

**SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 21, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The Septic Tank Pumpers Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order on May 21, 2010, at 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Conrad C. Eckert, Eckert Services; (Chairman);
John Hazen, GWWS, Inc; (Alternate Chairman);
Blaine Rogers, Doorbust'n Portables & Septic Service, LLC, (Primary Region 1);
John Goff, Quality Septic & Vacuum Service, (Primary Region 2);
Robert Cleveland, A-1 Yellowstone Sewer, LLC, (Alternate Region 3);
Len Hunter, Southwest Septic & Sewer, Inc., (Primary Region 4);
Don Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service, (Primary Region 6);
Carl Kundey, CWS Inc, (Primary Region 7);
Tim McKinley, McKinley Septic & Excavating, LLC, (Alternate Region 7);
Renai Hill, Montana DEQ.

MEMBERS WHO CALLED-OFF:

Perry Dolphay, Perry's Septic Pumper, (Alternate Region 1);
Kelly Brown, Brown's Septic Service, (Alternate Region 5).

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Jamie Hillman, Jim's Backhoe & Septic Service, (Alternate Region 3);
Frank Laverell, Laverell's Inc., (Alternate Region 3);
Wade Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service, LLP, (Alternate Region 4);
John Tveit, Ready Freddy, Inc., (Alternate Region 5);
Dale Jacobsen, J & S Horizons, Inc., (Alternate Region 5);
Ken Wheeler, Kenneth E. Wheeler, (Alternate Region 6);
Craig Caes/Gallatin County (Primary County Sanitarian Representative);
Julie Lethert/Broadwater County (Alternate County Sanitarian Representative).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR March 26, 2010 MEETINGS

Conrad Eckert - Chairman asked for any changes to the draft minutes. A motion to approve the March 26, 2010 minutes was made by Don Heimbigner and seconded by Len Hunter. The motion carried and the March 26, 2010 minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. Enforcement Update: Renai Hill stated that two enforcement cases for operating without a license had been closed with all penalties being paid. A third enforcement case for operating without a license remains open pending a hearing with the Board of Environmental Review. An additional action to revoke the pumper's STP license, is also being taken due to the pumper's failure to comply with license conditions.

2. 2010 STP Training Conference and critiques: Committee members reviewed and discussed rating and comments made on the critiques. Several complained about the small print of the slide handouts and the slides themselves. Renai stated that next year she will put two slides instead of three to a page which will increase the font size for the handouts. Times for the conference were on the return card and not on the agenda. Renai stated that she has updated the forms for 2011 to include the times.

3. 2011 STP Training Conference and topics: Members discussed the following:

a. Septic tank installers if they are certified, whether to have them attend the STP training, and provided installers training. If they attend the training, require them to pay a fee. Who provides this type of training? Who to contact if there are problems found with installed systems? New pumpers need installers training so when they inspect/pump a tank they know what to look for if there is a problem.

b. The county sanitarian and their role/responsibility to inspect and approve septic tanks/systems for residential settings.

c. Systems that are approved which have been installed backwards, systems that are approved prior to the homes being built and not checked if they work when connected.

d. Can SPAC members bring names to the meeting of those systems that have problems and have the Committee submit the issue versus individual pumpers? Members stated that there has been a rash of problem systems of late and described the problems they are finding. Renai stated she will find out who the POC would be for this issue.

e. Discussed contacting MSU or other colleges to conduct training for educational credits.

f. Training Topics for the pumpers:

- Septic system installer's class.
- Training on septic systems by John Hazen for new pumpers.
- Pumper rules.
- Basic septic system design.
- Training on some of the new septic systems by vendors.
- Inspecting septic systems. See if Joe Meeks or who ever will do the certification training.
- Dewatering systems.
- Training on the benefits of pumping every 3-5 years. What it does to the system/groundwater if you don't.
- Pathogens.
- Level two systems and maintenance, and level three systems.

g. Training Topics for the public:

- Training for the public on septic systems and wells by Joe Meek. Also, see if he will have a booth.
- Land application training for the public.
- Training on the benefits of pumping every 3-5 years. What it does to the system/groundwater if you don't.

h. Have registration out on the Pumper Web page for participants

4. Proposed 2011 STP Tradeshow:

a. Conrad Eckert called for a vote for who wants to have a tradeshow next year. The vote was unanimous for a tradeshow.

b. Members discussed how long the conference /tradeshow should be. Show should be 2 to 3 days, otherwise vendors will not want to travel for a day, spend a couple hours for setup, and then only have a few hours for the tradeshow. The members determined three days would be the best.

c. Locations were also discussed that would support the tradeshow. A vote was taken and the Metro Park in Billings is the first choice and Montana Expo Park in Great Falls will be second choice. Billings will be more assessable for the vendors and attendees from other states.

d. Inviting adjoining State Agencies and pumpers were discussed. Anyone coming from out-of-state will be charged a fee of \$5.00 or \$10.00.

e. A fee will be charged for booth space and the rate will depend on size, pole/drape, and need for electricity. Booths would be 10 x 10, 10 x 20, or 10 x 40.

f. Dates for the 2011 conference and tradeshow were discussed. It was agreed the Montana event not overlapping the National Pumper Show and Vegas show. November, December, and January were looked at for the event. March 31st, April 1st, and April 2nd were chosen for the event.

g. Advertising in the Pumper Magazine, four major newspapers and have Renai contact adjoining State DEQ/Pumper Programs. Have vendors who will be attending put a notice on their web sites.

h. Conrad Eckert requested that all members present get him a list before the next meeting of 15 to 20 vendors they would like to see at the tradeshow. The vendors can be local and out-of-state. He will contact them once he has all of the lists.

i. Discussed combining the tradeshow with the AG show.

j. Discussed opening the tradeshow to the public. This will give them a better idea of what the pumpers have to buy and maintain for their job. The public will have a better understanding of why pumpers charge what they do for pumping their tanks.

k. Tanya Eckert contacted the Metro Park in Billings and got a quick estimate on what they charge per building. Arena is \$4,000 per day and the Pavilion is \$2,000 per day. Renai Hill will contact Billing and Great Falls and get quotes on building rental, forklift, tables, chairs, pipe/drape, electrical, food vendors, cancellation cost, security, and advertisement, etc.

5. General Discussion:

Members questioned the status of the Lewis & Clark County Maintenance Program. Renai Hill stated that it had not been approved yet, and believed it was still being addressed by a committee, and there have been several newspaper articles on the issue. Renai Hill discussed calls from the community she has received regarding the proposed program.

Members requested Renai Hill put together a sample poster/advertisement for the event.

Members discussed issues/problems with pumpers who would be the inspectors, pumper, and installer. Many of the pumpers are also installers. Who will be liable if something goes wrong after an inspection saying that everything was ok? The members also talked about putting together an inspection checklist.

6. Conference Call: Renai Hill setup conference call for the members. The Department was charged \$80.22 to set the system up and will be charge 0.5 cents a minute for each call. Craig Caes, Gallatin County Sanitarian, was the only member to contact the Department indicating that he would be calling in. Craig did not call in and the Department was still charged a setup fee. The committee members determined not to do this due to cost and lack of participation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Confirm next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on June 18, 2010, 12:00pm to 3:00pm.

2. Agenda items for next meeting

- Discuss 2011 STP Training Conference and Tradeshow:
 - Review the vendor list;
 - Review cost estimates for conference/tradeshow venues;
 - Review sample poster for the conference/tradeshow;
 - Review training agenda for conference.

Conrad Eckert adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.