



State of New Hampshire  
**WATER WELL BOARD**



Peter Caswell, Honorary Chairman  
Roger B. Skillings, C.W.D. – P.I., *Water Well Contractor*  
David R. Hunt, *Water Well Contractor*  
Stephen R. Smith, *Pump Installer*  
Richard P. Schofield, P.G., *Staff*

Steven Garside, *Technical Driller*  
Rene Pelletier, P.G., *Dept. of Environmental Services*  
Frederick H. Chormann, Jr., P.G., *State Geologist*  
Steve Guercia, Certified Operator, *Public Member*

NH WATER WELL BOARD MINUTES

December 16, 2011

A meeting of the New Hampshire Water Well Board (“Board”) was held on December 16, 2011, at 9:00 AM, in rooms 113 & 114, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord NH, 03302.

Present were: Peter Caswell, Honorary Chairman  
Brandon Kernen (for Mr. Rene Pelletier, Secretary)  
Board Members: Stephen Smith, Roger Skillings, Steve Guercia, Rick Chormann,  
David Hunt, and Steven Garside  
NH DES Staff: Richard Schofield and Genevieve Al-Egaily

Chairman Caswell brought the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Pelletier entered the meeting at 9:06 AM.

Upon motion by Mr. Skillings and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to accept the Minutes of the September 12, 2011 meeting.

### **Complaints**

#### **Robert and Violet Hurtubise / Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.**

The Board invited Mr. Robert Hurtubise to the table to explain his complaint against Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.

Mr. Hurtubise stated that he had been having problems with his well. Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc. had been contacted about the problem and a technician had come to the house. He stated that he had not been at home when the work was being done. Mr. Hurtubise stated that they continued to have problems after the work had been done and they had to press the reset button every time they needed water. He presented the Board with the bill he had received which stated the motor had been replaced and a new Turtle cap had been put on the well. He stated that Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc. should have told him it was a used pump and they would need to come back to replace it and to fix the wiring or they should have waited until they could put in a new pump and replace the wiring. Mr. Hurtubise said they could have waited to get the work done because they had been getting water from the neighbors. He also stated that he had paid the bill when he received it but had not told Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc. there were still problems.

The Serviceman Isaac Gallant was invited to the table. He stated that it was a used motor which should have been, but was not noted on the bill. In response to questions from the Board he stated that he had installed used parts in the past when new parts were not available on weekends or holidays. He also stated that he had been told by Mr. Hurtubise to do what he needed to do to get the water back. Mr. Gallant stated that a new motor and new wire was not available at the time he had done the work because it was Saturday of the holiday weekend. He had also assumed they would be coming back so the additional work would be completed at that time.

The Board pointed out that the bill from Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc. stated the motor had been replaced, not the pump, however the bill did not state that it was a used motor, or that this was emergency work and the wiring would need to be repaired.

A motion was made by Mr. Guercia and seconded by Mr. Skillings, suggesting that Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc. compensate Mr. Hurtubise by refunding the cost stated on the invoice minus the cost of the new Turtle well cap.

The motion was amended by Mr. Guercia and seconded by Mr. Skillings, to instruct Mr. Schofield to place a written letter of reprimand in the file of Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.

The Board unanimously voted to accept the motion as amended.

### **Request for Exemption**

#### Denis L. Maher Co

Mr. Schofield informed the Board that a request for an exemption from We 604.05(b) had been received from Denis L Maher Co. for the decommissioning of a test well installed for Manchester Water Works in Hooksett. They are requesting to decommission the well using number two sand, removing the screen, and install a Bentonite seal, then covering it with native sand. The plan is to install a production well nearby.

Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier and seconded by Mr. Skillings the Board unanimously voted to grant the exemption.

#### Mark E. McConkey

The Board invited Mr. McConkey to the table to explain his request for an exemption to We 602.05(b) and We 602.05(k) for the construction of a gravel well.

Mr. McConkey stated that a new septic system was being installed at the Swansburg's property and the owners wished to replace the existing gravel well. However the 75 foot setback cannot be met. Mr. McConkey noted that the water quality in the existing well was fine.

Mr. Schofield noted that at this location there is a clay layer separating the upper sand and gravel aquifer from the lower sand and gravel aquifer. He noted that the rules for special methods of construction were implemented for bedrock wells and the homeowners wanted to install a drive and wash well.

The Board requested that the existing well be decommissioned by filling it with sand and sealing it with Bentonite grout.

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Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to grant the exemption.

#### Melody Bergman

Mr. Schofield informed the Board that Ms. Bergman was requesting an exemption to We 602.05(k) so that she could install a drive and wash well. The septic approval contained a condition requiring compliance with Water Well Board rules for non-conforming location. Because of the location, Water Well Board rule We 602.05(k) applies and requires a bedrock well to be installed with special methods of construction. Mr. Schofield reported that Ms. Bergman signed a standard release form so she is aware that installing a bedrock well would reduce the risk of contamination.

Mr. Dobrowolski of McDonald Well and Pump had been hired to install the well and stated that the water table was 24-feet below ground surface at that location; the overburden contained some clay, and was over 100 feet thick.

Upon motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Skillings, the Board unanimously voted that pursuant to We 602.05(k) the well was to be installed with a minimum of 40 feet of casing using the drive and wash method. However if 40-feet of casing could not be installed, different methods of constructions must be used to install the well.

### Licensing

#### License Applicants

The Board was presented with and reviewed the license application from Gregory Dragon. The only completed license application to have been received since the last meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Skillings and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board voted to accept the application and allow Mr. Dragon to sit for the exam.

#### Individual License Fees

*At the last meeting, the Board discussed possible changes to the licensing program which would give licensees the option of obtaining an individual license with a unique license number at a reduced cost rather than paying for a business license and holding the same license number as the business. The Board instructed Mr. Schofield to calculate the impact a reduced cost individual license would have on the program.*

Mr. Schofield presented the Board with calculations showing the impact of offering an individual license at \$50 per license and at 50% of the cost of a business license.

Mr. Cushing expressed concern that the cost to the Board of issuing the individual license would be more than the reduced fee.

Upon motion by Mr. Guercia and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board voted to implement the reduced fees for individual licenses at 50% of the cost of a business license, and individual license numbers.

#### Study Guide Updated / Exams

Mr. Schofield reported that the exam and study guide needed to be updated as they contained information that was outdated and did not contain any information related to the rules adopted in 2008. Mr. Schofield noted that the study guide had recommended using HTH products for well disinfection. However HTH products contain ingredients that should not be used in wells. He noted that he had rewritten the study guide and welcomed the Membership to review and comment. The exam still needed work and he requested volunteers to assist.

Mr. Smith volunteered to work with Mr. Kernan and Mr. Schofield on updating the exams. The Board also requested that Mr. Schofield insure the updated information was relayed to the new applicant.

#### New Business

##### Gravel Well Construction in Non-conforming Locations

Mr. Schofield noted that there were three issues: 1) Whether We 602.05(k) could be interpreted to apply to gravel wells; 2) If special methods of construction for gravel wells should be considered by the Board; or 3) If an executed standard release form should be considered adequate because by reading and signing the form the homeowner would understand the issues.

The Board discussed requiring 40 feet of casing to be used and impervious seal to be placed at the top portion of the well for gravel and dug wells constructed in a non-conforming location. They also discussed creating a table of reduced setback to be determined by the casing lengths.

##### Use of Bentonite / Sand Mix for Decommissioning Wells

Mr. Schofield stated that he had received an inquiry from Jay Wragg regarding the use of a Bentonite/sand mix for decommissioning wells. Mr. Schofield informed Mr. Wragg it was not currently allowed by the rules; however he would put the issue on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Schofield informed the Membership he had discussed this matter with Jeffrey Quinn, the Bariod Industrial Drilling Products Field Representative in the New England, New York area. Mr. Quinn provided the Board with laboratory test data on permeabilities of Bentonite sand mixtures, which show acceptable permeability values for "impermeable materials" up to an eight to one mixture of sand to Bentonite, respectively.

The Board decided that this would be an acceptable method of decommissioning a well as long as the ratio of sand to Bentonite was no greater than an eight to one. The Board also requested that a rule be drafted.

##### Existing Well Conversion to Dual Use Drinking Water / Geothermal

Mr. Schofield stated that he had been contacted regarding a concern about the conversion of existing drinking water wells to dual use geothermal systems. He noted that this would convert a well that was in compliance with the rules to a well that was not in compliance because it was not grouted.

The Board questioned the need to grout open loop geothermal wells and why the rules for open loop geothermal wells should be different than drinking water wells. There was general agreement to amend the open loop geothermal rules.

#### Administrative Fine Schedule - Reporting Violations

Mr. Schofield stated that the administrative fine rules had expired in 2008 and had not been readopted yet, so there was still time to make changes. He suggested changing the fine for failing to file well reports. The current fine was one dollar per day for each day over 90 days up to \$100 per report. He suggested amending the fine to eliminate the \$1 per day for the first 100 days beyond the 90 day reporting period so the fine would be the full \$100 on the first day over the 90 day reporting period. He also suggested amending the fine so a second offence of the reporting law within a five years period would result in a fine of \$200 per report.

Upon motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Guercia, the Board voted six to one to replace the old fine schedule with the new fine schedule.

#### Grouting Suggestions for Cable Tool Drillers

Mr. Schofield stated he has received a question from a cable tool contractor about the grouting requirements as they relate to cable tool drilling and he had discussed the issue with Mr. Caswell who had given him three suggestions. Mr. Schofield requested the Board's input before sending the suggestions to the contractor.

Mr. Schofield stated that the suggestions were: 1) To use Bentonite pellets; 2) Set eight inch temporary casing, install the grout into the casing and then install the six inch permanent casing into competent bedrock, then pull the eight inch casing and use Bentonite chips at the top; 3) or, Hire a rotary driller to set the casing and grout.

The Board agreed that the suggestions be sent.

#### New Disinfection Product – Sterilene

Mr. Schofield stated he had met with Mr. Dave Hanson and presented the Board with an information sheet on Sterilene a new product for disinfecting wells. Sterilene is NSF 60 certified.

The Board noted that Chlorine was not effective in killing bacteria in a well with a high pH level.

#### Other

Mr. Schofield noted that there was no additional new business.

#### **Old Business**

#### Well Siting Rules Committee

Mr. Schofield updated the Board on the progress the Well Siting Committee had made and gave the Board an overview of some of the recommendations. The Subsurface Systems Bureau is now putting a condition on their approvals that wells must be in compliance with the Water Well Board rules for special methods of construction when a protective well radius crosses a property line. He stated that the Committee had discussed suggesting to the Board that they adopt a rule stating that a water well contractor must comply with the site plan's approved well location. They discussed having training with the subsurface system designers on access issues for drilling equipment and they had also discussed change of use, NHDOT rights-of-way, and setbacks for sewer lines.

#### Fair Point Listings

Mr. Schofield reported that he had contacted Fair Point. The phone book is now published by Super Media LLC and the notice stating that water well contractors and pump installers in NH must be licensed will be published in the 2013 addition.

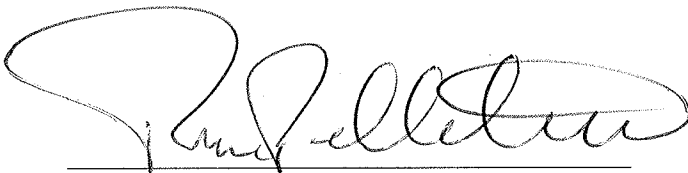
#### Other

Mr. Schofield asked the Board if they wanted any changes to the dates he had set for next year's meeting. The Board did not want any changes.

#### Elections

Mr. Skillings was elected to the position of Chairman and Mr. Pelletier was re-elected to the position of Secretary.

Upon motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Garside, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rene Pelletier", written over a horizontal line.

Rene Pelletier  
Water Well Board Secretary