


MEET THE WATER WELL DRILLER CERTIFICATION BOARD MEMBERS

Authored by: Tim Collins

The Kentucky Water Well Certification Board recommends to the Cabinet Secretary administrative regulations to govern examinations; hearings to suspend, revoke, deny a certificate, and multiple other duties. Members are appointed by the governor. The board meets several times a year and serves as a bridge between state government oversight and the regulated community of water well drillers from across the state, an EEC representative, a hydrogeologist, and a member speaking for the public at large.

Dawn Baase serves as the Energy and Environment Cabinet representative on the Water Well Driller Certification Board. She is an environmental scientist and hydrogeologist with more than 25 years of experience in groundwater protection and environmental regulation in Kentucky. Dawn works in the Department for Natural Resources Commissioner's Office, supporting policy development and regulatory coordination across water, oil and gas, mining, and conservation programs, and previously held long-standing leadership roles within the Underground Storage Tank Program. She holds an M.S. in Geology with an emphasis in karst hydrogeology.

Orris Hayes is a drilling contractor based in Betsy Layne, Kentucky, and a long-time representative of water well drillers in Eastern Kentucky. He is associated with Hayes, Inc. and the legacy Hayes Brothers Drilling Company, founded by the late Clarence Edward Hayes. Recognized for his expertise in cable tool drilling, Orris also serves as a Director of the Kentucky Groundwater Association, bringing deep technical knowledge and regional experience to the Board.



Danny Kelly, currently representing Western Kentucky Water Well Drillers, is a third-generation driller with two more generations of drillers benefiting from his experience. He began drilling at age ten in his family's business and has witnessed the profession evolve from early farming applications to modern commercial and agricultural systems. A Vietnam War veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1975, Danny has served many years on the Water Well Driller Certification Board, including as Chairman, and currently serves as a Director of the Kentucky Groundwater Association.

Todd William Mills, PG, CWD, is a geologist and Kentucky-certified monitoring and water well driller with more than 30 years of experience in drilling, hydrogeology, and environmental remediation. He currently supports groundwater investigations and field oversight with Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership and has served multiple terms as President of the Kentucky Groundwater Association. Todd is a long-time member of the Water Well Driller Certification Board and currently serves as the Chairman and the KY & National Water Well Associates representative.

Kevin Moses represents Central KY Drillers and is the founder of Moses Drilling with more than 35 years of experience. A licensed Kentucky water well driller and former President of the Kentucky Groundwater Association, Kevin has served on the Water Well Driller Certification Board since 2013. Kevin and his wife started Moses Drilling from humble beginnings and built a legacy of hard work and dedication to each other and the communities they served.

John Spaulding was recently appointed to represent the Community At-Large position on our Board. A Lexington resident, he is a retired supply chain manager for Valvoline Motor Oil, where he worked for 34 years. John holds a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration from Eastern Kentucky University and is a welcome addition to our Board.

Charles J. (Chuck) Taylor is a senior groundwater hydrologist with the Kentucky Geological Survey at the University of Kentucky. He previously supervised the Water Resources Section at KGS from 2013 to 2025, overseeing statewide groundwater research, monitoring, and data programs. Prior to KGS, Chuck spent more than 21 years with the U.S. Geological Survey as a groundwater specialist and currently conducts applied research on karst and fractured bedrock aquifers and groundwater availability. He holds a Ph.D. in Sustainable Development from Columbia University and co-authored the textbook "Introduction to Karst Aquifers". Chuck currently serves our board hydrologist.



EMAILS AND QUICK LINKS

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Quick Links

Water Well Drillers Certification

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/401/006/320/>

Monitoring Well Construction:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/401/006/350/>

Well Owner's Guide:

<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Reports/Reports/2009-WaterWellOwnersGuide.pdf>

Water Supply Well Construction:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/401/006/310/>

Well Driller Certification Program:

<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/GW/Pages/GWDrillers.aspx>

Well Record Information Map:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/cdacd3e110aa4ba188283c586513b303>