



State of New Hampshire  
**WATER WELL BOARD**



Kelly M. Dobrowolski, *Pump Installer, Chair*  
Peter W. Caswell, C.W.D. - P.I., *Water Well Contractor*  
Scott Costa, C.W.D. - P.I., *Water Well Contractor*  
Abigail Fopiano, P.G., *Staff*

Bart Cushing, *Technical Driller*  
Rene Pelletier, P.G., *Dept. of Environmental Services*  
Frederick H. Chormann, Jr., P.G., *State Geologist*  
Steve Lamb, P.G., *Public Member*

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NH WATER WELL BOARD MINUTES

October 22, 2020

The New Hampshire Water Well Board will held a meeting on October 22, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. The Board meeting was held in NHDES' offices in Concord, NH.

Present were: Kelly Dobrowolski, Chair  
Board Members: Scott Costa, Bart Cushing, Rick Chormann and Rene Pelletier (telephonic)  
DES Staff: Abigail Fopiano

*Ms. Dobrowolski brought the Board meeting to order at 9:38 A.M.*

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Board reviewed the Minutes for the August 2020 Board meeting. Ms. Dobrowolski, Mr. Cushing and Mr. Chormann noted edits that shall be made. Mr. Chormann motioned to approve the August 2020 Water Well Board Minutes with revisions. Mr. Cushing seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to accept the amended August 13, 2020, Board meeting minutes with edits.

### **New License Applications**

One license application was presented to the Board. William Hackett is seeking technical driller license, specifically identifying direct push monitoring wells under Parrott-Wolf Co. Inc [new business for WWB]. Following review of the application, Mr. Costa motioned to allow the applicant to sit for the exam. Mr. Chormann seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the applicant to sit for the exam(s).

Ms. Fopiano commented on two applicants from the last meeting. Steve Fournier has taken and passed the pump installer exam. Matt Bean has yet to take the pump installers exams.

### **Probation Report**

Ms. Fopiano referenced three companies that were on probation: Tri-State Drilling & Boring (License #1762), Wash Well Company (License #1464), T&K Drilling (License #1516), and GeoSearch (License #1782) and discussed the count of reports from these entities during their respective probation period(s).

**2020-2021 License Renewal Update**

Ms. Fopiano presented the list of non-renewed licenses to the Board. The Board discussed the 2020-2021 renewal licensee list and the deferred continuing education requirement for the calendar year. Mr. Cushing referred to approximately seven firms on the non-renewed list and described observational knowledge that these firms were operating in NH during their license lapse period, noted for Ms. Fopiano that she be prepared to proceed with tracking compliance and update the Board so that the Board may take enforcement action, as it determines necessary. Mr. Cushing states that he has knowledge that 100s of wells have been installed in the Jaffrey/Peterborough area with no reporting over the last two decades even though the firms have been around for long enough to be aware of the reporting requirements. Ms. Fopiano notes that licensees have 12-months to submit for license renewal without completing a re-test for their license, but that the firm is still obligated to comply with standards and report records. Ms. Fopiano stated that the Board did not send a reminder letter to licensees in August this year, as they have prior years. Mr. Cushing states that no license reminder letter should be necessary as most of the firms should be aware of the relicensing requirement at this time. Ms. Dobrowolski states that this year was the easiest renewal year for most licensees.

**DES Enforcement Report**

Ms. Emily Jones of DES presented a brief summary for the Board on the enforcement actions initiated by DES for violations of RSA 482-B and the rules of the Board, We 100 – 1000. The report included an overview of the violations, DES actions and the status of correspondence in currently active cases. Ms. Fopiano describes, at length, installation of 15-20 dug wells installed by a non-licensed party (developer) in the Conway area, noting that a licensed pump installer completed the pump installs with non-approved (septic/sewer) pipe. Ms. Fopiano noted that NHDES is still pursuing information about the wells and subdivision.

**Old Business**

In its last meeting, the Board reviewed the summary of 2019 well reports and requested Ms. Fopiano prepare letters to 5 licensees who reported less well completion reports in 2019 as compared to previous years. Ms. Fopiano she had followed up with all five licensees and only one (Gould) has not responded with updates. She will conduct a follow up to further pursue Gould for reports.

**2021 Board Membership**

Ms. Fopiano states that Mr. Costa and Mr. Cushing were reappointed to second terms, and that Ms. Dobrowolski was not appointed to another term, noting that the DOJ has interpreted/determined that she has been appointed for two continuous terms and is not eligible for another one. Ms. Fopiano states that the current meeting is the last that Ms. Dobrowolski will act as chair for the Board. Ms. Fopiano states that Norm Harris (Gilford Well) has been nominated and appointed by the Governor's office to sit on the Board beginning at the December meeting.

After a brief discussion the Board decides to proceed with nomination of a new chair person. Ms. Dobrowolski nominates Mr. Scott Costa for chair person. Mr. Costa nominates Mr. Cushing. After a brief discussion, Mr. Costa declines acceptance of the nomination. Mr. Chormann seconds the motion to nominate Mr. Cushing. The Board votes to appoint Mr. Cushing the 2020-2021 Board chair person, the vote is unanimous with Mr. Cushing abstaining.

### **Meeting Dates for 2021**

Mr. Costa notes a change in the February date, and Mr. Cushing request to move back the August date (12th) to later in the month.

### **Legislative Item Update**

HB 667 related to private well sampling has been laid on table due to a legislative pause in normal business. Return of the bill for discussion during legislative committee hearings is not established as of the time of the Board meeting.

### **Update on Drought Assistance Program Initiative**

Ms. Fopiano provides a handout and brief description of the state's Emergency Drought Assistance Program, discusses its associated funding, and provides details on program eligibility. During this program description, a lengthy discussion was held on the issue of electronic submission of well construction records.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Cushing asks Mr. Chormann about information related to the USGS groundwater monitoring being done or completed in the Connecticut River Basin near Claremont. Mr. Chormann states that he is not aware of groundwater level data at this location or in the USGS or state database of groundwater levels. Mr. Chormann describes different sources of groundwater level data for the state. Mr. Cushing suggests that groundwater level data from bedrock wells should be included in reporting to the state's Drought Management Team.

Mr. Costa asks Ms. Fopiano about any well information related to water levels in Chester. Mr. Costa states that he's noted that static groundwater levels in densely developed areas may be lower. Mr. Cushing states he's observed lower static groundwater levels in shale rocks in particular where its present in the state. Ms. Dobrowolski notes that groundwater level decreases have not been consistent across the state and not perfectly aligned where mapped areas of drought occur, and further notes the need for more groundwater level data in the region. Mr. Cushing states that water conditioning work has increased due to increased home occupancy and increased water use. Discussion is held regarding comparison of this year's drought against 2001 and 2016. Ms. Fopiano states that a drought in the 1960s was one of the worst droughts on record and provides a summary of her historical knowledge of drought related responses at the state and federal level. A discussion is held regarding the pervasiveness of historic droughts, and lack of potential precipitation during the fall, and the possibility of a multi-year drought.

**New Business**

None is discussed.

*Mr. Cushing motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Chormann seconded the motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:44 P.M.*

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Rene Pelletier, Water Well Board Secretary