

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

A cooperative effort by

City of Rapid City, Pennington County and
The West Dakota Water Development District

February 19, 2001

To: Mayor Jim Shaw and City Council Members
Pennington County Commissioners

From: Grace Mickelson, Chairperson 

Thank you for the continued support of the work of this committee as evidenced by your recent approval of a joint resolution to that effect. We are enclosing our revised Management Plan. In accordance with the plan, we expect to move forward immediately with our public education program.

For your information, we have obtained the following four videos:

1. Your Septic System: A Guide for Homeowners
2. Care and Feeding of Your Septic System
3. Dollars Down the Drain: Caring for Your Septic Tank
4. Septic Systems Revealed: Guide to Operation, Care and Maintenance

We expect to start running these videos on Channel 2 soon after March 1st. Our committee has also provided a copy of one of the videos to the Rapid City Public Library for the patrons there.

With funds available from the work of the committee in 1996, we have purchased 2000 copies of the enclosed packet titled "Homeowner Onsite System Record Keeping Folder." These will be made available in the Rapid City Public Works Department and the Pennington County Planning Department. Here they can be distributed, if applicable, when permits are granted. The committee also plans to distribute folders to homeowners of on-site systems in selected areas of Rapid City and Pennington County. These activities will deplete our funding which was to be used for educational purposes.

This brings us to an immediate need of the committee. We are prepared to move ahead with the directives of the joint resolution to undertake the following:

- Collect information from counties adjoining affected sensitive aquifer areas and arrange water protection agreements with those counties;
- Collect, review and incorporate outside information regarding the implementation of inspections and licensing of on-site wastewater systems;
- Support the establishment of inter-agency and county agreements utilizing the same criteria and process for permitting, site evaluations, and construction inspections for on-site wastewater systems;
- Amend existing ordinances as necessary to institute inspections of on-site wastewater systems at time of resale and to establish an inspection schedule for existing systems;

- Encourage the licensing and education of private inspection companies to City and County standards; and
- Provide the budgetary and manpower requirements to support the inspection, maintenance and educational goals of the Drinking Water Protection Committee as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the Management Plan

The above work requires staff not now available to the committee. And with the management system in place, will require permanent staff to maintain the system. However, the joint resolution included the following resolve:

That the City Council and the County Commissioners "provide the budgetary and manpower requirements to support the inspection, maintenance and educational goals of the Drinking Water Protection Committee as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the Management Plan."

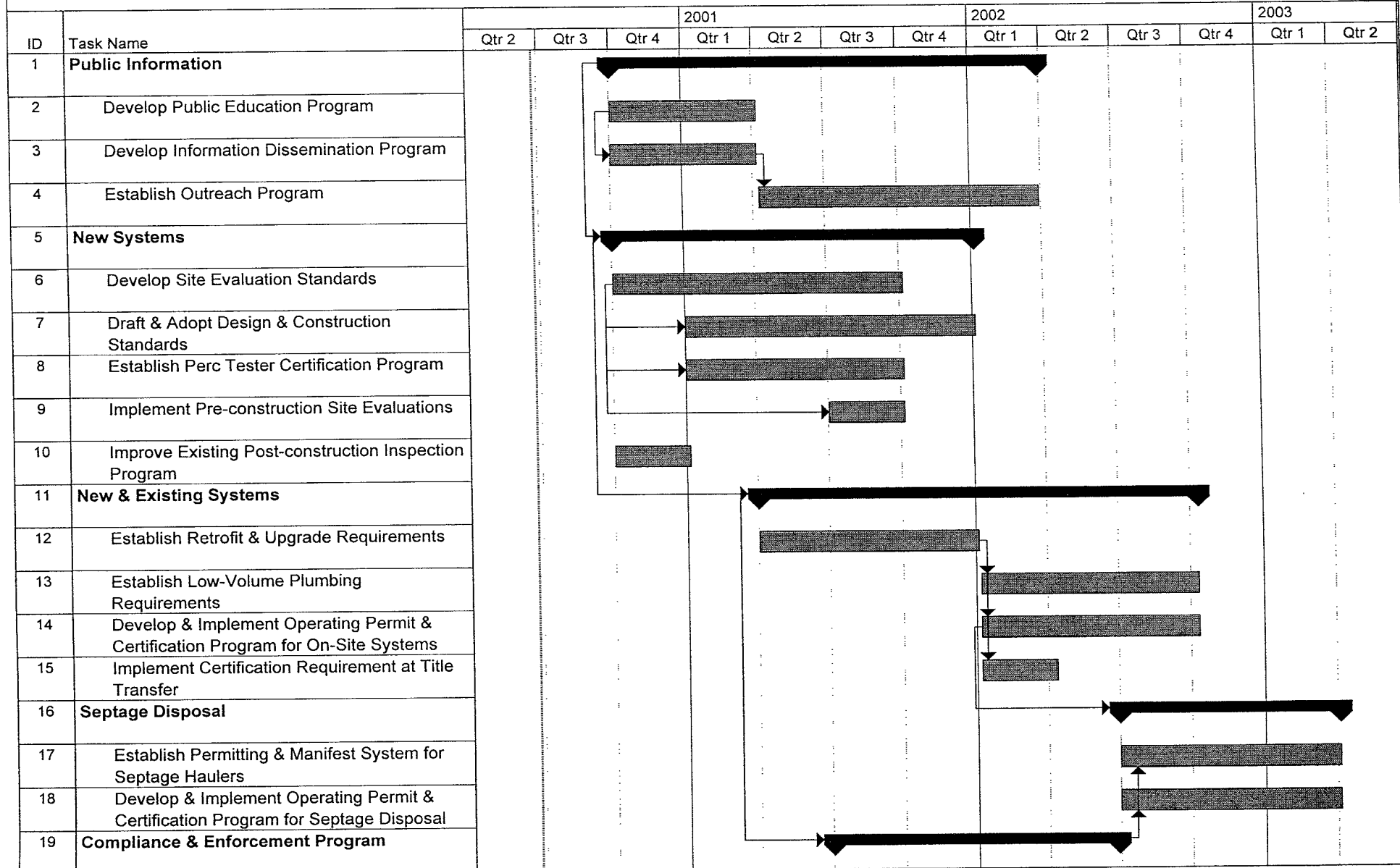
The committee is requesting approval of the following items:

1. Creation of a County Sanitarian position;
2. City and County enter into a contract for services to fund the County Sanitarian;
3. City to fund the position out of the Water Reclamation budget (budgeted) for the balance of 2001 Budget subject to budget review for 2002; and,
4. Consideration of identical City and County ordinances for design standards and the inspection of septic systems by private contractors. (Currently being developed through the Drinking Water Protection Committee.)

Implementation Schedule

PW022801-08

for On-Site Wastewater Disposal Systems Management Plan



Adopted September 14, 2000

Sat 6/24/00