

Minutes
Drinking Water Protection Committee
October 30, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delores Coffing, Jeff Hoffmann, Gale Holbrook, Ron Kroeger, Rod Meador, Grace Mickelson, Linda Peterson, Foster Sawyer, Bob Wall, Bill Waugh

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Bjerke, Marcia Elkins, Marlin Johnson, Van Lindquist, Sharlene Mitchell, Jerry Munson, Randy Nelson, Eugene Solseth, Michael Towey, Ted Vore, Sig Zvejnieks

Call to Order

Mickelson called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. introducing new Committee members, Waugh, Meador and Hoffmann and Michael Towey, Water Protection Coordinator. She then briefly reviewed the Committee's composition and the Committee's activities over the past months noting the extension of the Contract for Services through December 2002.

Approval of February 1, 2001 Minutes

Coffing moved, Peterson seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the February 1, 2001 meeting.

Mickelson commented briefly on the educational materials purchased by the Educational Subcommittee and the public dissemination of those materials. Mickelson reviewed the educational funding provided by the County, City and West Dakota Water Development District noting the current status of those funds.

Mickelson reviewed the Steering Committee's work on the On-Site Septic System Ordinance noting that additional work is required prior to presenting the ordinance for Committee review.

Mickelson indicated that specific historical materials would be provided to the new members in order to familiarize them with the history and goals of the Committee. Mickelson reviewed the membership of the three standing subcommittees: County Ordinances, City Ordinances and Education.

Education Subcommittee

Lindquist briefly reviewed the goals of the Education Subcommittee noting the materials that have been purchased and distributed to date. Lindquist commented on the remaining supply of education materials. Lindquist presented an area map identifying the boundaries of the September 19th mailing noting that approximately 1,200 educational packets were distributed. Lindquist extended thanks to Linda Peterson and Greind Printers for their assistance in preparing the mailing.

Lindquist then reviewed the proposed area for the second educational mailing noting that the Subcommittee is recommending that the mailing take place after January 1, 2002. Lindquist indicated that the Education Subcommittee recommends continuing with the current educational packet. In response to a question from Wall, Lindquist indicated that the selected mailing areas have been targeted due to their proximity to the water recharge area. Noting the past trends of his customers, Solseth recommended that the second educational mailing be processed in March or April of 2002. Lindquist commented on the need to purchase additional materials in order to facilitate the second mailing.

In response to a question from Coffing, Towey indicated that he had received only one response to the mailing and that response was very positive. Hoffmann indicated that he resides in the initial mailing area and was very impressed with the materials provided and complemented the Committee on their initiative to educate homeowners on this issue.

Lindquist requested Committee authorization to purchase the additional educational materials necessary to facilitate the second mailing.

Lindquist indicated that the Education Committee is also recommending that the four educational videos be re-broadcast on the public access channel. Lindquist indicated that the Rapid City Journal has agreed to publish a major article on the drinking water issue. Discussion followed regarding additional avenues to be utilized in the public education process including development of a speakers bureau. Lindquist indicated that the annual Home Show has also been recommended as a method of providing the educational materials to the general public.

Lindquist indicated that the Black Hills Council of Governments has received requests for assistance in developing on-site septic system installation and inspection programs from area counties and communities. Discussion followed regarding additional educational avenues available to the Committee.

Coffing moved, Meador seconded and carried unanimously to approve the expenditure of the Pennington County educational funding for the purchase of the “Homeowner Onsite System Record Keeping Folder” packets and to approve the second educational mailing to be mailed after January 1, 2002.

In response to a question from Wall, Mickelson reviewed the expenses incurred with the first mailing. Solseth encouraged the continued distribution of the education packets in conjunction with the issuance of building permits.

Holbrook suggested providing a survey with the second mailing that the homeowner would complete and return to the Committee. Discussion followed regarding the best process for identifying the public response to the educational mailings. Hoffmann commented on the utilization of private haulers in the education process.

The Committee requested that the Education Subcommittee provide recommendations regarding development of a process to calculate public response to the educational mailings for their review and consideration. Discussion followed regarding methods to insure that the septic tank history/education packet information is provided to homebuyers at the time of property transfer. Wall encouraged the use of all means available to get and keep the septic tank education information in front of the general public. Johnson indicated that once the On-Site Septic System Ordinance has been adopted follow-up maintenance of the individual systems would be automatic.

Mickelson requested that the Education Subcommittee take the lead in rescheduling the broadcasting of the four educational videos on the public access channel. Lindquist indicated that he would try to secure an airing schedule for the Committee.

Lindquist requested direction from the Committee regarding participation in the annual Home Show. Elkins clarified that the Committee members would be requested to assist in the booth

and that Towey would provide materials to assist the members in answering questions from interested individuals.

Wall moved, Coffing seconded and carried unanimously to approve the participation of the Drinking Water Protection Committee in the 2002 Home Show. Discussion followed regarding screening the educational videos in the booth and providing a small educational brochure for handout. Discussion continued regarding the Committee members assisting Towey with the booth.

Solseth commented on the manner in which the actions of the Committee will assist in organizing the private sector installers and haulers.

Water Protection Coordinator Activity Report

Towey presented the preliminary estimates regarding the number of existing septic systems by location and existing City and County ordinances regulating septic systems.

In response to Peterson, staff recommended that the County Planning Commission request that their staff provide the map of the aquifer areas for their reference when reviewing platting requests. Lindquist reviewed the aquifer mapping being performed by the West Dakota Water Development District.

Towey presented the draft On-Site Septic System Ordinance noting the direction required from the Committee with regard to the scope of the ordinance, the composition of the Advisory Committee and personnel to perform inspections.

Mickelson suggested that the Education Subcommittee continue working on the ordinance and design manual with the final draft to be presented to the full Committee for review and consideration. Discussion followed regarding the adoption of the Design Criteria Manual as a component of the ordinance. Elkins stated that amendments to the Design Criteria Manual would require a public hearing in order to provide the general public with due process on proposed changes. Mickelson requested that Bjerke review the amendment process for the Design Criteria manual subject to its incorporation into the ordinance or as an individual document referenced in the ordinance with the City Attorney's office.

The Committee recommended that the Education Subcommittee continue work on the On-Site Septic System Ordinance and the Design Criteria Manual with the final recommendations being presented to the full committee for review and consideration.

Elkins suggested that the meeting be continued to Friday, November 9, 2001 to allow the Committee members to review the information provided and to bring forward recommendations regarding: 1) Scope of the jurisdictional boundary for the ordinance; 2) Membership composition of the Advisory Committee; and, 3) Personnel to perform inspections.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.