

**SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2010, MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The Septic Tank Pumpers Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order on September 24, 2010, at 12:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Conrad C. Eckert, Eckert Services (Chairman)
Wade Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service, LLP (Alternate Region 4)
John Tveit, Ready Freddy, Inc. (Alternate Region 5)
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)
Julie Lethert, Broadwater County (Alternate County Sanitarian Representative)
Renai Hill, Montana DEQ
Guest - Cliff Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service, LLP
Guest - Tonya Eckert, Eckert Services

MEMBERS WHO CALLED-OFF:

Kelly Brown, Brown's Septic Service (Alternate Region 5)
John Goff, Quality Septic & Vacuum Service (Primary Region 2)

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

John Hazen, GWWS, Inc. (Alternate Chairman)
Blaine Rogers, Doorbust'n Portables & Septic Service, LLC (Primary Region 1)
Perry Dolphay, Perry's Septic Pumper (Alternate Region 1)
Robert Cleveland, A-1 Yellowstone Sewer, LLC (Alternate Region 3)
Jamie Hillman, Jim's Backhoe & Septic Service (Alternate Region 3)
Frank Laverell, Laverell's Inc. (Alternate Region 3)
Len Hunter, Southwest Septic & Sewer, Inc. (Primary Region 4)
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)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR June 18, 2010 MEETINGS

Conrad Eckert, Chairman, asked for any changes to the draft minutes. A motion to approve the June 18, 2010, minutes was made by Don Heimbigner and seconded by Carl Kundey. The motion carried and the June 18, 2010, minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. Enforcement Update: Renai Hill briefed the members on the new enforcement request on a pumper operating without a license and without an approved disposal site. She also gave an update on the ongoing enforcement case. The Stipulation Order penalties and conditions were discussed. The pumper is making monthly payment towards the penalties owed and disposal records are being received on a monthly basis.

2. 2011 STP Training and Tradeshow:

- a. Conrad Eckert and Renai Hill discussed the new web page for the training conference and tradeshow. Renai Hill provided copies of a few of the web documents and provided the link so everyone could go on-line to view the information. The information can be accessed at <http://deq.mt.gov/SolidWaste/pumpers.mcp> and then clicking on the “2011 Annual STP Training Conference & Tradeshow” link located in the left-hand column of the page. Everyone can access member and vendor registration forms, vendor list, hotel list, information, and coming soon the agenda. The floor diagram for the vendor can be accessed through the vendor registration form.
- b. Members reviewed the vendor floor diagram. Vendor fees have changed to reflect the new space sizes:

Vendor Fees:

- Standard Space 8ft table \$100 (Two tables, two chairs, and two lunches)
- 10 x 10 space \$150 (One table, two chairs, and two lunches)
- 20 x 40 space \$175 (Outside parking lot/one table, two chairs, and two lunches)

- Lunch first day \$12.95 (Additional cost per person for those not covered under the space fee)

Vendors who need a larger space can contact Renai Hill who will work out placement in the ballroom and or parking lot. She will update the floor diagram and vendor list when the Department receives the registration forms and fees. The floor diagram will change once we get a better idea of the space requirements of the attending vendors.

- c. John Goff, Quality Septic & Vacuum Service (Primary Region 2), was unable to attend, however, he did send an e-mail with fee recommendations. He recommends that since this is our first tradeshow keeping the fee for the public within reason such as \$5 or \$10, but going up to \$20 would be out of the range of most people who may not even understand what the event is all about. Out-of-state agencies or pumper businesses should be around \$15. We could also offer early bird registration discounts or 2-for-1 if registered tickets are purchased before a said date. Conrad Eckert and the members present agreed to a general public fee of \$5. Pumpers from out of state should be \$20 which will cover their meal and incidentals.
- d. Renai Hill asked those members present if they have provided a list of vendors who they would like to see at the event. Tim McKinley stated that he has spoken to Caterpillar and RDO out of Great Falls who are both interested in attending. Tonya Eckert requested a point of contact and phone number for the businesses. She also requested Renai Hill provide her a list of those she spoke with during the National Convention. Members began discussing the vendors they would like to see and demonstrations. Local businesses who sell pumps, valves, pipes, D-boxes, controls, and parts such as R & R Pump (Helena) and Northwest Pipes (Billings). Conrad and Tonya Eckert stated that they are trying to get a variety of businesses such as dewatering, camera locating, accessories, trucks, portable toilets, and pumps.
- e. The committee reviewed and discussed the training topics for the conference.
 - Septic system installer’s class. These run two to three days and it was recommended we do this next year and plan some additional days just for this. This will also depend on the interest. Those attending this course will be required to pay an additional fee.

- Training on septic systems by John Hazen for new pumpers. This will be on Day 2 during the breakout session for new pumpers.
- Pumper rules by Rick Thompson. This will be on Day 1 during all member training.
- Basic septic system design. If training is provided by a vendor, it would need to be generic in nature and not product specific for their company. Conrad and Tonya Eckert will ask the question when contacting vendors if they would be interested in providing training. Frank Preskar, Lewis & Clark County, provides this type of training. Renai will see if he would be willing to conduct this training. If not, Julie Lethert, Broadwater County Sanitarian, informed the group that she and Craig Caes, Gallatin County Sanitarian, would be willing to provide the training. The basic training will be one hour. Day 1 for all pumpers and maybe on Day 2 for the public.
- Training on some of the new septic systems by vendors.
- Septic System Inspector Certification Training. See if Lewis & Clark County (Frank) can do this certification training. If there is a fee, the pumpers will be required to cover the cost. Members also discussed NAWT and the certified training they provided and maybe have this next year with a larger venue and a break out session. See if they will come this year and discuss what they offer and explain each course.
- Dewatering systems. Conrad Eckert will speak with vendors and see if they can do some generic training on dewatering systems, i.e. the smaller units versus the larger units. Helena WWTP is talking about closing down to pumpers because of the excessive amount of solids in the load.
- Training on the benefits of pumping every three to five years. What it does to the system/groundwater if you don't. Renai Hill stated this will be covered in Joe Meeks' training class. Last year the training ran 1 ½ to 2 hours.
- Pathogens. Have for new pumpers on Day 2.
- Level two systems and maintenance, and level three systems. Level two systems require someone to maintain and inspect it. This is required in Lewis & Clark County. Julie Lethert and members discussed what these systems are and why level two systems are being required in some areas. Training for Day 1.
- Safety Training. Renai Hill made the recommendation of having the Department of Labor conduct training for the pumpers. Over the last four years at least five pumper trucks have had an accident and have lost their loads. Conduct this on Day 1 for all pumpers. Not only cover driving, but general safety, digging at the site, and don't enter the tank, etc.

Training Topics for the public:

- Training for the public on septic systems and wells by Joe Meek. Training on the benefits of pumping every three to five years. What it does to the system/groundwater if you don't. Also, see if he will have a booth.
- Land application training for the public. Have on Day 2 for the public. Julie Lethert asked if some of the land application property owners could attend and speak about their property, the affects of pumpings being placed on their land, and the benefits. Renai Hill discussed some of the issues and concerns the public has regarding having a land applications site in their back yard.

Discussed training for 2012 and to wait and see how 2011 goes first. Have a four-day versus a three-day, have more training, break out sessions, etc.

- f.** SPAC Meeting during the Training Conference. Members discussed the best time to have. Renai Hill recommended Conrad Eckert be given 15 minutes on Day 1 right after Rick Thompson's greeting/introduction to the group. Conrad will give an overview of what SPAC is and each SPAC member will stand and introduce themselves and the region they represent. SPAC will also have a table with some of their accomplishments and a signup list for anyone that wants to be a member. The SPAC table will have a table in the Hallway between the Ballroom and the Training Conference room. On Day 2 have some time set aside for Conrad to request additional volunteers for the SPAC.
- g.** Discussed the days of the training conference and tradeshow. April 22 is on Friday, April 23 is on Saturday, and April 24 is on Sunday. Conrad Eckert recommended that we invite realtors to the training and tradeshow. Julie Lethert informed the members that this was Easter weekend. The meeting was put on hold as Renai Hill called Crystal at the Red Lion Hotel for some new days. The dates available are (May 7 & 8), (May 13, 14, & 15), and (May 20, 21, & 22). The SPAC members voted and May 20, 21, & 22, 2011, will be the new dates for the training conference and tradeshow. Dates will be corrected on the STP web page.
- h.** Members discussed advertisement and how we planned on getting the word out. Renai Hill informed the members that they would provide the information to the DEQ's Public Affairs person who in turn will make all the appropriate notifications such as the major newspapers, television news broadcasters, etc. Conrad Eckert will put something in the Pumper Magazine calendar about the training and tradeshow. This will only list what it is, when and where it's located, a point of contact, and the web link. Renai Hill asked how far in advance do we want this information going out. Notices for the news papers will go out the week of the event. Conrad Eckert asked about notification of the pumper businesses in the adjacent States. Renai Hill will contact the DEQ counterparts in those States and discuss with them how to best get the word out. A notice about the conference and tradeshow will go out with the 2011 License Renewal Packages to the currently licensed Montana pumpers, County Health Officers/Sanitarians, and a second reminder will go out the week of April 25, 2011.
- i.** Hotel accommodation. Eighty rooms have been blocked off for the Red Lion. Anyone planning on staying at the Red Lion Hotel must use the MT DEQ - Waste Underground Tank block code MTDE0421. The more people that stay at the hotel gives us credit towards the cost of the meeting rooms. This is all tracked with the block code number.
- j.** SPAC member responsibility during the conference and tradeshow. Conrad Eckert plans on being here the night before the event to help with any last minute issues. He plans on being in the conference/tradeshow area around 6:00 am on the first day. Renai Hill stated that the STP Conference/Tradeshow Registration table will be setup in the Hotel Lobby and registration will begin at 7:00 am. Conrad Eckert will be assisting with the Vendors, greeting them and showing them where to setup. Renai Hill stated that she will have special name tags made up for all the SPAC members so they are readily identifiable. Members need to be briefed by Renai Hill and Conrad Eckert on locations, etc., so if anyone asks them a question they can accurately direct them. SPAC members will have a copy of the agenda, the list of vendors, and the floor diagram with them at all times to assist attendees and vendors. SPAC members must ensure they thank all vendors, speakers, and attendees. Get feedback on what they liked, didn't like, and what would make it better next year. Members need to keep good notes on this. Renai Hill stated that she will also have a vendor critique in their folders.

The question was asked about manning the SPAC Table. Conrad Eckert stated that no one will be assigned a time, however, if you see someone at the table go over and answer questions and talk to them. During breaks, after lunch, etc., you can go and sit at the table and be available to

answer questions. If you don't have the answer, let them know you will get the answer for them whether it's dealing with the Red Lion Hotel, etc. DEQ Administrative Support Staff will be manning the Registration Table and can also provide assistance/answers to questions.

- k. Members discussed having a mixer for attendees. Renai Hill informed the group that they would not be able to hire their own band and have them at the hotel. Attendees and vendors can meet at the Hotel Bar or in one of the conference rooms. This will be held Saturday night, May 21, 2011.

3. General Discussion:

Members discussed pumpers from the colonies and the reservations pumping without a license. Renai Hill stated that any member of the colony that pumps off site requires a license and any member of the reservation that pumps off the reservation are required to have a license with the State. Any member of the reservation that pumps only on the reservation does not require a license from the State because they fall under the jurisdiction of EPA Region 8. The question was raised are they required to till, etc. Renai Hill informed the group that since they fall under the EPA, 40 CFR Part 503 would be used and the same requirements of tilling, liming, or injection are required.

Renai Hill handed out the current list of licensed pumper businesses. She discussed how many are currently licensed, those pending, and those closed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Confirm next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on January 28, 2011, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

2. Agenda items for next meeting

- Enforcement update
- Discuss status of the 2011 STP Training Conference and Tradeshow
 - Vendors
 - Agenda

Conrad Eckert adjourned the meeting at 1:57 pm.