New Board Members

Doug Askin is the owner and president of Ronald L. Askin Drilling and A&A Well Service, LLC. in Miles City, Montana. As a third-generation water well driller, Doug spent his summers helping his father and uncles drill and repair water wells across Southeastern Montana. After graduating from Custer County District High School in 1981, Doug became a full-time employee with Ronald L. Askin Drilling. Not long after, Doug met and married the love of his life, Tami Muri. The two have been married for 34 years and have two wonderful children together.

Education is very important to Doug. While working full-time alongside his dad, Doug went back to school and obtained his Associates Degree in Electronics from Miles Community College right before his daughter Amanda was born. Every year, you will find Doug and his crew at the National Water Well Drillers’ Convention to stay up to date on what is new in the world of water. He also became an advocate for helping his employees continue their education by assisting in the creation of a company scholarship to help assist employees attend college.

While serving on the Montana Water Well Drillers’ Association Board of Directors, Doug became quite versed in the legislative process and became an advocate for water well drillers, and their customers, across the state.
Then at the beginning of my freshman year we moved to the Bitterroot Valley where I started school in Darby, Montana. We leased property where we raised cows and did custom haying. I graduated from Stevensville High School in 1982, then went to work for an earth and landscaping company for 6.5 years. I served for 2 years in the Montana National Guard. I worked with my brother moving and setting up trailer houses.

In 1988 I started working for my dad setting water well pumps. In 1990 I received my water well drilling license and have been drilling ever since.

My name is Daniel Edward O’Keefe. I was born and raised in Butte, Montana, to Luella and Edward O’Keefe. My father started a water well drilling company in 1959 so I was around the drill rig scene from a very young age. Eventually, I started running a cable tool rig on my own by the time I was in high school. After taking an interest in welding, I went to machinist school in Texas. When I returned home, O’Keefe Drilling Company opened up our own machine shop where we were able to manufacture RC drill pipe. In 1990, I bought my first auger rig and began drilling on environmental projects. It was with that venture that my interest slowly shifted toward the business aspect of our company. With the guidance, knowledge, and opportunities that my father provided me, O’Keefe Drilling has since expanded significantly, and I am very fortunate to have experienced many elements of what water well drilling has to offer in Montana.

When I am not working in the office, I enjoy spending time boating and water skiing during the summers and snowmobiling throughout the winter season. For me, taking care of myself is a task that I find immense satisfaction in. Being active has always been important to me and led me to start up some of my favorite hobbies. I cycled for over 30 years and within the last 10 years began local CrossFit.

I have been married to my loving wife, Irene O’Keefe, for 30 years and together we have shared the joys of raising our twin boys. Both Gradeg and Bridge are working for O’Keefe Drilling today. Nowadays I thoroughly enjoy mentoring them in all aspects of drilling.

Someday, I hope that the guidance, knowledge, and opportunities that I provide them with will allow them to experience and appreciate all that water well drilling in Montana has done for generations of our family.

License Renewals
As it 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.

License renewals are a legal matter and thus must be handled with care. It is important to make sure all required information is submitted in a timely manner to avoid any potential issues.

Important dates for license renewals:
- May 10: renewal notices are mailed to the licensees
- June 30: licenses expire

Number of Licenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Licenses</th>
<th>Water Well Contractors</th>
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License renewal can be renewed electronically through the use of the links on the Board of Water Well Contractors’ (Board) web site and email. Drillers need to fill out all required information, when completed, the licensee will use the submit button. The form will be sent to a Board’s database. An acknowledgment email of the renewal form submission will be sent to the licensee and a notification email of the renewal form will be sent to the Board’s office. Proof of continuing education and proof of current bond may be scanned and attached to an email or be mailed to the Board’s office.

Payment of the license renewal fee can be made in full or in monthly installments. The credit card payment link can be found on the Board’s web site. The electronic license renewal form link and the credit card payment link can be found on the Board’s web page: bwwc.mt.gov

Send scanned copies to email address: arabinson@mt.gov

Administrative Rule of Montana 36.21.415 also provides that any licensee who has not renewed his license by July 10th will have his license suspended. If the license has not been renewed by August 1st, it will be revoked. 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 revoked.

The Water Use Act of 1973 required that Well Log Reports be filled out by the driller on a form provided by DNRC within 60 days after well completion.

Well Logs must be filed on: completed wells; dry wells; abandoned wells; monitoring wells.

Well Logs in the 1950s, prior to any requirements for licensing or reporting, Well Logs were issued by drillers with information transferred from drilling notes, as a service to their customers. It was standard practice for well owners to provide the Well Logs to the Department of Health to facilitate filing a water right.

The Water Use Act of 1973 required that Well Log Reports be filled out by the driller on a form provided by DNRC within 60 days after well completion.

Section 85-2-516, Montana Codes Annotated (MCA), requires that all Well Log Reports be filed by the driller within 60 days after completion of all wells, regardless of depth or use. BWWC Rule Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 36.21.504(1)(g) provides that disciplinary action may be taken against the licensee for failure to comply with MCA Section 85-2-516.

In 2007, the Legislative amended MCA 85-2-516 to require the driller to “…provide a location for the well using at least two methods as specified on the (well log) form”. The accepted method of location must include 2 of the following:

- Well address
- Legal description; section, township, range
- GPS location; latitude, longitude
- Subdivision, lot and tract/block
- Certificate of Survey number

Well Logs are a legal document. DO NOT sign a well log for a well you did not drill. This action is committing fraud and you can be sued in civil court. Well Logs must be submitted to: the well owner, the Ground Water Information Center (GWIC) and other agencies if required.
Then at the beginning of my freshman year we moved to the Bitterroot Valley where I started school in Darby, Montana. We leased property where we raised cows and did custom haying. I graduated from Stevensville High School in 1982, then went to work for an earth and landscaping company for 6.5 years. I served for 2 years in the Montana National Guard. I worked with my brother moving and setting up trailer houses.

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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 complete the appropriate exam with a 80% minimum passing score.

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Well Logs

In the 1950’s, prior to any requirements for licensing or reporting, Well Logs were issued by drillers with information transferred from drilling notes, as a service to their customers. It was standard practice for well owners to provide the Well Logs to the Department of Health to facilitate filing a water right. In the early 1960’s, the Water Resources Board developed new well log form for well owners and began filing the well logs with the applications for water rights.

The Water Use Act of 1973 required that Well Log Reports be filed out by the driller on a form provided by DNRC within 60 days after well completion.

Well logs must be filed on: completed wells; dry wells; abandoned wells; monitoring wells.

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Board of Water Well Contractors

The BWCC web page with links, dates, newsletter, information for drillers and Board members contact information
www.bwwc.mt.gov

Ground-Water Information Center
Provides ground water information and filed well logs
http://mtrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=36.21

On-Line CE Classes
Internet access to Board approved on line continuing education classes
www.welldrillingschool.com

Administrative Rules of Montana
Provides the Rules for the BWCC
http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=36.21

Well Log Report Forms
Contains the Well Log Report Form 603 for drillers
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Andy Eslinger - I was born in Missoula, Montana and lived there until the 4th grade when we moved to Deerlodge, Montana. My step dad was a truck driver/owner/farmer/rancher. I did a lot of different things from maintenance to rebuilding diesel motors to even driving the semis. I also took care of the animals. I did 4-H, broke horses for myself and also for the neighbors. I received $400 a horse to break or train them. D�u�