

## Public Comments received via "Ask Us, Tell Us"

File #27144 ~ July 24, 2012

**Name:** Pernille Ripp  
**Address:** 8839 Ancient Oak Lane, Verona, WI 53593  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Message:**

As a private citizen in Madison who has enjoyed wonderful water from our private well for more than 10 years, I am baffled at the ordinance to switch to city water. Since I am pregnant with twins I am not able to attend the meeting tonight to state my concerns in person, particularly since such short notice was given that this would even be discussed. All in all, I am disappointed in the ordinance which seems to be nothing short of just wanting more money from the people of Madison. There is nothing wrong with our private well, in fact, the water quality is higher than that of the city, so I ask you why should I force my children to drink poorer water?

**Name:** Mike Panten  
**Address:** 601 S Sprecher Rd  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Message:**

Hi: I am a resident of the east side of Madison, and a private well owner. As such, the issue of private well ownership is a very important one to me. The issue has many implications for my family and I, financially, health, property rights, etc.

Taking this into account, I am very, very disappointed and surprised to find out that the subject was added to the Water Utility Board meeting agenda for this evening, Tuesday July 24th. This would have been added even BEFORE the East side listening session was even held. I strongly feel this is an overly aggressive timetable, as the short notice and last minute addition to the agenda does not allow residents and stakeholders to properly prepare...or even make arrangements to attend. Which is the case with me. I cannot attend this evening, and am very upset that due to the unexpected, and I feel unnecessarily hurried nature of this agenda item, that I am going to miss this critical part of the process.

This issue is too important to be treated with such "afterthought".

Thank You,  
Mike Panten

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**Name:** tom link  
**Address:** 1111 willow Lane, Madison, WI  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Message:**

Dear Water Board,

I am very surprised to learn that the issue of private wells has been added to your meeting list today with less than 24 hours notice. Why would you do this? This entire effort, to force private well owners to abandon their wells, is a suspect operation. It appears to me this is simply an effort to extract more revenue out of the City residents by using existing City water system. In my opinion, this is the worst kind of requirement the City should be involved in as it puts into question many activities that the City engages in as simply an effort to generate more revenue. I have been searching for an alternative explanation for this requirement but have been offered none.

Kindly cease and desist.

Thank you,

Tom Link

**Name:** Charles Acher  
**Address:** 6026 S. Highlands Ave, Madison, WI, 53705  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Message:**

I am a Madison resident with a private well and I am a little surprised that the private well issue was added to the Water Utility Board meeting on such short notice for well owners. This is an important issue to us and such short notice does not allow me and I am sure others to make arrangements for attendance of tonight's meeting. We will have well owners representatives at the meeting tonight like Jon Eckhardt who will represent the views of those of us who cannot attend. It is important to us well owners to be involved in all steps and information surrounding this issue

**Name:** Terry Hollenback  
**Address:** 5709 Lake Mendota Dr.  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Message:**

I am very concerned about the private well issue. I am surprised that you appear to be going out of your way to prevent citizen participation in this discussion. First it became an ordinance without citizen input and now you are having a meeting on the subject with a 24 hour notice. I cannot make tonight's meeting due to previous commitments. I want to express my strong objection not only to this ordinance but the manner in which you appear to be railroading it through.

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**Name:** Chris Makey  
**Address:** 1830 Thorstrand Rd, Madison, WI 53705  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Message:**

I just became aware that there is a board meeting tonight where the private wells will be discussed. I'm citizen of Madison and this issue is very important to me. I want to be at the meeting tonight and I don't understand why such short notice, 1 day, was necessary and why the citizens could not have been given more notice. I think it has been made quite clear that there are a large number of private well owners that consider this an important issue. My business partner has pneumonia so I am required to be on job sites this evening. I will attempt to be at that meeting however chances are I won't be able to. In the future it would be most appreciated if you could consider giving the well owners more than a days notice.

**Name:** Mary Escalante  
**Address:** 601 N. Gammon Rd.  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Message:**

Hi,

I am a private well owner in Madison. I just heard there is an private well item on the meeting agenda today. Since the notice was a bit short I am unable to attend due to previously scheduled commitments. This is an important topic for me and I support the prior ordinance before the recent changes. I am happy to discuss my reasons with you. Thank-you.

**Name:** Patrick Geoghegan  
**Address:** 321 N. Gammon Rd.  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Message:**

I just learned that the agenda for tonight's meeting was changed and an item a discussion of the private well programs has been added. Such short notice is inappropriate and has not allowed me to attend the meeting as would have liked. I am a private well owner living in the city of Madison this is a critically important issue for my family and me. Private wells are safe water sources.

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**Name:** John Moore  
**Address:** 3995 Shawn Trail  
**Date:** 07/24/2012

### Message:

As a citizen of Madison I am very disappointed to learn that the Water Utility Board has added to its agenda for today's meeting a discussion of the private well issue and that the item was only added to the agenda yesterday.

My wife and I will be unable to attend the meeting because of the short notice. We are upset that the Water Utility Board does not seem sufficiently interested in citizens' opinions to schedule important discussions well in advance of the meeting time.

**Name:** Terry Cohn  
**Address:** 2135 Linden Avenue/5409 Femrite Drive  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Subject:** Contact Water Utility Board

### Message:

I am surprised to see the agenda item regarding private wells added to the meeting this afternoon and that it was not announced at either of the listening sessions the past 2 Mondays. If I was able to attend I would ask these questions. There have been statements from the Water Utility that the Private Well Program costs the city . This program began 1990. Please provide the data analyzed over the past 22 years to support that. Please provide the that well owners currently pay the city of Madison for permits and annual flat fee charges paid to the city for sewer and whatever else is included in our 6 month bills. There have been inconsistent reasons given at the past 2 listening sessions as to why this is necessary. Health reasons, hardships when a well fails, necessary city infrastructure, revenue for a bond. None seem to be backed up with any data. I am employed at the School of Medicine and Public Health under a statewide NIH grant in the area of community engaged research. Applying my professional knowledge both as a scientist and former medical practitioner, I have a hard time understanding the logic for any of these reasons. This is a very heavy handed way of dealing with those of us who have wells, to say you want to protect our health and financial well being. Instead you ask those of us with good, safe, working wells to fork over a substantial amount of money NOW, to avoid having to do that in the future. I would like the data since the program began, the number of wells that serve residents that have been deemed unsafe and the number that have failed. Another false financial comparison made at last night's listening session was that to the lead abatement program. Until we receive real facts and figures, it is difficult to come up with logical and meaningful recommendations for amending this ordinance.

I thank the mayor for giving us the opportunity to have a voice.

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**Name:** John Magill  
**Address:** 6109 S. Highlands Ave., Madison, WI 53705  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Message:**

Because of the late appearance of the agenda item covering private well owners to today's meeting, I will be unable to attend the session.

However, I am a private well owner who wishes to continue using his private well even though a city water main is available.

I can understand the water utility board's interest in ensuring safe, potable water to the residents of Madison, and can understand the desire to phase out the use of private wells. However, the recently enacted ordinance seems arbitrary and inconsiderate of the rights and interests of residents who currently have private wells that are providing safe water to the household. I would like to suggest that your policy should include the following points instead of the rigid abandonment degree that was enacted last December:

1. The City/Utility Board will not issue permits for new residential wells in areas served by existing city water.
2. Private well owners that are in compliance with city permitting requirements and state codes for private wells will be allowed to continue using those wells as long as they continue to abide by and meet city permitting requirements and state codes.
3. Current private well owners shall have the right to maintain and upgrade their wells as long as these continue to meet city permitting requirements and state codes.
4. Private well owners who wish to convert their wells to irrigation-only purposes shall have the right to do so as long as these wells meet permitting and code requirements.
5. New owners who have acquired property containing a legally permitted private well shall automatically be granted a permit to continue use of that well subject to obtaining a new permit for the well and meeting city permitting and requirements and state codes.
6. Residents in areas served by city water mains wishing to drill wells for irrigation purposes shall have the right to do so subject to DNR requirements.
7. Wells that fail to meet city permitting requirements or state codes shall be abandoned.

**Name:** Craig Jackson  
**Address:** 1729 Sheridan Drive  
**Date:** 07/24/2012  
**Message:**

RE: the private well program. I am a citizen of Madison, and our home has a well. We follow all the rules and pay the fees to assure it is in compliance. It functions well. I have been following the discussions, and must say that I am again unhappy that the WUB seems to be discouraging well owner input by giving one day's notice of the topic being discussed tonight. Why are you being so sneaky about this? Please give citizens at least 5 business days notice so that we can make arrangements to attend meetings that affect us.