

## **Well Driller's Meeting**

**Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017**

**Location: MGS 17 Elkins Lane, Augusta, ME**

**Attendees:** Commission Members:

Dwight Doughty, Hydrogeologist, DOT, Chairman

David Braley, Hydrogeologist, MeCDC

Mike Otley, Public Member

Joe Gallant, Master Well Driller

Frank Hegarty, Master Well Driller

Absent: Daniel Locke, Hydrogeologist, Maine Geological Survey

Legal Counsel, Deanna White, AAG

**Minutes prepared by:** David Braley

### **PROCEEDINGS:**

Dwight Doughty - Meeting called to order at 9:03 A.M.

### **TOPIC: February 2017 Meeting**

Motion: Mike motioned to approve the March minutes. Joe 2<sup>nd</sup>

Vote: Unanimous to approve minutes, Doughty recused.

### **TOPIC: Specialty Well Applications**

None

### **TOPIC: Exam Applications**

James Richardson - Journeyman Pump Installer Exam Application

Motion: Joe motioned to approve to sit for exam. Frank 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Vote: Unanimous to approve

Justin Butterfield - Journeyman Pump Installer Exam Application

Motion: Joe motions to approve to site for exam. Frank 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

**TOPIC: Complaints:**

Maine Drinking Water Program vs Danny Marquis/Marquis Well Drilling: The Commission received an email complaint regarding the installation of a drinking water well to be used as a public water supply source without prior approval from the Drinking Water Program. The driller/company is Danny Marquis, Marquis Well Drilling. The well was drilled at the Lister-Knowlton VFW in Caribou. The Commission will request more information from the driller.

**TOPIC: Other Business**

The Commission reviewed the Master Well Driller and Master Pump Installer license applications from James Duncan, The Stephen B. Church Company, Oxford, Connecticut. Mr. Duncan requested to be licensed without being required to sit for and pass exams using the Commission's authority to issue licenses after finding that the State of Connecticut has licensure requirements and regulations for the profession that do not conflict with Maine's. The Commission reviewed the relevant Connecticut statutes and regulations and determined that the State of Connecticut has adequate regulations and requirements for both licensure and well construction and that those regulations and requirements do not conflict with Maine statute and regulation. Mr. Duncan is licensed in Connecticut as a Water Supply Contractor, the equivalent of a Maine Master Well Driller, and as a Plumbing & Piping Limited Contractor, the equivalent of a Maine Master Pump Installer. The Commission determined that reciprocity may be granted for this applicant. Master Well Driller and Master Pump Installer licenses will be granted to Mr. Duncan, as well as the renewal of the Stephen B. Church Co. Company licenses for each.

The Commission discussed the minimum age for granting licenses for well drilling and pump installation, including Apprentice licenses. AAG Deanna White summarized the requirements of the Maine Department of Labor regulations, 12-170 CMR 11. Those state rules state:

- Children under 14 years old are not allowed to work as an occupation;
  - Children under 16 years old are not allowed to work on or near power driven equipment (drill rigs and pump pullers);
  - Children 16 or 17 years old are not allowed to work on or near:
    - Mechanical hoisting equipment (drill rigs);
    - Excavation operations (excavators and backhoes);
    - Welding, cutting, burning or brazing (cutting and welding casing);
    - Indirect contact with pesticides (chlorine is pesticide).
- There are no exceptions for immediate family members.

Given these state regulations it appears that the minimum age for licensure as a well driller or pump installer is 18. The Commission will make a final determination at its next regular meeting.

**Next Meeting: TBD, July, 2017 MGS 17 Elkins Lane, Augusta, Maine 9:00 A.M.**

**Adjourned at 10:05 A.M.**