- ASR is employed as a supplement to surface water supplies to meet peak periods of water demand.
- Stored water is released during dry periods to augment minimum stream flows and to maintain lake levels, thereby benefiting ecosystems.
- ASR is recharging aquifers, augmenting agricultural water supplies in some parts of the country that are experiencing declining water levels in aquifers.
- Industrial water users are benefiting from ASR storage of cold water in winter or hot water in summer, to modulate cooling water temperatures for industrial process control.

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Groundwater Critical, continued from page 10

Some of the potentially advantageous features of ASR include:

- There is no evaporative loss of water volume in ASR systems.
- The small footprint of ASR facilities makes it appropriate for existing built-out urban and suburban settings or for ecosystems where threatened/endangered species are a concern.
- Water quality can improve through ASR with regard to nutrients or aesthetic qualities (color, turbidity) in some systems.
- ASR enhances the utilization of brackish aquifers. Recharging a brackish aquifer with fresh water can improve water levels, reduce salinity, and increase water supply.
- ASR, depending on the situation, may be more cost-effective than above-ground storage in reservoirs.

Where are there case studies that can be looked to?

While challenges remain and obstacles must be overcome, there are examples of ASR projects

around the country that can be looked to and learned from.

Las Vegas: With 42 ASR wells, 22 injection wells, 103 million gallons per day (mgd) recharge capacity and 157 mgd of recovery capacity, this is the largest ASR wellfield in the world. Treated drinking water is stored at a high recharge rate during a brief period at the end of each calendar year when it would otherwise be lost from the water system under the state's water rights accounting program.

New Jersey:

Among the many ASR wellfields in New Jersey, the oldest is at Wildwood. Operational since 1969, treated drinking water is stored in four ASR wells during most of the year. On July 4 weekend when tourists from New York and other areas go to the beach at Wildwood, local water demand increases dramatically. A significant portion of this short-term increase in demand is met from ASR storage.



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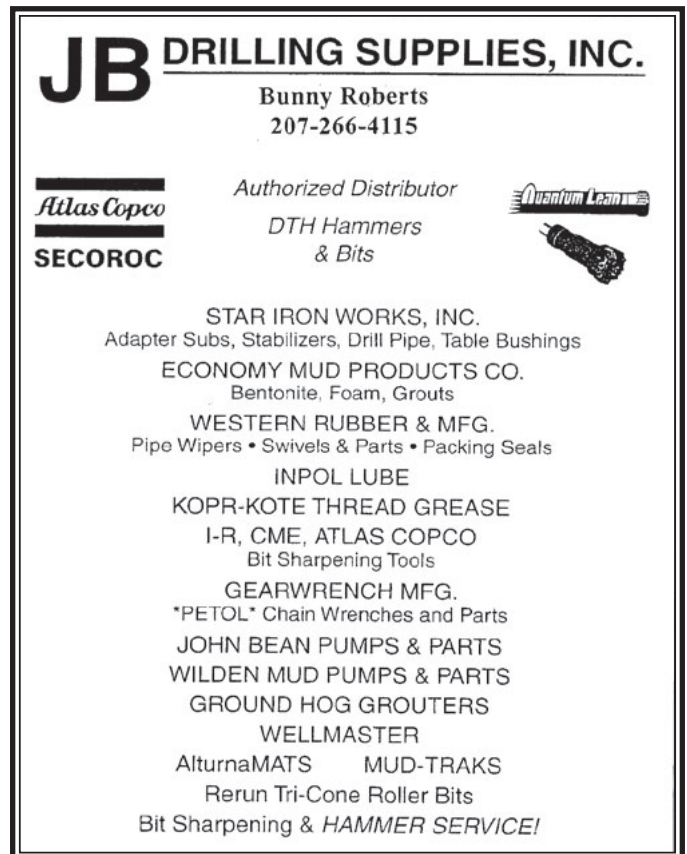
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National Expo slated from Dec. 4-7

We're looking forward to the 2012 NGWA Groundwater Expo and Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, December 4 -7 to
"Discover — Connect — Grow!"

It's here at the industry's leading annual event with its cutting-edge educational programming, an exhibit hall with the latest in equipment and technological innovations, a multitude of networking opportunities, and more that groundwater professionals from all industry segments and all geographic areas will gather.

If you are going to the Expo check with an officer or director of MGWA to see if they need delegates.

This newsletter is funded by the Maine Groundwater Association through member dues and advertising. Any member of the Association wishing to receive a newsletter may contact the president or treasurer of the Association listed on the front of the newsletter.

Find Us on the Web at
www.maine groundwater.org

Mark Your Calendars!
National Expo
in Las Vegas
Dec. 4-7

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