



Technical Guidance Committee

Minutes

February 4, 2009

Department of Environmental Quality
Conference Room A
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, Idaho

ATTENDEES:

Mike Reno, Environmental Health Supervisor, Central District Health Department (CDHD)
Steve Pew, Environmental Health Director, Southeastern District Health Department
Joe Canning, P.E., B&A Engineers
Bob Erickson, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, South Central Public Health District
David Hatt, Onsite Wastewater Coordinator, DEQ
George Miles, Advanced Wastewater Engineering, P.C.

ABSENT:

None

GUESTS:

Rob Howarth, Environmental Health Director, CDHD
Brian Crawford, REHS, Land Development Supervisor, SWDH
AJ Maupin, Wastewater Engineer, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Bill Johnson, President, Northern Idaho Building Contractors Association
Allen Worst, R.C. Worst, Inc.
Larry Jeffries, R.C. Worst, Inc.
Kellye Eager, Environmental Health Director, EIPHD
Nathan Taylor, REHS, Land Development Supervisor, EIPHD

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am on February 4, 2009.



OLD BUSINESS:

- TGC meeting minutes:
 - March 13, 2007 minutes presented to show ASTM C-33 sand gradation information as requested during December 18, 2008 TGC meeting. Question arose about whether action is to be taken on changing ASTM C-33 sand gradation. Concluded that if the TGC desired they could consider this action at the March 17, 2009 TGC meeting. Mike Reno motion to accept corrected minutes, Joe Canning seconded. Passed unanimously. March 13th meeting minutes will be posted as final.
 - August 1, 2008 minutes presented to show corrections to grammar and spelling. Joe Canning motioned to accept correct minutes, Mike Reno seconded. Passed unanimously. August 1st meeting minutes will be posted as final.
 - December 18, 2008 minutes presented. George Miles requested additional information on Luxury Cabin/Trophy Homes discussion be inserted in these minutes. Joe Canning indicated that this topic will be addressed again during March 17, 2009 meeting. Steve Pew motioned to accept minutes unaltered, Joe Canning seconded. Passed unanimously. December 18th meeting minutes will be posted as final.

- Alternative Systems:
 - The alternative systems general requirements for permitting and design submitted by AJ Maupin during the December 18, 2008 TGC meeting was brought the members for approval, but was not on the original agenda posted to the web. Permission was granted by the TGC members to enter the Alternative systems general requirements onto the agenda for a vote. Joe Canning Motioned to approve the updated Alternative Systems General Requirements, seconded by George Miles. Passed Unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Rule status in the Legislature:

A.J. Maupin reported that the proposed Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rules did not make it out of the House and Senate Committees. Although a concurrent resolution has not yet been drafted and approved, DEQ anticipates this resolution before the end of this legislative session.

Extended Treatment Package (ETP) System section:

Concern was raised that the altered ETP System section placed too much enforcement emphasis on the home owner and not the service provider. Many health districts concerned that the main reason for ETP System malfunction is inadequate operations and maintenance (O&M) provided by the service provider. DEQ concurred but pointed out that the only legal recourse granted by the Rules is against the property owner who generates the wastewater. Additionally, this proposed change placed the burden of notification on the Health Districts. Concern voiced that the O&M Entities and the



service providers should be notifying their members/clients. Initial correspondence between the Health District and the O&M Entities / Service Providers should copy the affected home owners to inform them of their system status and potential consequences. Finally, the proposed alternative verbiage and format in the ETP System section needs to be combined into a single document. This will be presented to the ETP System Task Force for review. Mike Reno motioned to table the proposed ETP System section until the compilation can be evaluated by the Task Force and DEQ, Steve Pew seconded; passed unanimously.

Allen Worst stated that the O&M Entities, through their service providers should be determining the reason for failure. If the home owners are determined to be responsible for the malfunction then the O&M Entity / service provider should not have this system count against them. Health District representatives indicated that in that case they gladly send the home owner a letter informing them of the consequences of their actions. Typically, home owners that refuse to allow access quickly change their minds.

Term Guidelines:

MODULE: The term 'module' was presented to the TGC for their consideration to insert into the TGM. The term was deemed necessary. Mike Reno motioned to accept the term, George Miles seconded; passed unanimously.

BEDROOM: Some Health Districts feel that a bedroom definition would help the permitting process. Multiple Health Districts have experienced builders showing one set of drawings in their permit application then showing a different set to the building department for the building permit.

Brian Crawford voiced concern that including these terms in the TGM so soon after the legislature refused to approve the proposed subsurface sewage rules may be viewed by the legislature to be circumventing their authority. Mike Reno motioned that the Onsite Coordinator should consult with the Administrator on this issue and return at the March 17, 2009 TGC meeting with direction before any of these terms were included in the TGM, Bob Erickson seconded; passed unanimously.

Total Nitrogen Reduction Policy (TNRP):

Keith Spiers, Idaho Wastewater Treatment, Inc. submitted an email request concerning the 'Minimum Source Water Alkalinity' column in the TNRP table on TGM page 155. Additionally, Mr. Spiers wondered why the Norweco Recirculating Singular was listed on the table when it had been recommended by the TGC to remove it during the July 31/August 1, 2008 TGC meeting.

A.J. Maupin, PE, responded that the column in question in the TNRP table has a footnote associated with it. The footnote states "Minimum recommended source water alkalinity to support nitrification in the denitrification processes." ... These values are the stoichiometric quantities required to support nitrification. They are "recommended" and not enforceable. The purpose for inclusion here is to assist service providers in troubleshooting systems rather than as an installation permit requirement. **If soft water is**



encountered at a site that requires nitrification / denitrification, a calcium carbonate block can be suspended in the septic tank to provide the necessary alkalinity. A.J. Maupin stated that he would contact Mr. Spiers and discuss this with him.

The continued presence of the Norweco Recirculating Singular on the TNRP table will be corrected and the table updated at the earliest possible opportunity. Mike Reno motioned that the TNRP table be updated by removing the Norweco Recirculating Singular, George Miles seconded; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC ISSUES:

Allen Worst, R. C. Worst, Inc. presented his view on why the Senate and House committees refused to support DEQ's proposed Individual/Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rules.