

WPP STAKEHOLDER MAKEUP MEETING MINUTES
JULY 15, 2014

ATTENDEES:

- ❖ Timothy Cade, Peter Czerwinski, Zuri Dale, Frank Green, Ron Gunter, Doug Hall, Scott Harper, Andy Isbell, Steven Johnston, Kimberly Kembro, Brandt Mannchen, Will Merrell, Paul Nelson, Scott Nichols, Warren Oja, Carol Reed, Ben Richardson, Ruth Stultz

- ❖ Randy Acreman, Lorena Anderson, Michael Bleier, Christine Cooper, Jace Houston, Meagan Lee, Samuel Meza, Tom Michaels, Rhonda Mona, Davies Mtundu, Hector Ortiz, David Parkhill, Bret Raley, Michelle Simpson, Shane Simpson, Lois Worrell

AGENDA:

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Walker County Environmental OSSF Presentation
- ❖ Roundtable Discussion

OPENING:

- ❖ Welcome and opening comments by Bret Raley.

PRESENTATIONS:

- ❖ On Site Sewage Facilities Power Point presented by Randy Acreman
- ❖ "Maintenance" Tracking for Secondary Treatment Systems presented by Andy Isbell

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- ❖ Aerobic Systems vs. Conventional Systems
- ❖ System Violations and Penalties
- ❖ Management of Maintenance Contracts
- ❖ Septic System Education for the public.

DISCUSSIONS HELD:

David Parkhill: Explains issues with losing air supply in aerobic systems.

Ron Gunter: Asked if all new systems are required to be aerobic?

Randy Acreman: No. Standard systems are still being installed, primarily in the north end of the lake if the soil supports it.

Ron Gunter: Are the majority systems aerobic?

Randy Acreman: Yes

David Parkhill: Defines the 2,075 foot perimeter around the lake

Bret Raley: Discussion on how local orders can be more stringent than TCEQ

Ron Gunter: Questioned which systems would be more harmful to the reservoir?

David Parkhill: Explained that both systems are good if operating correctly. Discussed SJRA's goal is to implement a plan to reduce failures. Looking at how we can do more than just modify our local rules to improve water quality conditions.

Peter Czerwinski: Topography comes into play with septic sprays. Believes if a major developer comes in they should be required to install a major septic system.

David Parkhill: Discussion on changes to rules will have to comply with current laws.

Presentation by Andy Isbell begins

Andy Isbell: Defines presentation regarding Aerobics & Maintenance.

Doug Hall: Questioned how many citations does Walker County write per month?

Andy Isbell: Replied a lot. They receive 400-500 complaints a month.

Doug Hall: Questioned if all citations go to court?

Andy Isbell: Replied all of them go to court.

Andy Isbell: Discussion held regarding maintenance enforcements.

Zuri Dale: Questioned if a homeowner is bound to a maintenance contract if the maintenance isn't being done?

Andy Isbell: Responded saying either party can cancel contract by giving 30 days' notice to the Authority.

David Parkhill: How many systems are in Walker County? Andy replied approximately 4,300 aerobic and 5,700 total systems.

Jace Houston: Questioned what software Walker County is using?

Andy Isbell: Replied S.A.F.E. which has an Access back end.

Jace Houston: Asked Montgomery County what software they are using.

Scott Nichols: Responded they are currently using a system from the 80's. Their database is so large it would be an undertaking to transfer to a new system.

Jace Houston: Asked Andy if Walker County is scanning in their maintenance contracts?

Andy Isbell: Replied most of their records are electronic.

Jace Houston: Inquired how many employees does it take to work this system?

Andy Isbell: Discussion on multiple people used for the field and enforcement along with staff for the tracking and maintenance.

David Parkhill: Discussion on coming up with recommended rule changes and how to fund it for when we get ready to take it to the SJRA Board.

Tim Cade: Questioned if there has to be a certain number of maintenance inspections?

Mike Bleir: Every four months seems to work.

David Parkhill: Discusses the stats of compliance with the maintenance agreements.

Andy Isbell: We look at it from a risk assessment. The higher the risk then the more often they are required to report.

David Parkhill: Discusses if we want to allow commercial business to have aerobic systems.

David Parkhill: We could look at not allowing systems within 100' to 200' of the reservoir.

Mike Bleir: On the north in of the lake may be difficult when septic is the only system available.

Zuri Dale: Questioned if more guidelines are put in place would that deter people from wanting to use them due to the cost burden?

Mike Bleir: No one chooses to have a septic system; they put these in because this is the only option.

Randy Acreman: Some developers avoid putting in a central system due to cost.

Andy Isbell: Explains the cost of sewer bills versus septic systems.

Ruth Stultz: States that having maintenance every 4 months and then the time taken to correct a problem seems like a long time to have a problem.

David Parkhill: We would like to have an education program for homeowners due to most homeowners just don't understand what to do with their systems.

Ruth Stultz: Agrees most people don't understand their systems.

David Parkhill: It would be good to work with real estate companies to get information to the homeowners.

Andy Isbell: Discussion regarding the affidavit that goes with the systems. Problem is the affidavit doesn't usually transfer to the new homeowner.

Ruth Stultz: At closing time, the buyer is given information about the system but usually only what the inspector found. There isn't any education regarding the system operating properly.

Doug Hall: First thing you have to do is get the contracts.

David Parkhill: We need to recommend to our board the frequency of inspections and require inspections.

Mike Bleir: My recommendation is Andy's program, it seems very thorough. I would like for the river authority to summarize in 10-15 bullet points Andy's program and bring it to the board. I believe there is any reason to reinvent the wheel. I believe we need to keep in mind on the residential side that some people may need more time to comply.

Andy Isbell: The code states most provisions have 30 days to correct unless they pose a health risk.

David Parkhill: We need as the staff to estimate costs and present to the board, and then come up with sources of funding. We may want to look at adding the right to inspect conventional systems.

David Parkhill: Need to look at who will issue the citations for violations.

Randy Acreman: What would the benefit be to SJRA writing the citations?

Scott Nichols: Huge benefit for SJRA to write Class C citations. However, SJRA will not be a threatening force so if the homeowner doesn't show up for their court hearing, and gets a failure to appear it's very effective.

Tim Cade: Questioned if there is a set percentage that SJRA receives from a fine?

Scott Nichols: No, but you are talking about minimum amounts. I would suggest SJRA writes the

first offense. If there is a second offense with in the year then have the constable write the citation.

Andy Isbell: Pretrial can fine \$500.00, or if there is a poverty situation it can be deferred.

David Parkhill: Stated we will bring back recommendations to the group before it goes to the board.

Mike Bleir: Asked if we should expect some feedback by the next meeting?

David Parkhill: Responded saying that is the goal.