

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Well Drilling Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

The Well Drilling Advisory Committee (WDAC) of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) met at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2007, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

Visitors

Donald Ballard, Troutman Well Drilling
Tim Bilby, Crystal Pump
Erle Bishop, Technical Pump
Frankie Bishop, Quality Pump
Joe Bishop
David Boozer, FGWA
Griffin G. Crosby, Jr., FGWA/Crosby Well Drilling
Steve Fisher, Sarasota County Health Dept.
Sam Hanna, Sarasota County Health Dept.
Paul Panik, Manatee County
Earl Pruitt, Sr., Earl Pruitt's Well Drilling
Scott Riddle, Manatee County
Wes Rippenger, Manatee County
Gregory Shea, Crystal Pump
Wayne Wygant

Staff

Kurt Durham
Tony Gilboy
Heather LaRocco
Mitch Malone
Deanna Naugler
Bill Permenter
Holly Regar
Karla Sohaili
Kevin Stover

Members Present

Stuart Anderson, Chairman
William Toomer, Vice Chairman
Dennis Fourqurean, Member
Vincent Kuka, Member
Roy Lilland, Member
Todd Parrish

Recording Secretary

Patty McLeod

District Governing Board Member

None

Members Absent

Paul Pope, Member

Business Items

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Ms. McLeod called the roll.

Approval of October 18, 2006, Meeting Summary

Following consideration, Mr. Toomer moved, seconded by Mr. Fourqurean to approve the minutes of October 18, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Items

Water Well Contractors Selling Permits to Drillers for a Fee

A well contractor, Mr. Earl Pruitt, addressed the Advisory Committee regarding some contractors selling or obtaining permits for individuals that are not licensed. He felt that this is unfair as the licensed contractors are not supervising the work. Staff indicated that regardless of the contractor's oversight the contractor is responsible for any of the work or problems with the well.

The Florida Ground Water Association (FGWA) representatives, Mr. Boozer and Mr. Crosby, also heard Mr. Pruitt's concerns. Mr. Crosby stated that a contractor's license number is required to be on the drilling equipment. If the license number is not on the drill rig, then the contractor is in violation. He suggested calling enforcement to report the violation.

Water Management Information System (E-Permitting – WMIS)

Ms. Naugler discussed the release of the on-line WMIS Well Construction system and responded to contractor questions about the new revised system. Well contractors were advised to call the District's Help Desk if they have any problems with the new system. A contractor commented that the soils classifications are limited and no modifications are allowed in the system. Specifically, "silt" was one that needed to be added. District staff stated that enhancements can still be added as the system is still being developed and updates are released periodically. The contractors were very appreciative of the District's efforts in the development of the system.

Staff committed to a speaking engagement at the FGWA upcoming Trade Show in Orlando. The District's on-line WMIS system will be presented.

62-532 F.A.C. Department of Environmental Protection Proposed Rule Changes

Mr. Anderson made a motion to accept the changes to 62-532.500, F.A.C. as suggested by Mr. Gilboy. Mr. Toomer seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.

62-532.500, F.A.C. Water Well Construction Standards

4. For wells constructed using the combination method of drilling a bore hole and then driving the casing, the drill bit used to construct the bore hole must be equal to or smaller than the inside diameter of the primary water bearing casing. The bore hole constructed cannot exceed 21 feet in length (depth) before a primary water bearing casing is installed. Any annulus created must be sealed by adding dry granular bentonite around the casing at land surface. The use of a drilling tool, such as an eccentric bit or an underreamer bit, that is capable of drilling a hole larger than the inside diameter of the casing is prohibited when constructing a well by combination method, except as required in rule 62-532.500(2)(f)3, F.A.C., unless prior approval is obtained from the permitting authority.

Staff discussed several DEP rulemaking items, including requirements when drilling with a combination rig and the use of potable water when drilling the well. Most of the proposed DEP changes are already in the District's 40D-3, F.A.C. rule.

Open Discussion

The WDAC recommended a letter be sent to the District's Executive Director regarding the support they have experienced with staff and the development of WMIS.

Mr. Boozer suggested having another luncheon with the District's Governing Board members, Florida Ground Water representatives and the WDAC members. Mr. Gilboy recognized the WDAC members for their invaluable input to the District. Mr. Crosby said that the SWFWMD is the only District that supports the Florida Ground Water Association. It is really important that the drillers can come to the WDAC meetings and get continuing education units (CEUs).

Announcements

The DEP Workgroup will meet at the Cocoa Beach Hilton on January 26, 2007.

The next meeting will be held April 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Tampa Service Office, 7601 Highway 301 North, Tampa.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.