



BOARD OF WATER WELL CONTRACTORS

Spring - 2022

BWWC

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Helena MT 59620-1601
406-444-6643

BOARD MEMBERS

James Madison, MBMG Member
Doug Askin, Industry Member
Pat Byrne, Industry Member
Andy Eslinger, Industry Member
Dan O'Keefe, Industry Member
Reed Miner, DEQ Member
Steve Story, DNRC Member
Art Robinson, Program Manager



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Next Board Meeting

May 13, 2022
10 am
DNRC Water Resources Building - 1st Floor
Fred Buck Conf-Room,
9th and Roberts
Helena MT



Coldwater Drilling and Pumps,
Arlee MT

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' Association Convention or the Montana Water Well Drillers' Association 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.

Doug's other accomplishments include holding current Montana and North Dakota Water Well Drillers' Contractor Licenses, being a member of the Montana Water Well Drillers' Association, North Dakota Water Well Drillers' Association and National Water Well Drillers' Association as well as maintaining a private data base of over 6,500 water wells drilled by his family over the past 100 years. Doug also expanded his company's services with the purchase of his uncle's water well repair business. And in 2016, A&A Well Service, LLC. was created with Doug's son Brian leading the repair crews.

When not at work, Doug enjoys spending time with his family. One of their favorite places to go is the family lake house at Fort Peck Lake. Mornings are spent fishing, typically with his dad, son, and son-in-law. While the afternoons and evenings are spent boating, swimming, playing games, and barbecuing with all sorts of friends and family. However, his most favorite past time is the time he spends with his granddaughter.



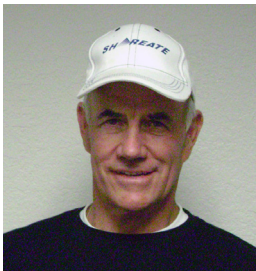
Andy Eslinger - I was born in Missoula, Montana and lived there until the 4th grade when we moved to Deerlodge, Montana. My step dad was a truck driver/owner/farmer/

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 4H, broke horses for myself and also for the neighbors. I received \$400 a horse to break or train them.

continued...

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.



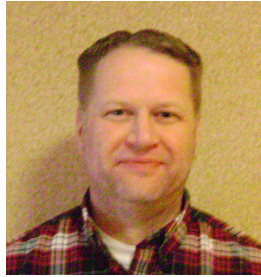
My name is **Daniel Edward O'Keefe**. I was born and raised in Butte, Montana, to Luella and Edward O'Keefe. My father started a water well drilling company in 1959 so I was around

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 summer months and snow skiing 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 Gradeigh and Bridger 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.



Reed Miner has worked as an environmental professional for the past 17 years. After nearly 7 years as a geologist at an environmental consulting firm

in Houston, Texas, he moved to Flathead County to work for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. He works for the Petroleum Tank Cleanup Section where he helps manage the investigation and cleanup of contamination related to petroleum storage tank systems.

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

Important dates for license renewals:

- May 10 renewal notices are mailed to the licensees
- June 30 licenses expire



Iba Drilling Co., Glendive MT



Universal Drilling, Libby MT

Number of Licenses

- 123 Water Well Contractors
- 35 Water Well Drillers
- 56 Monitoring Well Constructors
- 6 Water Well Driller/ Monitoring Well Constructors
- 14 Inactive licenses
- 234 Licenses



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

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 tab. The form will be sent to a Board's data base. An acknowledgement 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 Boards office.

Payment of the license renewal fee can be made on line with the use of a credit card. A processing fee will be added to the license fee. 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: arobinson@mt.gov

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. 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.

Please contact the Board of Water Well Contractor's office if you have questions. (406) 444-6643

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 1960s, 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 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.

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 Legislator 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 with
- 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.



Aaqua Drilling, Joliet MT



Coldwater Drilling and Pumps, Arlee MT



Ron Askin Drilling, Miles City MT

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

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

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>

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Persons with disabilities who need an alternative, accessible format of this document should contact:

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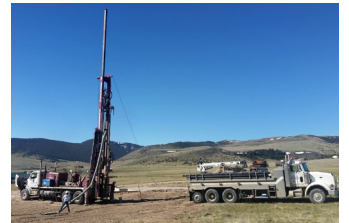
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Graham Drilling Inc., Sheridan MT