

**SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2008 MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The Septic Tank Pumpers Advisory Committee meeting was called to order on September 11, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Clark, Scenic City Enterprises;
Jamie Hillman, Jim's Backhoe & Septic Service;
Barbara Woodbury, Sanders County Sanitarian;
Don Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service;
Conrad C. Eckert, Eckert Services;
Renai Hill, Montana DEQ.

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Hazen, Hegar Septic (GWWS);
Betty Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service;
Conrad Eckert, Eckert Services;
Darrell Stankey, Montana DEQ/Solid Waste.
Ed Thamke, Montana DEQ/WUTMB Bureau Chief

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE (CALL-OFF):

Wade Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service, LLP;
Brain Tatman, Heavy Water Haulers Inc;
Susan Reese, Sweet Pea Sewer & Septic.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR June 13, 2008 MEETING

Conrad Eckert (Acting Chairman) asked for any changes to the draft minutes. A motion to approve the June 2008 minutes was made by Don Heimbigner and seconded by John Clark. The motion carried and the June 13, 2008 minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. *Educating the Public.* Renai Hill asked the committee if they would like the Department to develop an educational pamphlet to be available for all pumpers to hand out. She understands several pumpers have developed their own. Conrad Eckert stated that it would be a good idea to have general guidelines from the Department so everyone is on the same page. Renai will draft a document; those with handouts will provide her a copy to incorporate into the document. The draft copy will be sent to committee members for review/comment prior to the 2009 SPAC Training Workshop. The draft document will be presented at the SPAC Training Workshop for review and comment by workshop attendees. Once the handout is finalized, copies will be made available to pumper businesses, all County Sanitarians, and realtor offices.

2. *2009 Training Conference Topics.* a) Open discussion and feed back with attendees on getting the word out to the public. b) Biosolids, c) John Hazen volunteered to do training on equipment (different systems, trouble shooting, and new products.) d) Septic Systems and Ground Water - Joe Meeks, e) Mr. Harold Blattie, Executive Director of the Montana Association of Counties (MACO), to talk about their meeting in September 2008. f) SPAC Meeting voting on members. g) Meth Lab Waste, h) Unlawful Disposal of Hazardous Waste Via Septic Systems and Sumps, i) Distributors to discuss new equipment and new types of septic tanks. John Clark and Conrad Eckert will work on this issue. j) Enforcement Update by the Enforcement Program, k) Legislative Update – per Ed Thamke, research what bills are out there such as the proposed bill on wastewater certification for small wastewater treatment plants.

3. *MACO Workshop.* The workshop is a Commissioners Certification Program for newly appointed Commissioners. Conrad C. Eckert will be attending the workshop to speak about problems that pumpers face in the State. He will contact Mr. Harold Blattie, Executive Director of the Montana Association of Counties (MACO), to find out the location and time he is to speak. The committee was asked and approved Conrad attending the workshop. The floor was opened for any other member that wished to attend with Conrad. No one present volunteered.

Don Heimbigner stated he still would like to see the State mandate pumping requirements on homeowner septic tanks. Conrad Eckert stated that the purpose of him attending the MACO workshop is to get the word out and the problems pumpers face. Conrad would like to ask Commissioners to attend the 2009 SPAC Training Workshop.

4. *Enforcement Update.* Bob Smith informed the group that Enforcement due to a lack of a fire season this year the normal complaints received did not occur. Other complaints include: Kalispell complaints on over application at a site, Renai Hill has inspected the site and determined the complaints to be invalid. This is a site where the neighbors have gotten together and the Department is receiving complaints weekly. A site in Ovando has had 10 to 15 complaints which are not valid. A person in the area does not like the land being used as a land application site and continuously complains to the Department. Other complaints include a couple of unlicensed pumpers operating in the State. One pumper operating without a license has a Penalty Order being drafted for \$21,000. Renai Hill briefed the group on complaints Solid Waste has been receiving on a proposed land application site that has not been used yet. Barbara Woodbury stated that as communities encroach on rural land, management and assessments will be more critical for County Sanitarians. This will be included in her presentation during the Montana Environmental Health Association (MEHA) training. The committee discussed new subdivisions coming into communities all over the state which is increasing complaints and the loss of their land application sites. The subdivisions create more business, however there is a decrease in disposal sites and soon they will all be gone with no where to take the pumpings.

5. *Confirm 2009 SPAC annual Training date* – The committee discussed when would be best to hold the workshop. The training date of January 21, 2009 was presented by members. This will be on a Wednesday this year which will help in the event John Clark and Conrad Eckert are able to get vendors to attend the workshop. Time will be blocked off before lunch to have a meeting and vote in new members: Committee members, Chairperson, and Vice-Chairperson. A motion was made by John Clark to approve January 21, 2009 as the SPAC training date and was seconded by Don Heimbigner.

6. *Vacant SPAC Chairman Position.* The issue was tabled again due to a lack of a quorum. Renai Hill read the SPAC Rules: “A quorum shall consist of five regular members which may consist of primary and alternate members. No final action shall be taken on any matter except pursuant to the majority vote of the regular members present.” The County Sanitarian and the DEQ positions are non-voting positions. Vacancies on the committee include: Region 7 which includes Powell, Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Broadwater, Judith Basin, Meagher, Fergus counties; Chairperson; and Vice Chairperson.

7. *General Discussion.* The committee discussed the lack of interest from other pumpers in attending the committee meetings. There were no representatives for Lewis & Clark County/Helena and the meeting is being held in Town. One member requested that the meeting be made mandatory. Renai Hill informed the group that this is a volunteer committee and attendance can not be mandated. Conrad C. Eckert suggested that committee members contact other pumpers and try to generate interest in the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *Confirm next meeting date*

The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2009 during the Annual SPAC Training Workshop.

2. *Agenda items for next meeting*

- Discuss the Septic Tank Pumpers Advisory Committee with the workshop attendees and vote on vacant committee positions.

Conrad Eckert adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.