



Water Well Standards Advisory Council

**Georgia Environmental Protection Division
(Agent for Council)**

531 Main St., Suite D
Tifton, Georgia 31794
229-391-2400

Approved Minutes

GEORGIA WATER WELL STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dan Elder at 9:01 AM.

II. Check for Quorum

A. Council Attendance

- 1. Present:** Howell Clements, Kevin Colwell, Dan Elder, Greg Grosch, and Andy Pippin.
- 2. Not Present:** Jarrell Greene, Wayne McKinnon, and Raymond Wilke.

B. Others Attending the Meeting

- 1. Environmental Protection Division (EPD):** Jacob Elliott, Sydney Henderson, Caitlyn Holmes, Ethan King, Edward Rooks, and Irene Valli.
- 2. Other State Representatives:** Kathleen McCanless (Attorney General's Office).
- 3. Public:** Ben Kirsch and J. Penzo.

III. New Business – Proposed Rule Changes

Edward Rooks informed the Council of a requirement to notify the Legislative Counsel thirty days prior to voting on any proposed rule changes. That notice has not been made. In order to satisfy this requirement, as it concerns the proposed Water Well Standards rule changes, Mr. Rooks recommended that the Council make a motion to not vote on the proposed rule changes today, choose a new date, and plan to vote on the proposed rule changes in that meeting. The Council chose January 17, 2024 for their next meeting.

Andy Pippin made a motion to table the vote on the proposed Water Well Standards rule changes until January 17, 2024. The motion was seconded by Greg Grosch. The Council voted unanimously to accept the motion.

IV. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the meeting minutes from the September 21, 2023, meeting was made by Greg Grosch and seconded by Andy Pippin. The Council voted unanimously to accept the motion.

V. Correspondence

A. There was no reported correspondence.

VI. Reports of EPD

A. Site Inspections

1. Three water well contractor rigs or other commercial vehicles were inspected. All were found to be properly labeled.
2. One water well contractor office was inspected. Their license was properly posted.
3. One environmental contractor drill rig was inspected and was found to be in violation for not having a bond or letter of credit on file with EPD.
4. Since the previous Council meeting, no new agricultural wells were inspected.

B. Enforcement Actions

1. Eschol White & Sons Pumping and Electric, Inc.

On September 28, 2023, EPD completed an office inspection for Eschol White & Sons Pumping and Electric Inc. located in Eastman, Georgia after observing that the business was advertising pump services on signage posted on the building and at the roadside. EPD determined that the business was not currently licensed or certified to perform this work. EPD's records showed that Marty Brack of White and Sons Pumping & Electric, previously held a water well contractor license. Mr. Brack's water well contractor license expired June 30, 2021, and he did not renew. A Notice of Violation was mailed to Mr. Brack for advertising pump contractor services. EPD is waiting for a response to the Notice of Violation.

2. Stephanie Watson DBA Watson Drilling

On October 16, 2023, EPD inspected a geotechnical drill rig for Watson Drilling Services in Tifton, Georgia. Watson Drilling Services has not had a bond on file with EPD since 2005. On October 17, 2023, Stephanie Watson of Watson Drilling stated they had an active bond and would provide it to EPD. No enforcement action was taken.

3. Spell Well and Pump

A Notice of Violation was mailed to Danny Spell of Spell Well and Pump Service following a written complaint received from James Crowe on October 4, 2023. On October 20, 2023, Mr. Spell submitted a written response to this Notice of Violation stating that he is in the process rectifying Mr. Crowe's complaint and that Mr. Crowe agrees with his plan.

Mr. Spell also submitted a written response to his Notice of Violation regarding the complaint for Jess Hall addressed during the previous Council meeting. Mr. Spell's response stated that Mr. Hall's well was grouted, the job was complete, and Mr. Hall was satisfied.

C. Complaints

1. Spell Well and Pump

On October 2, 2023, Mr. James Crowe submitted a written complaint to EPD against Danny Spell of Spell Well and Pump Service for three wells installed by Brandon Creasy. Mr. Crowe's complaint stated that all aspects of these wells were not completed which he has paid for. On October 3, 2023, EPD met with Mr. Crowe and Mr. Spell to discuss compliance options and address issues with the wells. During this meeting, two of the wells were described by Mr. Crowe as incomplete or unfinished. Mr. Crowe described the third well's installation as finished or complete, but EPD is missing paperwork for required permitting.

On October 5, 2023, EPD conducted well inspections for the wells addressed in Mr. Crowe's complaint. The two unfinished wells (well one and well two) were found to not be protected from surface runoff, the upper terminal of the wells not protected by a sanitary cover or seal, the wells were not grouted, a well pad was not present, and well two was severely caving in around the outside of the well casing. The third well, which was described as having installation complete, was found to not be grouted, not protected from surface runoff, missing a well pad and caving in around the outside of the well casing.

On October 24, 2023, Mr. Crowe contacted EPD and informed that Mr. Spell was working on resolving his well issues. Mr. Crowe said that one truck of concrete was poured around well two, which was severely caving from the ground around the outside of the casing, and only filled the cave-in a little over halfway. A second concrete truck will be needed to finish filling it in.

On November 1, 2023, Mr. Spell contacted EPD by phone and informed that the third well now has a concrete well pad installed. Mr. Spell said that well one has been grouted, a concrete well pad is installed, and the drop pipe has been ordered so that they can install the well pump. The second well took a truck of concrete to begin filling in the cave-in area around the casing and will likely need another truck of concrete or to be backfilled

with dirt. He will also work on grouting, well pad installation, and pump installation for the second well once the cave-in is filled.

This is the second complaint in a 12-month period for Mr. Spell. Mr. Spell was informed that a bond increase of twice the required amount for a period of 5 years is required according to the Water Well Standards Advisory Council Fee and Penalty Table.

Dan Elder and Greg Grosch questioned the proposed backfilling of the cavity around the second well with dirt before grouting. They requested that the contractor ensure the well would be properly grouted. Jacob Elliott said he would notify Mr. Spell of this.

VII. Reports of Committees

- A.** There were no reports of committees.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A.** Seminole Well Drilling – Samantha Randle Complaint from June 21, 2023

On October 24, 2023, Danny Love Sr's renewed Water Well Contractor License was issued. EPD notified Mr. Love by phone that his license was in the mail and asked that he contact Samantha Randle about permission to plug and abandon the well Seminole Drilling attempted to drill for her. Ms. Randle notified EPD that she did not want Mr. Love to return to her property.

The Council noted that the well still needs to be properly plugged and abandoned by a licensed water well contractor. The Council asked Jacob Elliott to make sure Ms. Randle is aware of this and to offer to be present while Mr. Love abandons the well if she were willing to let him abandon the well.

- B.** Adams Well Drilling – Samantha Grey Complaint from June 14, 2023

On October 25, 2023, Samantha Grey informed EPD that the Layco sand separator was delivered the week prior and was expected to be installed by her irrigation dealer the following week. Ms. Grey will document the installation and monitor the well to see if it helps with the sand issue. She also mentioned that she still has a pressure issue with one of the wells and wants to know how that will be resolved by this sand separator. Ms. Grey also feels that she should not have to pay for the sand separator.

IX. Review of Applications and Licensing Report

- A. New Water Well Contractor Applications:**

- 1.** No Water Well Contractor Applications were received.

B. New Pump Contractor Applications

1. No Pump Contractor Applications were received.

C. New Water Well Contractor Licenses Issued Since the Previous Council Meeting

1. No new Water Well Contractor Licenses were issued since the previous Council meeting.

D. New Pump Contractor Certificates Issued Since the Previous Council Meeting

1. No new Pump Contractor Certificates were issued since the previous Council Meeting.

E. New Bonded Drillers Since the Previous Council Meeting

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Bonded Driller #</u>	<u>Date Issued</u>
Stephanie Watson	Stephanie Watson DBA Watson Drilling	153	10/24/2023

X. Announcements

- A. There were no announcements.

XI. Public Comments (5 Minutes or Less, Please)

- A. There were no public comments.

XII. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next in-person/teleconference meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10:00 AM at the Georgia Secretary of State Office in Macon, GA and via Zoom.

XIII. Adjournment

Andy Pippin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Greg Grosch. The Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 AM.