

MINUTES

MAINE WATER WELL COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 – 9 am

Meeting – IN-PERSON / ZOOM
18 Elkins Lane, Room 109, Harlow Building, Augusta, ME

ATTENDEES:

Commission Members: *(present - 6 / zoom - 1 / absent - 0)

Present:

Edward Bowie (Chair)
Master Well Driller

Alex Pugh
Hydrogeologist, DWP
Mary Szatkowski
Geologist, MGS

Mike Otley
Public Member
Bradley Tirone
Hydrogeologist, DOT
Jesse Goodwin
Master Well Driller

Zoom: Frank Hegarty
Master Well Driller

Absent:

Guests:

April Bledsoe
Private Well Coordinator
Jennifer Giroux, Eric Giroux
Complainant

Zoom Guest:

Minutes Prepared By:

Alex Pugh, Commission Member, DWP

PROCEEDINGS:

9:03 am

Review of Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – Monthly Meeting

Motion to approve meeting minutes.

❖ MOTION: Ed Bowie

2nd: Frank Hegarty

VOTE: Unanimous

Exam Applications: NONE

Specialty Well Applications – In-House Approval:

Alex Pugh reported that 4 Specialty Well Applications were approved in house.

Specialty Well Applications – Commission Review:

1. Raseillo-John Henry Swett Drilling

- As the well is proposed to be drilled 27 feet from the disposal field. A discussion occurred as to whether this would be approved.
- The Commission will need to approve of the techniques and the materials used. An inspector will need to be onsite.
- Pertinent citations 704.1 (grouting materials) 400.7.3 (technique)

Motion for application be approved with 120 feet of steel casing grouted in place.

❖ MOTION: Alex Pugh

2nd: Mary Szatkowski

VOTE: 6 yea, 1 against (Ed)

****SEQUINO-SUNCO SWA – commission review – TABLED/PENDING**

Motion to accept Specialty Well Application providing submission of 3 quarterly tests starting in May 2026; Goodwin/Tirone – Unanimous

****3 - lab reports:**

1. Rcvd - **May 8, 2026: A&L LABS -**
2. Rcvd - **August 4, 2026: Eurofins Environmental Testing**

Favorable bacteria and Nitrogen results were presented
3. to be sampled OCT-DEC

Other Business:

- Open Discussions:

a. MAGFILL usage ~ Jesse Goodwin – Tabled until next meeting

- i. The MAGFILL discussion was tabled with no objection

b. Update for Exam Questions, ~ pending review

- i. The general consensus was that the Commission should devote time in a meeting or workshop to come up with replacement questions.

c. EXAMS: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 @ 9:30am

- i. 286 Water Street, CDC Bldg., downtown Augusta
- ii. Eligible candidates will be notified by email

PENDING COMPLAINTS:

• Giroux-Affordable Well Drilling (received 8-12-2026)

- Jesse Goodwin recused himself for this discussion.
- Mr. and Mrs. Giroux answered questions. There were two hydrofracturing attempts. Chloride concentrations increased dramatically after the first attempt. Water erupted from the ground near the well during the second attempt.
- The packer was set at around 47 feet for the original hydrofracture attempt.

Motion to accept complaint.

❖ **MOTION:** Frank Hegarty

2nd: Mike Otley

VOTE: 6 yea, 1 recused

- **McCormack – Beverage Well and Pump (received 9-4-2026)**
 - Austin Beverage recently purchased a small rig from Mike Abbott.
 - In Austin's June 1, 2026, attempt to drill at 43 Stafford Circle in Newcastle, Austin found conditions where he determined he would need to abandon the drilling attempt.
 - Steel casing was left in the ground sticking up and the ground was left without any attempt to even out the mounds of cuttings, etc.
 - Mr. Beverage has not returned to cut the pipe below the ground surface level or landscape.

Motion to accept complaint.

❖ **MOTION**: Frank Hegarty **2nd**: Ed Bowie **VOTE**: Unanimous

Other business:

- The Commission discussed the need to improve the Specialty Well Application.
- The Commission discussed the alleged continued drilling activity of Mr. Libby after losing his license.
- The Commission discussed the need to require more details during the licensure application. In cases where it is not obvious, it should be the burden of the applicant to show that they were employed by the business that they are claiming they worked for to demonstrate accumulated experience. This could be in the form of a policy and could be reflected by the application.

NEXT MEETINGS:

MONTHLY MEETING:

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 – 9am, (In-Person/Zoom)

Location: 18 Elkins Lane, Room 109, Harlow Building, Augusta, ME

ADJOURNMENT:

11:20 am

Motion to Adjourn.

❖ **MOTION**: Ed Bowie **2nd**: Mike Otley **VOTE**: Unanimous