

Illinois Oil and Gas Advisory Board

November 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Board members in attendance: Ross Basnett, Malcolm Booth, Brandi Stennett, Matt Davis, Shawn Perry, Justin Gesell

Non-voting members in attendance: Dan Brennan (DNR)

IOGA Representatives: Steve Lampley

DNR – OOGRM in attendance: Vanasa Brittin, Jessica Donnelly

Guests: Craig Hedin, Bryan Dicus, Bert Farrara, Matt Donaldson, Stephanie Storkman, Wyatt Clark, Ashley (LA Custom Plugging)

- 1) Chair Ross Basnett called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM
- 2) Meeting Minutes Submission

Table until next meeting because minutes for previous meeting were not submitted in time for review.

- 3) Round Table Discussion

- a. Update on Administrative Rules

Recent rules have been through first notice period with no comment. The second notice should be published in the next week before moving on to JACAR for review. No anticipated issues from JACAR.

- b. Update on plugging of orphan wells (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Grant)

Finishing initial grant funds. Since 1/1/2024, 138 wells have been plugged for a total of 488 since 10/2022 with hopefully an additional 40-45 additional wells to be plugged by year-end. A total of \$18 million was spent on the initial with the year-end total being approximately \$19 million. Contract bids for the next round of funding have closed and those are under evaluation. A meeting with the Department of Interior to discuss new requirements in the second round of funding to address the Endangered Species Act scheduled. There is an additional \$25 million in funding, \$23 million for plugging and \$2 million for administration, for the second round of plugging efforts.

Mr. Basnett asked how many plugging programs the State has running. The State responded with two programs: the Orphan Well Program and the Volunteer program.

Mr. Hedin asked if the second round of funding has a time limit to spend the funds. The State responded that the second round has a 3-year limit with a possible extension.

Ms. Stennett asked if there was any interest in multiple contractors in the same area of plugging operations to move quicker. The State responded that they are not opposed to that with the amount of increased interest they have seen from contractors.

- c. Update on Mitigating Emissions from Marginal Conventional Wells Grant with the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Brennan stated the Department is working with the ISGS. The survey has completed the prioritization plan and will publish the plan online. The survey will have two forms available to fill out: one form for volunteer wells for testing/sampling and a second form for volunteering wells for plugging. The State is working with the Procurement department to develop contracts for bids, but it will likely not be available this year. The plan is for \$14 million over three years.

Ms. Stennett asked how the volunteer program will affect the TA status of volunteered wells. The State said to reach out to them for a non-production extension and they will work with operators on a plan for those wells.

Ms. Stennett asked if TA wells are eligible. The State responded that yes, they are.

d. Application processing time for UIC Permits and Temporary Abandonment status.

The State said that TA processing has included the district offices much more recently which appears to have sped up the processing. John has been focusing more on the UIC program by pushing the initial intake to the field office. The State is trying to hire more people to help administer the programs.

Mr. Basnett asked how operators get a timely answer from State employees that are working from home. The State responded that operators should try email the employees first, and the State will review possibly giving work cell phones to those employees.

Mr. Hedin asked if there was a policy that allows people to work from home. The State responded that it is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the employee and it is based on the operational need of the office.

Mr. Basnett asked if there were any other personnel changes with the State. The State responded they are trying to replace Hernando but also trying to fill other roles like the PRF Manager.

Ms. Stennett asked who is over the enforcement group. The State responded that Ron Huckmeyer is.

Mr. Hedin asked if there had been any more discussion on a CIBP for TA requirements. The State responded they are looking for help on how to implement this change.

4) New Business

a. Schedule Meeting Dates for 2025

01/23/2025

04/24/2025

09/18/2025

12/11/2025

All meetings are to be held at 10am CST at the IOGA Building in Mt. Vernon, IL.

5) Public Participation

Mr. Ross Basnett stated that they used Trenton as a formation on an application. The State responded that they should use Specht's Ferry.

6) Next Meeting

The following date is for the next meeting held in Mt. Vernon, IL at 10am CST:

January 23, 2025

Ms. Brandi Stennett made the motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Justin Gesell. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Malcolm Booth – Secretary, IOGA Advisory Board