

**SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 28, 2011, MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Septic Tank Pumpers Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order on January 28, 2010, at 12:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Conrad C. Eckert, Eckert Services (Chairman)  
Robert Cleveland, A-1 Yellowstone Sewer, LLC (Alternate Region 3)  
Wade Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service, LLP (Alternate Region 4)  
Don Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service (Primary Region 6)  
Tim McKinley, McKinley Septic & Excavating, LLC (Alternate Region 7)  
Julie Lethert, Broadwater County (Alternate County Sanitarian Representative)  
Renai Hill, Montana DEQ  
Guest – Betty Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service  
Guest - Tonya Eckert, Eckert Services  
Guest - Conrad Eckert Sr, Eckert Services

**MEMBERS WHO CALLED-OFF:**

Kelly Brown, Brown's Septic Service (Alternate Region 5)  
John Tveit, Ready Freddy, Inc. (Alternate Region 5)

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

John Hazen, GWWS, Inc. (Alternate Chairman)  
Blaine Rogers, Doorbust'n Portables & Septic Service, LLC (Primary Region 1)  
Brian Tatman, Heavy Water Haulers, Inc. (Primary Region 1)  
John Goff, Quality Septic & Vacuum Service (Primary Region 2)  
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)  
Carl Kundey, CWS Inc. (Primary Region 7)  
Craig Caes, Gallatin County (Primary County Sanitarian Representative)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR September 24, 2010 MEETINGS**

Conrad Eckert, Chairman, asked for any changes to the draft minutes. A motion to approve the September 24, 2010, minutes was made by Don Heimbigner and seconded by Tim McKinley. The motion carried and the September 24, 2010, minutes were approved.

**DISCUSSION ITEM:**

***1. Enforcement Update:*** Renai Hill briefed the members on the two enforcement cases. Cascade County – operating without a license: pumper business is making monthly payment towards the penalties owed and disposal records are being received on a monthly basis. Lake County - operating without a license: pumper business is working to become licensed and enforcement is working on

penalty requirements. Complaints called in from Beaverhead County – litter issues and Gallatin County – portable toilet waste disposal.

## **2. 2011 STP Training and Tradeshow:**

- a.** Conrad Eckert and Renai Hill discussed the training conference and tradeshow. Renai Hill stated that only one vendor “Pumpertec, Inc” out of Anoka, MN has confirmed and paid his fee. She has spoken with Vacuum 101 and Aqua-Zyme Disposal Systems in October 2010 and were interested, but have not confirmed. Recently she sent information to SludgeHammer out of Petoskey, MI who is interested in attending the tradeshow and conduct training/demonstrations. Tonya Eckert briefed on those vendors she has contacted and she will conduct call backs to check on status. Robert Cleveland also discussed those vendors he has spoken with. Renai Hill will provide a direct link to the training conference and tradeshow web page to Tonya Eckert to make it easier for the vendors to log on for information. Renai Hill informed the members if vendor confirmation does not pick up the tradeshow portion of the event will be cancelled. The training conference on May 20, 2011, would continue. Notifications have not been sent to the newspapers, out-of-state agencies, or speakers and will not until a definite tradeshow is in the works. Tonya Eckert discussed our options in the event the tradeshow was cancelled. Renai Hill stated she would send out letters notifying every one of any changes. Members present determined that March 31, 2011, will be the cutoff date to determine whether we will have a tradeshow or not.
- b.** Renai Hill discussed the training topics in the event the training is a 1-day or 3-day-event. She asked Julie Lethert, Broadwater County, if she would conduct the “Basic Septic System Design Training” and “Level Two and Level Three Systems and Maintenance.” Julie Lethert stated she or another representative will conduct the training. Renai will continue to contact speakers for the event.

Day 1 training will be:

- STP Rules-Rick Thompson
  - Basic Septic System Design Training
  - Pathogens in the septic tank
  - Level Two and Level Three Systems and Maintenance
  - Unknown – filters proposed
  - Unknown
  - Pressure Dose System – Robert Cleveland
  - SPAC – Conrad Eckert
- c.** Renai Hill briefed the members on those pumpers and county sanitarians who have confirmed attendance for the training and tradeshow. A total of 53 have confirmed they will attend.
- Pumper businesses - 34 post cards received:
    - Will not attend - 12
    - Will attend - 22 businesses owners and 25 employees.
  - County Sanitarians – 4 post cards received:
    - Will not attend - 1
    - Will attend – 6

### ***3. General Discussion:***

Renai Hill handed out the current list of licensed pumper businesses. She discussed how many are currently licensed, those pending, and those sold/closed. Perry Dolphay, Perry's Septic Pumper (Alternate Region 1 SPAC member) closed his business and was removed from the SPAC. A new committee member list and map were also provided.

Discussed member attendance and call offs. Conrad Eckert indicated a need to update the SPAC Rules and Procedures which will be discussed during the SPAC meeting at the conference in May 2011. The question was asked if it could be mandatory for the primary to attend the SPAC meetings unless he has contacted the alternate member to fill in for him/her. Rick Thompson informed the members that this is a voluntary committee and even if it is written in the SPAC rules and procedures, we cannot force them to attend. Conrad Eckert stated that members should not state that they want to be involved with the committee and then not show up at any of the meetings. Non-attendance has caused problems with getting projects accomplished. Rick Thompson suggested that the pumper businesses should form an association separate from the Department and the SPAC. Conrad Eckert asked if they could request a rule change making it mandatory for everyone to attend training because they pay the additional fee for it, but not everyone is getting the training. Rick Thompson cautioned verbiage being used which sound as if DEQ staff is not doing their job. He stated that training is being provided for all pumper businesses however, many are not using the opportunity to attend the training. A formed association could submit bills to the legislature for things such as pumper certification requirements. Members discussed the difference between the SPAC and an association. Bob Cleveland discussed training requirements for not only the pumpers, but county sanitarians, realtors, and the public so everyone is educated and understands septic systems.

Renai Hill discussed the STP rules and status of the update. Members discussed the need for vehicle inspection because of the safety concerns with some pumper trucks they see on the road. Members also discussed the state of some septic tanks and drain fields that have failed to include those homes being sold. Members discussed requiring a mandatory tank pumping and inspection prior to putting the home on the market.

The STP Pumper Guide has been updated with changes that include adding chapters on how to determine slopes, sump waste testing, and a new process flow chart. The chapter on using lime has been revamped to include the type of pH paper and meters to use. Copies will be mailed to pumper businesses and county health departments.

The new guide, "The Counties Guide for Approving Septage Land Application Sites" has been written and will be mailed to all county health officers and sanitarians.

Don Heimbigner asked if the notification requirement for new disposal sites is a ten mile radius. Renai Hill stated that the Environmental Assessment is mailed only to those property owners whose property adjoins the proposed site. If issues arise from the first notification, the notification can be expanded beyond the adjoining property owners which occurred in Ravalli County. Members discussed public comment and what would warrant the site being denied. If the site meets all local requirements, and is approved at the local level, and all state law and rule requirements it will be approved, however, additional license conditions may be required on a case by case basis.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. *Confirm next meeting date***

The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2011, (Special Meeting during the STP Training Conference & Tradeshow).

### **2. *Agenda items for next meeting***

- SPAC Rules and Procedures.
- What types of training do you want to see for training in the future?
- Forming a pumper association.

Conrad Eckert adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.