

**SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 13, 2008 MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Septic Tank Pumpers Advisory Committee meeting was called to order on June 13, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Clark, Scenic City Enterprises;  
Don Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service;  
Barbara Woodbury, Sanders County Sanitarian;  
Conrad Eckert, Eckert Services;  
Wade Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service;  
Renai Hill, Montana DEQ.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Hazen, Hegar Septic (GWWS);  
Harold Blattie, Executive Director – MACO;  
Nancy Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service;  
Betty Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service;  
Darrell Stankey, Montana DEQ/Solid Waste.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 11, 2008 MEETING**

Conrad Eckert (Acting Chairman) asked for any changes to the draft minutes. A motion to approve the April 2008 minutes was made by John Clark and seconded by Don Heimbigner and Wade Stout. The motion carried and the April 11, 2008 minutes were approved.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. *Educating the Public.* The committee discussed various avenues of how to get information out to the public regarding septic systems and septic pumpers. This included newspaper articles (Barbra Woodbury puts articles in her county paper for the community); handouts (many pumpers already do this); public announcements (Darrell Stankey advised that many people either tune the announcements out or leave the room while on); DEQ – Joe Meeks provides training on septic systems to the public; county sanitarian, pumpers, and realtors; and John Heager gets the word out through the local homeowners association.

2. *Enforcement Update.* Renai Hill and Darrell Stankey discussed the pumper complaints received by the Department and Enforcement Action being taken.

3. *Guest Speaker* – The committee discussed issues pumpers face while conducting business with Mr. Harold Blattie, Executive Director of the Montana Association of Counties (MACO). Some of the items discussed include:

- Can the County require owners of septic tanks to have them pumped on a regular bases such as every 4 years? *Mr Blattie stated that the Counties cannot impose any rules onto the residence.*

- How can the public get educated on septic tanks and their maintenance requirements? *The Counties will help provide education to the residence regarding septic systems.*

- How can MACO help the Septic Tank Pumper Business? *Mr Blattie stated that MACO can be a resource for the pumpers to educate the Commissioners who in turn will educate the public. A week long Commissioners Certification Program is held to provide training for newly appointed Commissioners. Mr Blattie stated that on September 20-24, 2008 a training workshop will be held in Hamilton or Missoula. Mr. Blattie will have 10 minutes on the agenda for the SPAC to discuss pumper issues. Conrad Eckert along with other pumpers will attend the meeting/training workshop to discuss the issues and answer questions.*

- The issue was raised about having a Septic Tank District. *Mr. Blattie was unsure if MACO had the authority to do this or not. During the Legislation they will try to get this in place. This will help fund the district...that is what he is trying to accomplish for Lewis & Clark County...this is the only county he can think of at this time who is doing this. It was recommended that our attorney (Norm Mullen) review the status and see if it will allow for a Septic Tank District.*

4. *Fee increase.* The committee recommended tabling discussion on fee increases at this time.

5. *2009 Training Conference Topics.*

- Open discussion and feed back with attendees on getting the word out to the public.

- Biosolids

- John Hazon volunteered to do training.

- Joe Meeks

- Mr. Harold Blattie, Executive Director of the Montana Association of Counties (MACO)

6. *Vacant SPAC Chairman Position.* Issue tabled until the September meeting, there were not enough voting members available. Individuals wishing to be considered for the position are: John Echart, Ravalli County - Eckerts Services and John Hazan, Gallatin County - GWWS, Inc dba Hegar's Septic Service.

7. *General Discussion.* Vacancies for SPAC committee members need to be filled for regions 1, 2, and 7. Each Region covers the following counties: Region 1: Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Richland, McCone, Garfield, Petroleum, Dawson; Region 2: Prairie, Wibaux, Fallon, Carter, Custer, Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure, Big Horn; and Region 7: Powell, Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Broadwater, Judith Basin, Meagher, Fergus.

*Failed Systems.* While servicing or inspecting septic systems and you find that it has failed report it to the County.

*Montana Environmental Health Association (MEHA).* Will be holding a training workshop on October 7 thru 9, 2008 in Great Falls. Barbara Woodbury plans on getting on the agenda to conduct pumper training.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. *Confirm next meeting date*

The next meeting will be held on September 11, 2008, 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

2. *Agenda items for next meeting*

- Educating the public.
- 2009 Training topics
- MACO
- Vacant SPAC Chairman position.

Conrad Eckert adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m.