



# WELL DEVELOPMENTS

Winter - 2016

BWWC  
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BOARD MEMBERS  
Kirk Waren, MBMG Member  
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Kevin Haggerty, Industry Member  
Jeffrey Herrick, DEQ Member  
Steve Story, DNRC Member

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## Next Board Meeting

May 6, 2016  
9 am  
DNRC Water Resources Building - 1st Floor  
Fred Buck Conf. Room,  
9th and Roberts  
Helena MT

## Laurence Siroky Retires

After 19 years with the Board of Water Well Contractors (Board), Laurence Siroky, the DNRC's appointed member to the Board retires. Laurence was first appointed to the Board in December 1996. Laurence has been with the DNRC for 45 years.



BWWC Chairman Pat Byrne and Laurence Siroky

### Laurence states:

"It is time to shift gears and enjoy my planned retirement from my 45 years of service to the State of Montana. I have enjoyed working with my associate Board members during the 19 years on the Board and appointments by the Directors of the Department. I have learned a lot about the well drilling industry and business and appreciate the patience and understanding of the industry and agency Board members throughout my tenure on the Board. I am looking forward to time with my family including grown adult children and grandkids, leisure time at the cabin, along a stream or in the woods. I am sure I will see several of my work associates out there in the Big Sky."

During his 19 years on the Board, Laurence has served as Vice Chairman and Treasure for the Board. His understanding of the complicated accounting system of State Government, his engineering knowledge and his good ole common sense approach will be missed.

## Steve Story New Water Operations Bureau Chief

Steve's interest in water science began during his 4-year tenure with the U.S. Navy Submarine Service. Subsequently, he earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University with an



emphasis in hydraulics and river mechanics. He is a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) and a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). Steve has 19 years of engineering experience and has worked for DNRC since 2009. Prior to landing at the DNRC, Steve worked in the private sector for 10 years as a Water Resources engineer, specializing in hydraulics analysis and design. During that time, he co-authored an article published in the International Journal on Hydropower and Dams and worked on several award-winning projects, including the East Grand Forks Levee design. Mr. Story also served in the public sector with the Bureau of Reclamation and with Teton County, Wyoming as the Assistant County Engineer. As the Water Operations Bureau Chief at DNRC, he oversees the Board of Water Well Contractors program as well as the State Dam Safety and Floodplain Management programs.



Higgins Drilling, Miles City, MT

# License Renewals

As it will soon be time to renew your licenses, we thought this is a good time to review the renewal process. Usually license renewal notices are sent on or before May 10 of each year, giving you lots of time to send in the renewal application and fee before your current license expires on June 30th.

Montana Code Annotated section 37-43-307, provides that any license which is not renewed by June 30th is considered suspended. If the license remains suspended more than 30 days after July 1st, it is considered revoked. However, before revoking the license, the Board will send a notice to the licensee of intent to revoke. This letter is mailed to the licensee on or before July 10th. If the license has not been renewed by August 1st, it will be automatically revoked and cannot be reinstated without filling out application to take a driller's exam, make the payment of the application fee and successful completion of the appropriate exam with a 80% minimum passing score.

Administrative Rule of Montana 36.21.415 also provides that any licensee who has not renewed his license by July 10th will pay a \$150 late fee.

### Important dates for license renewals:

- May 10 renewal notices are mailed to the licensees
- June 30 licenses expire
- July 1 licenses are suspended; the licensee is not allowed to drill
- July 10 late fee applied (\$150) and letter of intent to revoke license mailed
- August 1 licenses are revoked

When submitting the license renewal application, four things are required:

- (1) completed renewal form including current address and phone numbers
- (2) the correct fee
- (3) proof of bond
- (4) proof of completion of 4 hours of continuing education

Renewal applications that are incomplete may be returned to the licensee. Licensees will be charge with a late fee if the documentation for bonding or for continuing education is submitted after July 10th, even if the original renewal form was sent in prior to this date. In past years there have been licensees that have abused the system and took months to submit the proper documentation hence the need to enforce the letter of the law

Last year there were a number of problems with providing proof of bonding and proof of continuing education hours. Drillers should begin the process of obtaining proof of bonding by contacting their bond companies early. All bond companies will provide the necessary documents, but it may take some time to receive the documents. Some bonding companies do send the continuation certificate to the Board of Water Well Contractors, but this is not always the case. The licensee is responsible for contacting their respective companies and making the request and insuring where the certificate will be delivered. It is helpful if the term of the bond is from June to June each year so that the continuing certificate is in your hands by the time you are ready to submit the renewal form.

All continuing education courses must be pre approved by the Board. A class attendance roster provided by the sponsor of the class or a certificate of attendance is examples of acceptable documentation that the continuing education requirement has been met. Licensees that attend the National Ground Water Convention will need to provide the NWGA continuing education reporting form with the name of each class and the course code. **Attending classes on other States drilling rules are not recognized by the Board.** A receipt for paying convention fees or a motel bill does not qualify as proof of continuing education hours.

New licenses will not be issued until all of the requirements are met.

# Montana Driller's Licenses

## As of January 15, 2016

There currently are 230 licenses compared with 236 licenses in January 2015:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Water Well Contractors.....                          | 127 |
| Water Well Drillers.....                             | 25  |
| Monitoring Well Constructors...                      | 60  |
| Water Well Driller/Monitoring Well Constructor ..... | 5   |
| Inactive Status.....                                 | 13  |

Licenses were revoked for non-renewal ..... 13

New Licensees from January 2015 until January 2016:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Water Well Contractor.....                                     | 1 |
| Water Well Driller.....  | 4 |
| Monitoring Well Constructor .....                              | 3 |
| Changed from Water Well Driller to Water Well Contractor ..... | 2 |



Hayes Drilling, Livingston, MT



## License Renewal

### Multiple Licenses

The combination Water Well Contractor/Monitoring Well Constructor license has been deleted. Water Well Contractors may construct monitoring wells without the additional monitoring well constructor license.

Montana Codes Annotated § 37-43-302(1) states:

“... An individual who is licensed as a water well contractor is not required to have a separate water well driller’s license to perform the actual work on the well or a separate license to install monitoring wells.”

An individual that has a Water Well Driller’s license is required to have a Monitoring Well Constructor’s license to construct monitoring wells without a licensed Water Well Contractor or a licensed Monitoring Well Constructor on site while the drilling rig is in operation.

### Electronic License Renewal

All of the required documents: license renewal form, proof of continuing education, proof of bonding and fee must be received by the Board’s office email before midnight July 10 or post marked no later than July 10 to avoid late fees. A license renewal application is not considered complete until **all required documents are received** by the Board’s office.

License renewal documents may be submitted electronically by email or by regular mail. Copies of documents are acceptable.

### Procedure to File License Renewal Notice Electronically

- 1) You will need Adobe Reader on your computer to open and fill out renewal form. The link to Adobe Reader is: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- 2) Go the Board’s web site <http://bwwc.mt.gov>  
License Renewal Form is in the “Forms and Information” drop down menu
- 3) Fill out renewal form.  
All of the following information must be provided in order to save form:
  - a. Select license type. Only one box may be marked
  - b. Fill out contact information.
  - c. Select license type and enter license number
  - d. Provide a contact phone number
  - e. Check boxes of documents you have or will provide: proof of bonding, proof of continuing education, and if you have submitted the proper fee
- 4) After completing form, you will need to save the form on your computer in a file or on your desktop. Select a file that can be easily remembered and accessed
- 5) Open the email account you use, ie: msn, google, gmail, yahoo, ymail, etc.
- 6) Attach the renewal form and other electronic forms to email
- 7) Send the form to: [arobinson@mt.gov](mailto:arobinson@mt.gov)

I will respond that I got your email with a list of forms that were attached.

For assistance, please call: (406) 444-6643 or (406) 444-0860



Jacobson Drilling, Havre, MT



Petrie Pump & Drilling, Malta, MT

## New Hire

Breanna (Bree) Caldwell has joined the Water Operations Bureau as the new administrative support. Prior to coming to DNRC, she worked for the Department of Agriculture for 7 years and for Bridger Steel for a short time. Bree has a BA from University of Montana in Anthropology with a Cultural Diversity emphasis. In her spare time she runs a dog collar business, teaches dog classes, and competes with her dogs at agility events.



## Websites to Bookmark

The Internet is a huge information bank and finding what you are looking for can be time consuming and frustrating. Provided below is a list of websites that relate to the BWWC.

### **Board of Water Well Contractors**

The BWWC web page with links, dates, newsletter, information for drillers and Board members contact information  
[www.bwwc.mt.gov](http://www.bwwc.mt.gov)

### **Ground-Water Information Center**

Provides ground water information and filed well logs  
<http://mbmaggwic.mtech.edu/>

### **On-Line CE Classes**

Internet access to Board approved on line continuing education classes  
[www.welldrillingschool.com](http://www.welldrillingschool.com)

### **Administrative Rules of Montana**

Provides the Rules for the BWWC  
<http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=36.21>

### **Well Log Report Forms**

Contains the Well Log Report Form 603 for drillers  
<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/operations/board-of-water-well-contractors/divisions/water/operations/docs/bwwc/603-r2-04-1.pdf>

### **Driller's License Renewal Form**

Provides the yearly license renewal form  
[http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/operations/docs/bwwc/2016-2017\\_renewal\\_form.pdf](http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/operations/docs/bwwc/2016-2017_renewal_form.pdf)

### **Montana Water Well Drillers Association**

<http://www.mwwda.org>

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