



IGWA Newsletter

Spring 2007

The quarterly newsletter of the Indiana Ground Water Association (IGWA)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Association has been very active since the November 8th seminar in Kokomo. Thanks to all who helped and attended! Here are a few things that have gone on "behind the scenes":

- A letter asking for sponsorship went out to manufactures and suppliers with four levels of support (\$\$), calls were divided between the executive board members to reinforce and make a more personal plea. **Our efforts were rewarded by Laibe Corp., a new Platinum Sponsor and Preferred Pump-Indianapolis and Preferred Pump-Larwill both as Bronze Sponsors. These sponsorships will enable us to proactively recruit new contractor members.**
- The new board had their first meeting by teleconference and it was a success. We plan to try this again because it certainly saves IGWA money and for those of us that volunteer, it saves us time.
- Our website and newsletter have been completely redesigned and updated and wait till you see our newly redesigned directory. It will feature great info in addition to a listing of our members.

President's Message continues on page 2

LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN SPONSORED BY NGWA

Mike Kaufman, Kaufman Well Drilling in Waterloo, Indiana who is the IGWA Treasurer and Donna Sheets, IGWA Executive Director attended the 10th Annual National Ground Water Association's Legislative Fly-In.

The program was kicked off with the 2007 NGWA Affiliate State Leadership Conference on Sunday, March 4 held at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. Monday, March 5, we met at the Capitol Hill Club across the street from the congressional offices where we reviewed the national message for the following issues:

LUST – Leaking Underground Storage Tanks: Funding needs—in a nutshell, \$211 million per year is raised through a fuel tax of 1% of \$.01 sold in the United States. Only \$70 million is actually appropriated to the states. According to the National Association of Convenience Stores, Indiana has 14,049 underground storage tanks. We are researching exactly how many of these tanks are leaking and need immediate action. The states have identified this as the #1 ground water contamination source.

Household Water Well System Program: The NGWA is one of a small number of not for profit organizations to receive a \$1 million grant to establish revolving 1% low-interest, 20-year loan programs (maximum amount of \$8,000), to households who are economically disadvantaged. Congress appropriated \$10 million over a ten-year period starting in 2002. The goal is to continue this program into the future with modifications. Currently the NGWA has drawn \$100,000 on their approved amount this fiscal year. There are many examples of loan recipients but the most common are single parents who have no in-home drinking water due to well collapse or pump failure. Indiana is one of 22 states participating in this program with the NGWA. According to Paul Humes, NGWA's CFO, they are processing a two Indiana loans at this time.

Ground Water Monitoring and Data Collection Briefing: There are 36 states that expect water supply shortages, either statewide or in certain areas, in the next ten years. The ability to drill large and small capacity wells in the future may hinge on the quality of the data being fed into models at the state and local level. The key objective is to establish a collaborative framework among federal, state, local and non-governmental entities to address data gaps on ground water resources.

Geothermal Heat Pump Systems: There is currently a \$300 federal tax credit for residential geothermal heat pump installation. The objective is to have the credit continue beyond December 31, 2007. Geothermal heat pumps are among the most efficient heating and cooling technologies available, according to the EPA's Energy Start Program.

On Tuesday, March 6, Mike and Donna delivered legislative materials to Ag Committee members Sen. Lugar and Rep. Donnelly, and Rep. Ellsworth who sits on the Ag and Small Business Committees. They also met with Ann Terry in Sen. Bayh's office and Brian Fauls in Rep. Burton's office. Rep Mark Souder and his Legislative Assistant, Brett Swearingen, met with them personally for 30 minutes. Rep. Souder, who is Mike Kaufman's congressman, was very interested in learning about Mike's business issues and asked for more information on LUST and how it impacts Indiana.

This was a great experience for Mike and Donna. Next year we would like to see more representation from the Indiana ground water industry. We would encourage you to work this into your budget for 2008. If you would like more information on these issues, please contact the IGWA office at 888-443-7330 or email ingroundwater@msn.com.



Mike Kaufman, Kaufman Well Drilling and his congressman, Mark Souder of the 3rd district

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President's Message *(continued)*

- Donna Sheets, IGWA Executive Director, and I attended a full-day seminar that focused on running and managing a non-profit board and came away with some new ideas.
- Mike Kaufman (Kaufman Well Drilling,) and Donna Sheets attended the Washington Fly-In during the first week of March. (Report on p1.)

Last, I want to encourage every member to promote IGWA. There is strength in numbers and as of this writing less than 17% of licensed Indiana well drillers are IGWA members... *that's right, I said less than 17%.*

Please encourage your competitors and suppliers to support IGWA. There is so much more we can accomplish together. Plans for 2007 include a return to either a displaying convention or a drilling expo and hopefully another educational seminar and scholarship drive.

We encourage you to become a volunteer on one of our committees. We are planning to meet Saturday, March 24th in Kokomo to lay the groundwork for strong working committees. Please register using the Volunteer Form on p. 8 and fax to the IGWA office as soon as possible.

Thank You,
Brad White, *President*, IGWA

IGWA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Fred McAninch, The Rig Doctors, IGWA Legislative Chair

On December 22nd, 2006 I scheduled a meeting with the following members of Governor Daniel's staff:

- Shannon Kiely, Governor Daniel's Legislative Director
- Andrew Norris, Governor Daniel's Legal Assistant
- Joani Howell, Rep. Bill Ruppel's Legislative Director
- Jan Zarich, Rep. Lehe's Assistant

Indiana Groundwater Association members in attendance were:

- Fred McAninch, The Rig Doctors, IGWA Legislative Chair
- Brad White, RJM Sales & Marketing, IGWA President
- Rick Ortman, Ortman Drilling of Kokomo

Also in attendance were representatives from the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

In my presentation, we communicated that although we may have the license plate issue settled (no complaints as of this writing), it was actually just the tip of the "ice-berg".

The following issues are still unresolved:

1. Height exemptions
2. Weight exemptions
3. Length exemptions

4. Width exemptions
5. Inter-state highway movement (never had this)

We still have the following exemptions:

1. Federal exemptions from excise tax for trucks for mounting new or used units
2. Indiana fuel tax
3. Federal fuel tax
4. Federal highway use tax

Under federal law and DOT rules, we are strictly off-road equipment, not trucks equipment. They count the carrier and drill unit as one.

We had a good and lively dialogue. As of this date, I have heard nothing as the result of our discussion. I will follow up on this issue. As of this writing, we are LEGALLY not LEGAL on many roads and highways due to the above. We received many puzzled looks of disbelief from our comments and remarks. We are hoping all was understood. They had a hard time comprehending that our small business industry affects over four million people in this state.

Should you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 317-839-7534. If you are interested in serving on the Legislative Committee or experience any issues that should be shared with our membership, please contact me at 317-839-7534 or the IGWA staff at 888-443-7330 or 317-889-2382 or via email at ingroundwater@msn.com.

We will post these items on our website and develop a call to action when appropriate. Thank you.

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IGWA Insurance Rep Moves to New Agency

Our IGWA Insurance Representative, Jeffrey Pikel, accepted a position at Frankenmuth Mutual insurance agency.

In partnership with Frankenmuth Mutual, Jeff has developed a new insurance policy that has more coverage specific to our members' needs and at a lower cost.

If you would like more information about our endorsed insurance program, please contact Jeff directly at 260-437-6303. His e mail is: jeff@dehayes.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Julie Gillen and I are very excited to be working with your fine organization. Your board members are very dedicated to the industry and your best interest. They are, like you, small business owners wearing many hats.

Over the past few months the board and I have made several calls to some of your supporting Manufacturer/Supplier Members requesting they become sponsors or advertise in our publications. The feedback we've received was unexpected. Many of them are willing to support the IGWA, but don't necessarily feel the IGWA supports them. When looking for new suppliers or equipment, please give our manufacturer/supplier members an opportunity to bid. Of course, they must be competitive with the quality and service to back it up.

Our Scholarship Applications are due April 30th, 2007. If you have a student who plans to continue their education after high school, this is \$500 they could use. Just give me a call and I will fax you the application or you can access it on our website at www.indianagroundwater.org. Take some time to check out our website. We will be adding information to it all of the time in addition to new IGWA members and suppliers whom you could build new relationships.

We hope you like the new look of the newsletter. If you have articles or information on your business that you would like to have included, please contact the IGWA office.

Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to working in partnership with you for the betterment of the ground water industry.

Sincerely,

Donna Sheets, Executive Director, IGWA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

check the website frequently for updated events

Saturday, March 24, 2007

IGWA Committee Meetings

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Johanning Civic Center, Kokomo
Register by completing and faxing the Volunteer Form (on p. 8) right away. *Help the IGWA chart the course for success!*

June 7 – 9, 2007

River Rally, Purdue University

A statewide conference for all citizens interested in the state and future of Indiana's rivers and water!

Presenters and workshop leaders are needed! Learn more about the Indiana Rivers Rally at:
www.riversinstitute.org/events/rally

September/October, 2007

Special Event – more info to come!

Do you have ideas for a Fall event? Contact the IGWA or an IGWA board member.



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IGWA MEMBERS EARN NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

The IGWA promotes professional certification. The following individuals have their national certification and are IGWA members whose business resides in Indiana. (There are 28 individuals in Indiana with national certification — 20 of these are members of the IGWA.)

The NGWA Well Construction and Pump Installation Certification Program, is the only national certification program for contractors and pump installers in the ground water industry. You may earn the **Certified Well Driller (CWD)** and/or the **Certified Pump Installer (CPI)** designation.

Governed by ground water contractors who understand the daily activities in the field, the program is designed to demonstrate pride in the job and to promote professionalism in the ground water industry. It is recognized as the leading program in the industry by numerous state agencies, which have adopted the tests for their own programs.

The NGWA program also features a designation of **Master Ground Water Contractor (MGWC)**.

IGWA Members Who Are Nationally Certified

Joseph L Armstrong, CWD/PI
Armstrong Drilling Inc, Burlington

John F Aufderheide, CWD/PI
Dean Well Drilling Inc, Indianapolis

John W Baker, CPI
Dilden Bros Inc, Lafayette

Mark A Hacker, CWD/PI
Hacker Plumbing & Drilling Inc Vincennes

Timothy J Hacker, MGWC
Hacker Plumbing & Drilling Inc Vincennes

William Hobbs Jr., CPI
Busby Drilling Company Inc
Anderson

Van D Kauffman II, CWD
Ortman Water Services, Kokomo

Michael S Magnin, CWD
Boart Longyear Contracting Services
Indianapolis

Orrin Martin, CWD/PI
Martins Well Drilling, Elkhart

Russell McDorman, CWD
Ortman Water Services, Kokomo

Michael Ortman, CPI
Ortman Water Services, Kokomo

Richard K Ortman II, CWD/PI
Ortman Water Services, Kokomo

Steven R Ortman, CPI
Ortman Water Services, Kokomo

Bobby A Roberts, CWD
Ortman Water Services, Kokomo

James A Rogers, CWD/PI
The HydroTech Corporation
Anderson

Kevin Scobee, CWD
Scobee Well Drilling, Greencastle

Larry Wiley, MGWC
Wiley Well Drilling Inc, Union City

Robert W Wiley, CWD/PI
Wiley Well Drilling Inc, Union City

Johnie P Wyatt, CWD/PI
Ortman Water Services,
New Carlisle

Jack Wymer, CWD/PI
Wiley Well Drilling Inc, Union City

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE IGWA 2006 SEMINAR & ANNUAL MEETING



*Lynn Krauchi
(center facing the
camera) meets
with colleagues at
the seminar*



*above: Bruce Moss,
Don Findlay, John
Baker, Beehler Kaiser
and John Aufderheide
enjoying a laugh.*



John Carper, Brad White, and Brad Helvie



Keith McGrew and Ron Shipe

ABANDONED WELLS

They are threats to resources and public safety.

By Christine Reimer, Government Affairs Director for the NGWA

Reprinted with permission from the NGWA. Article first appeared in the August 2006 issue of Water Well Journal.

As *Water Well Journal* focuses on safety, let's take a few minutes to look at some of the threats posed by abandoned wells, long a concern of ground water professionals, and some programs aimed at addressing those threats. Abandoned wells are recognized as potential pathways for contamination and possible safety hazards for children and animals. Abandoned wells may also waste water and pose liability issues for property owners.

This column highlights some programs that seek to address one or more of these threats. The programs include a mix of federal, state, and local efforts. They address abandoned wells generally or focus on certain geographic areas or well types. While not an exhaustive list, I hope the information is helpful and will encourage further discussion regarding the identification and proper decommissioning of abandoned wells.

Abandoned Wells in Community Water System Wellhead Areas — Michigan

Michigan's Abandoned Well Management Program provides grants to eligible communities to locate and decommission abandoned wells inside community water system wellhead protection areas. The grant requires a 25% local cost-share. Finding the 25% match funding is a challenge for some local communities, according to Jim McEwan, program administrator. The grants can be used for:

- Conducting public education and outreach
- Identifying the owners of property with abandoned wells
- Providing incentives for property owners to plug abandoned wells
- Prioritizing abandoned well plugging in areas of known ground water contamination
- Contracting with well drillers to plug abandoned wells
- Field inspecting the plugging
- Documenting active and abandoned well locations.

A total of \$3.2 million has been awarded through three rounds of grant funding. Approximately 500 wells were plugged

under the first round, with an additional 100 abandoned wells slated for sealing. Grant recipients in rounds two and three are getting projects under way, so those results are currently unavailable.

In the initial grant round, costs to locate abandoned wells exceeded plugging costs by a 60-40 margin. The search process has since been refined, and McEwan is optimistic the cost mix will change. The identification process now begins by generating a list of properties that were in existence when water lines were initially run. The list provides a starting point to locate abandoned wells. Well drillers, because of their knowledge and credibility, have proven especially effective in locating and encouraging property owners to plug abandoned wells, relates McEwan.

Grant recipients subcontract with contractors to seal the abandoned wells. Drillers are asked to post a sign during well sealing operations. This effort has encouraged an additional 20% to 25% participation in the well decommissioning program.

The program allows grant recipients to offer incentives to encourage program participation. Some cities have offered property owners \$50 to \$100 off of their water bills to participate. This is in addition to the city paying the well decommissioning costs.

Within its broader efforts to address abandoned wells, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is working through local health departments to encourage the decommissioning of abandoned wells at the time of well replacement. Since 1999, there have been 52,000 wells statewide decommissioned under this initiative. This figure translates into approximately 90% of the wells that have been replaced. One area where progress is slow is in the identification

and plugging of non-operational wells following water line extension.

"An ongoing concern in Michigan is ensuring that the decommissioning of abandoned wells is done properly," says John Schmitt, executive director of the Michigan Ground Water Association. In the state of Michigan homeowners are permitted to decommission abandoned wells. "An improperly decommissioned abandoned well provides a false sense of security," notes Schmitt. The state association has worked for many years to raise awareness of the need to decommission abandoned wells and the importance of having a qualified professional do the work.

Locating and Sealing Abandoned Artesian Wells — Florida

Florida is divided into five water management districts. By law, these water management districts must implement programs to ensure that all abandoned artesian wells (free-flowing wells) are controlled.

As an example, the St. Johns River Water Management District began its abandoned artesian well plugging program in 1983. The district, with other cooperating agencies and local governments, has plugged more than 2000 wells since the program's initiation, and annually seals approximately 100 such wells.

The district's initial backlog of 800 wells to plug is down to an inventory of 200 wells. The program is still identifying new abandoned artesian wells that need plugging. "I would characterize the program as having cleared the backlog and operating in a steady state mode," says Wesley Curtis, project manager for the district.

Abandoned continues next page

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Abandoned (continued)

The work is accomplished using private sector water well firms under contract to the district. St. Johns' fiscal year 2005-2006 budget for the program is \$839,042. Within that total, \$600,700 is slated for contractual or purchased services, \$15,200 for materials, and \$223,142 for salaries and benefits. In recent years, funding for the artesian well abandonment program has come from the Florida Forever program, which encompasses various activities aimed at conserving the state's unique natural resources. The sale of Florida Forever bonds funds the various initiatives under the program.

The abandoned artesian well plugging program is operated on a cost-share basis. "Offering some form of cost-share is important," Curtis says. Changing property use in Florida has, in some cases, transformed an artesian well from an asset to a liability, such as when land moves from agricultural to residential. This program provides an incentive for property owners to self-report their abandoned artesian wells and obtain funding assistance to plug them, according to Curtis.

In the St. Johns River Water Management District, single or multiple-family homeowners, with qualifying homestead exemptions, are eligible for a 50-50 cost-share arrangement, with a maximum cost to them of \$600 per sealed artesian well. For a single or multiple-family residence with no qualifying homestead exemption, the costs are shared with the district 50-50. Government agencies are also eligible for a 50-50 cost-sharing arrangement with the district. A 75-25 owner/district cost-share is in effect for commercial, industrial, or agricultural property owners.

Given Florida's population growth, it is not surprising that the goal of the St. Johns River Water Management District's abandoned artesian well plugging program is to "assure the continued availability of ground water resources by detecting, evaluating, and controlling abandoned artesian wells."

Using Property Transfer to Locate and Plug Unused Wells — Minnesota

The Minnesota Ground Water Protection Act of 1989 requires unused wells to be properly sealed by a licensed well contractor. If a well is not in use, a

Minnesota property owner has three options. (1) The well can be put back into use. (2) The well can be sealed by a licensed well contractor or a licensed well sealing contractor. (3) The property owner can apply for a maintenance permit. A maintenance permit allows an unused well to remain unsealed if it is properly maintained. The maintenance permit is not transferable and requires an annual fee of \$150. Minnesota considers a well "in use" if the well is functioning for some purpose. Examples of wells "not in use" are those where the well pump is disconnected or the well is no longer connected to a power supply.

The law also requires sellers of property to disclose in writing the existence and status of all wells on the property. Included in the "Well Disclosure" statement are the legal description and county, a map showing the location of each well, and whether each well is in use, not in use, or sealed. The well disclosures are forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Health's Well Management Section, which follows up with the new property owners to assure that any unused wells are properly sealed. "In many cases, realtors are advising sellers, who have time, to seal unused wells to avoid any potential last-minute complications at closing," reports Dan Wilson, director of the Minnesota Well Management Program. The seller is liable to the buyer for well sealing costs and reasonable attorney fees if the seller made a false disclosure, such as failing to disclose a known well.

It is estimated that in 1989 there were then about 750,000 unused wells in Minnesota. As of November 2005, the Well Management Section has overseen and documented the proper sealing of more than 200,000 unused wells.

Plugging Abandoned Wells on State Property — Minnesota

The Minnesota Ground Water Protection Act of 1989 also requires the state to locate and seal unused wells on state-owned land. With most sites having been searched, the program administered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is in its last year of funding. Using aerial photographs to identify old homesteads, combined with knowing the local geology, has proven an effective strategy in locating

abandoned wells. Longtime residents have helped point out old abandoned wells on their former properties or on their former neighbors' properties, but that information source is being lost to age. As of December 2005, some 2107 locations have been searched and 1037 wells on state property have been sealed.

Federal Cost-Share, Loan, or Grant Programs

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a cost assistance program through the Farm Services Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program is primarily intended for rural and agricultural properties. Depending on the county, well sealing may be eligible by itself for cost-share or if submitted with other conservation practices. Check with the local office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture on program details and availability in your area.

An additional federal option is the Rural Housing Home Improvement Loan and Grant Program. The program offers loans and grants that may, among other things, be used for well construction, repair, and sealing. The program is for very low income families who live in rural areas. Individuals who are 62 years of age or older may qualify for a grant or a combination of a loan and grant; younger applicants are eligible only for loans. Check with the area Office of Rural Development on funding availability and program details.

Further Discussion

NGWA's Rural Water Subcommittee is reviewing ways to encourage the proper sealing of abandoned wells — those no longer operational — following water line extension. This potential problem was most recently brought home by Louisiana members who witnessed Hurricanes Katrina and Rita sweeping through areas where large numbers of inoperable and unsealed abandoned wells remained following water line extensions. In July, NGWA members were given an opportunity to review a concept paper on this topic. If you are an NGWA member and want more information, contact Chris Reimer, NGWA Government Affairs, at (800) 551-7379, ext. 560 or e-mail her at creimer@ngwa.org.



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IGWA VOLUNTEER SIGN UP FORM

The **Indiana Ground Water Association** serves its members through education, promotion, and representation. The planning and implementation of most IGWA activities is handled by volunteer groups. All groups are supported by IGWA staff. IGWA Committees have ongoing, results-oriented tasks. The interaction between group members promoted effective planning and evaluation of tasks.

You can help!

Sign up now! Review the attached list of committees and check off those of interest to you. Return this form to the IGWA office and you'll receive more information about your area of interest.

Volunteer Sign Up Form

I am interested in volunteering to work on the following areas:

Awards Committee: Develop awards program.

☐ **Communications Committee:** Establish objectives of quarterly newsletter, annual membership directory and website and develop advertising sales strategies.

☐ **Education Committee:** Works to enhance educational opportunities for all members of the industry, ranging from those with extensive practical experience to new members of the industry.

☐ **Legislative/DOT Committee:** Commit to involvement with local, state and federal officials. Develop grass roots efforts to involve membership.

☐ **Membership Committee:** Promote the IGWA by securing new members and assisting current members through providing member services.

☐ **Meeting/Convention Committee:** Planning and organization of Annual Meeting, Convention and Seminars.

☐ **Exhibit Committee:** Plan and conduct the premier trade show for the industry in Indiana.

☐ **Scholarship Committee:** Raise funds to support the annual scholarship awards.

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My primary area of business (check all that apply):

☐ Contractor

☐ Manufacturer/Supplier

☐ Technical

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