

Environmental Health report to the Board of Health  
October 10, 2023

Auditor Revenue & Expense Reports attached

**23-24 Fiscal Year Well Program:**

Water tests: 69 (compared to 46 at this time last fiscal year)

Well permits: 1 (compared to 5 at this time last fiscal year)

Well closings: 4 (compared to 5 at this time last fiscal year)

Rehabilitated: 3 rehabs (compared to 2 at this time last fiscal year)

Grant amount is \$50,505 this fiscal year and there is approximately \$38,348.70 remaining. I have placed a Grants to Counties Ad in the County plat book like I have done in the past and continue to advertise with postcards. Adding a 'would you like your well tested' to my septic and building permit applications has also caused in uptick in water testing this summer.

BMC Well Interference Update: I was contacted regarding 3 more wells this summer that were having issues with their water supply due to BMC's pumping of the Niemann quarry. All 3 wells had to have their pumps lowered and one had to have a new liner installed, but no new wells were drilled. Upon reaching out the BMC, they had their geologist Mike Cannon contact me and we discussed the well issues. Mr. Cannon was already in the process of monitoring one of the wells but he was able to contact the other two well owners to add monitoring equipment and he also reached out to other well users in the vicinity that have not had much for interference so he could monitor their wells too. One well owner was smack dab in the middle of the BMC quarry & the ethanol plant, but through monitoring, the geologist determined that there was recharging taking place in this well after the quarry stopped pumping which indicated an interference by the quarry's operation. BMC has settled with all of these well owners and they will continue monitoring wells in this area to track the interference taking place. Mr. Cannon submitted a report of the well monitoring results for my records.

**Grants to Counties Policies & Procedures update** – these policies have not been updated since 2018 so they were updated and verbiage cleaned up to reflect Iowa Health and Human Services instead of IDPH, as well as some internal changes in regards to how we store documents. I just need the Board's signature so I can submit them with the 1<sup>st</sup> grants to counties voucher that is due at the end of the month.

## **Septic**

Permits: I have issued 52 septic permits this year, 21 for new construction; 11 failed or wanting to update; and 20 for ToFT.

Wastewater Grant Application Update: No new updates

Septic System Maintenance: I've struggled with receiving maintenance reports for about half of my alternative systems, some due to the maintenance provider forgetting to submit paperwork and several who just refuse to sign a service contract with a maintenance provider. They have all been sent notices and I will start filing complaints with the Magistrate for those who don't comply by the end of the month.