

Attendees: Mark Ashness, Dominick Antolino, Rick Bolich, Phil Bradley, Craig Caldwell, Ginger Cunningham, Sharon Day, Clyde Frazier, Kevin Letchworth, Anne Lowry, Cara Russell, Caroline Siverson, Bobby Tucker, Jason Sullivan, Hunter Glenn, Kim Tyson.

- Caroline Siverson started the meeting by moving to approve the minutes from the December 9th meeting. The minutes were approved, and Ms. Siverson recommended we get started with the presentation by Anne Lowry.
- Anne Lowry shared her screen to give the Chatham County Well water presentation.
- Jason thanked Anne for being available on short notice.
- Ms. Lowry explained that her presentation would go over the several questions that the Subcommittee had submitted to her ahead of time, and that she would answer those for the group. Those questions were: Is there information about community vs. individual wells, is one better than another? How many community wells are in use in the county and how many people are served? Information about dewatered wells (i.e. wells that have failed)? If anecdotally it appears that most failing wells are shallow, should/could we infer that the water table is getting lower? South Atlantic water survey data (was mentioned during past meeting)?
- Ms. Lowry answered the first questions by explaining the types of water supply. Public water supply is defined as a system which provides piped drinking water to at least 15 connections or 25 or more people 60 or more days per year. Public water systems are broken into two categories, community and non-community. Community water systems are public systems that serve at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents. Non-community water systems are broken down into two groups. Non-Transient Community systems utilized by churches, daycares, schools, etc. Transient non-community systems would be Gas Stations or campgrounds, etc. Ms. Lowry went into more specifics in her presentation.
- Ms. Lowry gave an overview of the amount and types of wells in Chatham and explained how environmental health collects and maintains data on wells. There are approximately 15,000 private wells in the county. Env. Health permits roughly 150-200 wells per year.
- Ms. Lowry responded to the question regarding dewatered and shallow wells. She explained that we should not infer that the water table is dropping because more shallow wells are failing. These types of wells are more susceptible for rain events or non-rain events. Those wells tend to ebb and flow.
- Ms. Lowry then discussed the South Atlantic water table survey. The owners volunteer to have the USGS come out and measure their well. Ms. Lowry sent that applicant form to Jason.
- The last topic of the presentation that Ms. Lowry talked about was the Wake County Groundwater Assessment. She then opened to questions.
- Sharon Day asked how many shallow wells went dry this year?
- Ms. Lowry said she would love to give that answer, but the county does not keep that type of data.

- Clyde Frazier asked about the data on dry wells, and whether we could get a sense if dry wells were increasing?
- Ms. Lowry explained that yes during times of drought the county might see an increase in new well applications because of failed wells. Some people get tired of the ebb and flow of their well and get a new well drilled?
- Mr. Frazier asked if Ms. Lowry has a sense of where the dry wells were more common in the county?
- Ms. Lowry said she did not, as the county does not currently keep that type of data. The geology and the soil makeup would certainly make some wells more prone to drying out than others.
- Continued discussion on failing wells and testing/retesting private wells.
- Ms. Siverson asked if there were any records of Ag wells going dry.
- Ms. Lowry said that she was not aware of any. There may be ag wells that don't produce as much water as they used to.
- Ms. Day mentioned again whether people think to report failing wells.
- Continued discussion.
- Mr. Sullivan had a question for Anne. If a resident is connected to county water, but wants to drill a private well on there property, can they do that?
- Ms. Lowry said she thought the County water policy will let them drill their own well if they have no cross connections.
- Mr. Sullivan said that might be something for Larry bridges to answer at the next meeting.
- Discussion about well connections and water access
- Mr. Frazier was wondering if any commercial or ag users might have data about their static water level? He is looking for data and is troubled by how little data we have.
- Ms. Lowry said that yes there is a record of the static water level at the time of drilling, but that she was not sure if people were concerned about their static water level.
- Continued discussion about static water levels.
- Ms. Siverson asked how many community wells were serving subdivisions. Ms. Lowry answered 15. Ms. Siverson then asked if we know how many dwellings that is? Ms. Lowry said she was not sure about the dwellings, but that it was roughly 1900 people.
- Discussion about shared wells below the threshold of 15 connections, and the public water supply and where community wells are located.
- George Lucier asked if we had a map of the private wells in the county and what the yield of the wells are throughout the county?
- Ms. Lowry explained that is something that we are working on right now, but she explained that there is a good amount of identified well data on GIS. You can use GIS to get the well depth and yield for wells in the county.
- Continued questions and discussions about community well yields in different subdivisions.
- Mark Ashness added that community wells, which must be permitted by the state, must do a 48 hour draw down test which is like a stress test.
- Bobby Tucker asked about long-term water supply and the resilience of groundwater between individual wells and community wells for a development with the same number of homes? Is there a benefit to one or the other?

- Ms. Lowry said she did not have an opinion on that, but that a community well would come from one aquifer versus multiple wells that might access multiple veins of water.
- Ms. Siverson said that we still seem to be bumping up to the problem of not having enough data about groundwater in Chatham County.
- Mr. Sullivan said that once the staff is recovered from the cyber incident, we will be able to get some maps together to show the data that we do have. He also asked if anyone had any specific data-set requests.
- Ms. Day mentioned it would be good to have the county water lines overlaid with all the well data that we have.
- Mr. Sullivan said that most of that data she mentioned is already available on the GIS viewer.
- Ms. Lowry mentioned that we might be able to work with cooperative extension to get ag well info.
- More discussion about well yield data, and the ongoing expansion of that dataset.
- Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Lowry showed everyone how to get the well data from GIS. The link on GIS will connect to a copy of the well drill permit.
- Continued discussion about maps and ways to map data.
- Ms. Siverson asked about the ability to map agricultural wells throughout the county? Since we are concentrating on ag areas we might want to concentrate well info in those areas.
- Mr. Frazier said that it would be useful to have more info about wells that have gone dry, where they are in the county, and trends over time.
- Ms. Lowry said that it could be possible to get that information, but the county does not always ask people why they are drilling a new well, but there may not be the amount of data that Mr. Frazier is requesting.
- Ms. Siverson suggested that we ask a well driller to come to a meeting and discuss these topics and Ms. Lowry said she would be happy to reach out and see if any were available.
- Mr. Sullivan mentioned that we may have a well driller as one of the attendees and that would unmute him if he wanted to speak up.
- Kevin Letchworth, president of NW Pool Well and Pump Company said he would be happy to give some information. He wanted to mention the ability to do groundwater monitoring. He described certain tools that private well owners could use to monitor their groundwater and that they would give the county some of the data which had been mentioned in the meeting. The Sonic Water Level indicators go on top of the well head and usually cost 1500 to 3000 dollars per well. He mentioned that there are wells in wake county that utilize this resource and recommended that we go and look at the real time data Wake County has online.
- Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Siverson both agreed that inviting some well drillers to a future meeting for a discussion would be beneficial.
- Mr. Letchworth said that Ms. Lowry's presentation was correct and that for most well drillers, they know what to expect when they go to drill a well based on prior knowledge of the geology of the area.
- Phil Bradley interjected that yes, the geology is always the underlying factor for groundwater availability, and he wanted to keep reminding us to get the well yield data to overlay with the geologic mapping his team is doing.
- Discussion on how to collect that data, i.e interns.

- Ms. Siverson started to bring the meeting to a close by reminding everyone that Larry Bridges would be at the next meeting to discuss county water lines. Mr. Sullivan said that if anyone had advance questions for Larry, he would sent them. Also, some discussion about alternate dates to accommodate Sashi Bhatta coming to a meeting.